
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

GoogleTM books

<https://books.google.com>





49
FEB 2 1917

THE GREEK TANGLE.

THE NEAR EAST, November 3, 1916.

THE NEAR EAST

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

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

No. 287.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1916.

(Postage, 4d. Foreign, 1d.) Price 6d.
(Annual Subscription, 61s.)

LEADING FEATURES.

LITERARY SECTION.

NOTES OF THE WEEK: A Review of Latest Events in the Near East.

SPECIAL ARTICLES on Near Eastern Topics.

Regular Letters from Special Correspondents in—

TURKEY (Constantinople and Smyrna).

EGYPT (Cairo and Alexandria). SUDAN (Khartoum and Port Sudan).

GREECE (Athens and Salonika). PERSIA (Teheran, Tabriz and Meshed).

PERSIAN GULF (Busrah and Bushire).

PALESTINE & SYRIA (Beirut, Haifa and Jerusalem). BULGARIA.

ROUMANIA, SERBIA, ALBANIA, CYPRUS, ODESSA, &c.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN: Being Current Comments on Near Eastern Affairs.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL NEWS. NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PRESS ON NEAR EAST. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. &c.

COMMERCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS: A Commentary on Business Developments.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE from Constantinople, Alexandria, Athens, Smyrna, Baghdad, Beyrout, Teheran, Busrah, Odessa, Busharest, Sofia, Belgrade, Cyprus, &c.

OPENINGS FOR BUSINESS.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

SPECIAL REPORTS ON PRODUCE, COTTON, and OIL MARKETS.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

STOCK & SHARE MARKETS. COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS.

RATES OF EXCHANGE in the Near East.

PRICES OF SHARES on London, Paris, Brussels, Alexandria and Constantinople Exchanges.

THE **Shannon**
LIMITED

LEADERS OF THE WORLD IN FILING AND CARD INDEX SYSTEMS.

Office Equipment in Wood or Steel.

Chief Depot for Egypt:

CAIRO,

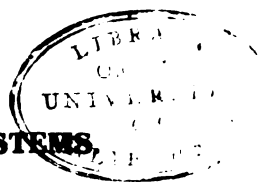
33, Sharia el Madabegh.

**INSTALLATION COMPLETE
DE CABINET DE TRAVAIL
DES BUREAUX MODERNES.**

Head Office:

**ROPEMAKER STREET,
LONDON, E.C.**

P. W. SHANNON, Managing Director

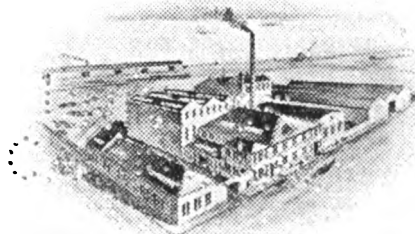
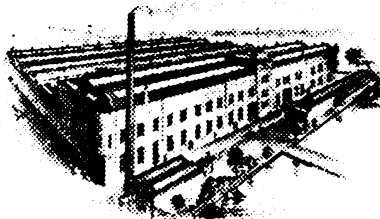
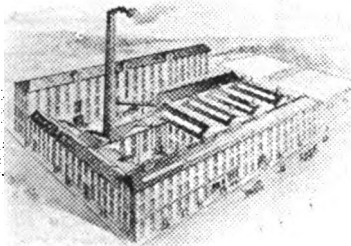


Cable Address:
"Lobo, Dundee."

LOW & BONAR, Ltd., Dundee, Scotland.

Codes used:
A.B.C., 4th & 5th edns.
A.L., Ledger, and
Bentley's.

Manufacturers of **SACKS and BAGS** of **LINEN, COTTON and JUTE**, for all purposes.
Also of **WATERPROOF CANVAS** and **TARPAULINS**, Specially prepared for tropical climates.



Speciality: ELASTIC FIBRE-LINED JUTE BAGS, Securing Absolute Purity of Contents
DAMP-PROOF BAGS, WATERPROOF BAGS, FIREPROOF BAGS, Etc.
Shippers of all classes of JUTE, LINEN and COTTON FABRICS.

The Near East Editorial and Publishing Offices: 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

OFFICES ABROAD FOR ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:

ALEXANDRIA: CAIRO: KHARTOUM: CYPRUS: MALTA: BUCHAREST: CALCUTTA:
6, Rue Ancienne Bourse. 27b, Sh. Maghraby. Sudan Bookstore. Cabane & Wilson. Malta & Gozo Trading Co. 1, Strada Academiei. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

Born 1820
—Still going strong.



OFFICER (Egyptian Service): "I'm going to tell our C.O. there's a General come to see him."

JOHNNIE WALKER: "What! me a General?"

OFFICER: "Yes! General Favourite!"

**Guaranteed Same Quality
throughout the World**

JOHN WALKER & SONS, LTD., SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS,
KILMARNOCK, SCOTLAND.

Published by Royal Appointment
In Three Religions

TUCK'S
Art Productions

LOOK FOR
NAME &
TRADE
MARK

CHRISTMAS CARDS
BIRTHDAY CARDS
POSTCARDS
PICTURES
OILETTES

HALF
A
CENTURY

CALENDARS
GIFT BOOKS
TOY BOOKS
PAINTING BOOKS
ZAG-ZAW PICTURE BOOKS

THE
EASEL
&
PALETTE

1861-1916
Raphael House

RAHAUEL TUCK & SONS LTD
RAHAUEL HOUSE ADDRESSES CITY LONDON

USED BY ROYALTY SOCIETY & THE GREAT PUBLIC
Illustrated Catalogue sent free on application

ADMIRABLE SITES FOR WORKS, FACTORIES, ETC.

THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY passes from the Metropolis Northward through the centre of industrial England, throwing out its branches Eastward and Westward to the Coast. Its lines run over the great Coalfield which extends into the Counties of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire, thus affording an easily accessible source of fuel supply.

THIS COALFIELD IS THE LARGEST IN THE BRITISH ISLES, and was estimated by the Royal Commission of Coal Supplies (1905) to cover not only an area of approximately 4,066 square miles, but also to contain not less than forty-nine thousand million (49,000,000,000) tons of Coal. The Lancashire and North Wales Coalfields are also traversed by the Company's lines.

THE NEW EASTERN PORT OF IMMINGHAM should particularly attract traders, as its modern equipment and accessibility at any time of the day or night, irrespective of tides, are important time and labour saving factors.

ADJOINING THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILROAD at various parts of the system are situated VALUABLE SITES FOR WORKS, where, by the introduction of siding accommodation, goods can pass right into and directly out of the works, which GREATLY ASSISTS THE MANUFACTURER to attain his desired position in the World's Markets.

For information, please communicate with the G.C.R. Publicity Office, 216, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.

Owners and Agents of LAND AND BUILDINGS FOR SALE OR TO BE LET near the Great Central Railway are requested to send particulars to the G.C. Estate Office, 12, Paton Street, Piccadilly, Manchester.

SAM FAX, General Manager.

BOOKS on the NEAR EAST.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DARDANELLES.

By SIDNEY A. MOSELEY. 5s. net.

"Largely because it is so controversial, Mr. Moseley's book makes excellent reading."—*The Times*.

"Holds that the Evacuation was a profound mistake, because, just when we had broken the moral of a brave enemy, we caved in first."—*Daily Graphic*.

"This is an extraordinarily interesting book. Mr. Moseley has given us plenty of stories of the fighting, finely told and often extremely dramatic."—*The Globe*.

THE WAVE : An Egyptian Aftermath.

Crown 8vo. 5s. net.

"Mr. Blackwood writes with unfailing grace and ease, and has once more made us his debtor for a novel which, while of absorbing interest, is even more remarkable for its inspiring quality."—*Daily Graphic*.

THE WAR IN EASTERN EUROPE.

Described by JOHN REED and Illustrated by BOARDMAN ROBINSON. 10s. 6d. net.

The authors set out from Salonika—when the Allies were tightening their hold upon the port—travelled through Serbia to the Danube; through Bukovina and Poland into the heart of Russia; back through Roumania to Constantinople; and from there through Bulgaria and Serbia, when the Bulgarian-German drive was just beginning. The book gives not only the shadows, but the lights of war, and abounds in humour and originality.

WITH GYPSIES IN BULGARIA.

By "ANDREAS" (Mui Shuko). 2s. 6d. net.

Its character is indicated by its title. The author travelled (in 1913) from Varna to Rusechuk with a party of gypsies in the guise of a Turkish peasant, and his experiences provide good material for an interesting book.

The above-mentioned books, or any other publications, may be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage, in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),
16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessities of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

READY NOVEMBER, 1916.

All Orders filled strictly in rotation. Post yours to-day.

The "JOINT STOCK DIARY" for 1917

A Complete Reference Book, Legal Guide and DIARY for 3/6 net, postage 6d. extra. Invaluable to all concerned with Joint Stock Companies.

By H. C. EMERY, Solicitor.

Author of "The Secretaries' Guide," "Receivers and Liquidators," "Partnerships," etc.

THERE IS NO DIARY PUBLISHED LIKE THIS, AND IT IS WITHOUT EXCEPTION THE BEST VALUE EVER OFFERED

The Diary of Greatest Practical Value.
Royal 8vo (9 ins. x 6 ins.). 350 Pages.

H. HOWES & Co., LTD.,

Company Printers and Publishers,

HEAD OFFICE:

2, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Telephone No.: CITY 4879.

THE NEAR EAST.

INDEX TO VOLUME XII.

November 3, 1916 — April 27, 1917.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Notes of the Week1, 25, 49, 73, 97, 121,
145, 169, 193, 217, 241, 265, 289, 313, 337,
361, 385, 409, 433, 457, 477, 497, 517, 537,
557, 577

SPECIAL LETTERS.

Alexandria244
Athens53, 101, 125, 221, 291
Bucharest4, 78
Bulgaria (via Bucharest)78
Cairo27, 52, 75, 124, 147, 194, 220, 243,
267, 315, 363, 411, 436, 459, 479, 519, 539,
579
Cyprus28, 54, 77, 123, 148, 197, 221, 244,
268, 292, 316, 340, 365, 412, 436, 460, 480,
521, 540, 559, 580
Khartoum76, 100, 197, 268, 412, 479
Meshed125
Port Said100
Salonika413
Sudan Notes291, 520, 540
Syria (via Cairo)4, 29, 293, 317, 341, 437,
521
Turkey (via Athens)171
Urumia246

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Tangier to Teheran6, 32, 56, 80, 104, 127,
152, 174, 200, 230, 248, 273, 296, 319,
345, 368, 392, 416, 440, 462, 483, 502, 528,
541, 562, 582

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

Personal and Social10, 34, 58, 82, 106, 130,
154, 178, 202, 225, 250, 274, 298, 322, 346,
370, 394, 418, 442, 464, 484, 504, 524, 544,
564, 584

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

Near East in Parliament15, 31, 64, 88, 105,
134, 182, 206, 350, 374, 398, 422, 446, 468,
489, 501, 528, 549, 588

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Press on the Near East8, 39, 62, 86,
110, 135, 159, 183, 207, 231, 255, 278, 303,
327, 351, 375, 399, 423, 447, 469, 488, 508,
529, 542, 569, 589

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

A Hundred Years Ago: London Through
Persian Spectacles61
Albania Past and Present:
I.—The Language Question (Miss M.
Edith Durham)397
II.—The Race Instinct (Miss M. Edith
Durham)421
Arab Movement, The55
Arab Revolt, The249
Arabs, An Appeal to the198
Archæological Notes126, 176, 247, 317,
342, 422, 510, 568
Archæology under Fire317
Arment Dog, The367
Athens, The British in270
Baghdad Railway and Its Tributaries.
The389
Balkans, The:
I.—Before the First Snowfall (H. M.
Wallis)229
II.—Midwinter (H. M. Wallis)253
III.—The Break up of the Winter
(H. M. Wallis)277
Balkans, With the Enemy in the340
Black Sea and the Caucasus, The:
I.—(M. A. Poynter)349
II.—(M. A. Poynter)373
Busreh, Britain in560
Cromer, Lord318
Cyprus in 1916292
Darfur, The First British Governor of222
Egypt in Roman Times, Family Life in301
Egypt, Public Works in587

Egypt, The Proposed State University
in487
Egypt, Supply Work in: The Camel
Transport Corps445
Entente Note to President Wilson, The510
Gift of Tongues, The467
Gordon Memorial College, The5
Greece, The British Exodus from291
Greek Seminary at Larnaca, A388
Hejaz, King of the325
Is Armageddon Fought in Vain? (D.M.
Gane)173
Larnaca, A Greek Seminary at388
London School of Oriental Studies414, 561
Mecca Pilgrimage, The76
Monastir. (Dr. T. Georgevitch)102
"Mountain of Inheritance," The (Estelle
Blyth)547
Northern Persia, Progress in (Mirza
Firooz Khan)499, 560
Palestine, Recent Conditions in101
Palestine, The Campaign in527
Palestine, The Future of:
I.—(Estelle Blyth)157
II.—(Estelle Blyth)181
Palestine, The Position in29
Persia, Official Visits in482
Roumania, A War-Time Departure from480
Roumania Infelix172
Roumanian Frontiers, The85
Roumania's Peasant Soldiers438
Russian Advance in the Caucasus:
III.—13
IV.—37
Russian Campaign in Nearer Asia481
Serbia and the Allies133
Serbia, Rule of Terror in367
Sivas, Conditions in540
"Sudanese," The339
Sudan, Hill Stations in the580
Sudan, Lepers in the291
Sudan, Problems of the:
IV.—The Position of Woman61
V.—The Supply of Doctors79
Syria and the Lebanon245
Syria, Relief for148, 364
Syria, Terrorism in199
Teuton, The Callous (Estelle Blyth)366
"Turanian" and Moslem567
Turco-German "Allies": An Arab View461
Turkey, British Pioneers in109
Turkey, The Racial Propaganda in507
Turk, German and Arab437
Turkish Ministry, The New461
Turkish Treachery in Irak Arabi387
Wingate, Sir Reginald30
Yemen, The294
"Young Turks" Treachery, More126
"Young Turk" and Arab269
Young Turks and Arabs365
"Young Turk" v. Arab102, 149

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A Great Conciliator223
A Terrible Indictment129
"Alice" in the Balkans297
Another "Avesha"153
Armenian Poems563
Asiatic Turkey, In523
At Suvla369
Balkan Tangle, The344
Balkans, A Son of the542
Balkans, War Sketches in the103
Behind the Veil in Yildiz Kiosk393
Bulgarian Wanderings129
Ceylon, Ruins in153
Fleet Street and Kasr-el-Nil415
Flying Men393
Gallipoli Casualty, A33
German, The Eastern Aspirations201

International Information415
In the Jaws of the Teuton Monster7
Koran, A New Translation of the320
Mohammed V., A Glimpse of272
Prisoners of the Senussi57
Race Suppression249
Reminiscences441
Respectable Corsairs369
Return Flood, The462
Roumania, About483
Russian Primer, A103
Russian Supermen, Some176
Serbia, A Woman Doctor in57
Serbia, The Flaming Sword in505
Soul of the Polish Race, The153
Terrible Indictment, A129
Turkey and the War583
Turkey in Asia441
When the World was Young81

BOOKS REVIEWED.

"A Balkan Freebooter" (Jan Gordon)542
"Ancient Assyria" (Rev. James Baikie,
F.R.A.S.)81
"Armenian Legends and Poems" (Zabelle
C. Boyajian)563
"Atrocities Committed by the Austro-
Hungarian Army during the first In-
vasion of Serbia," Report upon the
(R. A. Reiss, D.Sc.)129
"At Suvla Bay: Notes and Sketches"
(John Hargrave)369
"Book of Pirates," The (Henry Gilbert)
.....369
"Central Europe" (Friedrich Nau-
mann). With an Introduction by W. J.
Ashley. Translated by Christobel M.
Meredith7
"Ceylon," The Lost Cities of (G. E.
Mitton)153
"Experiences of a Woman Doctor in
Serbia" (Dr. Caroline Matthews)57
"Flaming Sword in Serbia," The (Mrs.
St. Clare Stobart)503
"Gallipoli Days and Nights" (Trooper
L. McCustra)33
"Gate of Asia," The (William Warfield)
.....523
"Grasp of the Sultan," The (Demetra
Vaka)393
"Holy Quran," The. With English Trans-
lation, Explanatory Note, etc. Part
I.320
"The Hornets: Tales of the Air"
("Hermes")393
"In the Hands of the Senussi" (Mrs.
Gwatkin Williams)57
"Indian Ink" (Everard Digby)272
"John Strange Winter: A Volume of Per-
sonal Record" (Oliver Bainbridge)441
"Luck of Thirteen," The (Mr. and Mrs.
Jan Gordon)297
"More Tales by Polish Authors" (Else
C. M. Benecke and Marie Busch)153
"My Country" (H.M. the Queen of Rou-
mania)483
"My Russian and Turkish Journals"
(The Dowager Marchioness of Duf-
ferin and Ava)223
"Pan-German Plot Unmasked, The: Ber-
lin's Formidable Peace Trap of the
'Drawn War,'" (Andre Chéra-
dame)201
"Queen of the Secret City," The (Joseph
J. Doke)153
"Resources of the Empire," The (J. Wat-
son Grice, D.Sc.)415
"Reconstruction of South-Eastern
Europe," The (Vladislav R. Savic)344
"Slaves of the War Zone," The (Rt.
Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B.)249
"Some Russian Heroes, Saints and
Sinners" (Sonia E. Howe)175

"The War in Eastern Europe" (John Reed).....	103
"The Wave: An Egyptian Aftermath" (Algernon Blackwood).....	462
"Turkey and the War" (Vladimir Jabotinsky).....	583
"With Gypsies in Bulgaria" ("Andreas").....	129
"With Kitchener in Cairo" (Sydney A. Moseley).....	415
"Word for Word Russian Story Book" (Nevill Forbes, M.A.).....	103

LEADING ARTICLES.

Albania and the War.....	300
Allies and Greece, The.....	252, 526
Allies and the New Year, The.....	228
America and the Near East.....	566
Arab and Turk.....	586
Mr Asquith on the Ottoman Empire.....	60
Constantinople and After.....	276
Dardanelles Commission, The.....	466
Diplomacy and Strategy.....	108
Egypt, The New High Commissioner of.....	36
End of a Chapter, The.....	132
Germany's Peace Offer and the Near East.....	180
Great Britain and the Near East.....	372
Greece, The Allies and.....	252, 526
Greek Tangle, The.....	12
Imperialist, A Great.....	324
Mesopotamian Advance, The.....	444
Mesopotamia, The Future of.....	486
Near East, Great Britain and the.....	372
Near East in 1916, The.....	204
Near East, The Penultimate Phase and the.....	348
New Near East, The.....	420
New Russia and the Balkans, The.....	546
Ottoman Empire, Mr. Asquith on the.....	60
Peace and Reconstruction.....	84
Persia and the War.....	396
"Right Thing at the Right Time," The.....	156
Roumania After the War.....	506

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Armenia, The Resurrection of (Mr. A. S. Safranlian).....	391
British Refugees from Turkey, The (Lady Lowther).....	317
Christendom, The Sorrows of (Mr. A. Séfi).....	417
Consular and Diplomatic Services, The (Sir H. H. Johnston).....	200
Consular and Diplomatic Services, The (Commentator).....	224
Cyprus, Conditions in.....	439
Cyprus, Greek "Flag-Wagging" in.....	439, 581
"Encyclopædia of Islam," The.....	247
England and Bulgaria (M. D. Janitsch).....	128
Foreign Office and Greece, The (D. M. Gane).....	128
"Gentlemanly" and "Clean-Fighting" Turk, The.....	439
Greek "Flag-Wagging" in Cyprus.....	439, 581
Holy Land, Famine in the (The Bishop of London and Others).....	391
Jemal Pasha's Syrian Record (Mr. A. Séfi).....	296
Jews in Palestine (Mr. Arthur Lewis).....	224
Jews in Palestine (Mr. S. Tolowsky).....	224
Levant Company's Records, The.....	295
Lord Kitchener Sudan Memorial (Lord Cromer).....	30
Manchester Fund, The (The Lord Mayor of Manchester and Others).....	4
Marko Kraljevitch (Mr. James W. Wiles and Miss M. Edith Durham).....	522
Marko Kraljevitch and the British Women (Dr. M. Curcin).....	500
Moslems of Cyprus, The (M. Irfan Bey).....	150
Moslems of Cyprus, The (Mr. Robert Pierpont).....	177

Marko Kraljevitch and the Serbian Soldier (Dr. M. Curcin).....	463
"New Translation of the Koran," A (Mr. Q. Abdullah).....	417
"New Translation of the Koran," A (S. L.).....	463
Palestine, The Future of (Lt.-Com. Victor L. Trumper).....	343, 548
Palestine, The Future of (Miss Estelle Blyth).....	417
Palestine, The Future of (Mr. Herbert Bentwich).....	500
Palestine, The Future of (Dr. E. W. G. Masterman).....	522
Palestine and Syria, The Future of (Mr. A. Séfi).....	562
Roumanian Relief Fund, The (The Lord Mayor of London).....	522
Salonika and Balkan Policy.....	271
Serbs and Armenians, A Plea for (Rev. S. W. Gentle-Cackett).....	247
Serbs as Seen in Their Ballads, The (Miss M. Edith Durham).....	482
Turk, The "Gentlemanly" and "Clean-Fighting".....	439
Turkish Prisoners in Cyprus (M. Irfan Bey).....	128
Turkish Prisoners, The Employment of (Mr. H. M. Wallis).....	391
Witchcraft.....	500

MISCELLANEOUS.

Abdul Hamid, Dr. Pember Reeves on.....	439
Albania Past and Present.....	176
Alexandria, Theatricals in.....	585
Americans and the Roumanian Red Cross Society.....	100
America, The Syrians in.....	87
"Arabia," The Loss of the.....	100
"Arabia," The Sultan of.....	196
Armenian Atrocities, Swedes and the.....	561
Armenian Refugees, Help for.....	561
"Armenian Sunday".....	254
Armenia on the Screen.....	32
Athens, Pro-Germans in.....	206
Baghdad, Sir T. Holdich on.....	499
Baghdad and the Future of Arabia.....	581
Baghdad, The Prisoners from.....	245
Balkan Communications.....	151
Balkan League, The.....	32
"Balkan Problem," The.....	395
Belfast and Sudan Missions.....	343
Battle Pictures of Egypt and Syria.....	520
British Armenia Committee.....	54
British Refugees from Greece.....	395
Bulgaria before the Russo-Turkish War.....	14
Bulgarian Rule in Macedonia.....	150
Byzantine Empire, The.....	343
Central Islamic Society, Conversazione of the.....	254
Central Islamic Society.....	342
Constantinople before the War.....	326
Constantinople: Past and Future.....	563
Constantinople, The Future of.....	391
Constantinople, Troubles in.....	502
Creation Myths and Hebrew Tradition.....	198
Cyprus, Ancient Monuments in.....	54
Egypt and the Red Cross.....	52, 77
Egypt, Domestic Life in: The House of the Bey.....	158
E. Egyptian Frontier, Operations on.....	193
Egypt Exploration Fund.....	78
Egypt, Plot in.....	396
Egypt's First Postmaster-General.....	244
Empress of Abyssinia, Coronation of.....	520
English Law and Mussulman Law.....	99
Greece, British Refugees from.....	395
Greek Reservists, The.....	386
Hittites? Who Were The.....	148
Islam on Modern Civilisation, The Influence of.....	295
Islam, The Essence of.....	124
Islam, The Teachings of.....	158

Islam, The Tenets of.....	460
Jerboa, The Dance of the.....	436
Jerusalem, Christian Churches in.....	6
Jews in Modern Jerusalem.....	342
Jugoslavs in Future Europe.....	6
Kashgar and the Pamirs.....	541
Kut: Congratulatory Telegrams.....	445
Lady Paget's Hospital in Serbia.....	438
Macedonia, Bulgarian Rule in.....	150
Mesopotamia Comforts Fund.....	111, 279, 549
"Mesopotamia Day".....	416
Mesopotamia Day.....	545, 563
Montenegrin Prisoners, Escaped.....	436
Morocco, German Intrigues in.....	530
Moscow's Greeting to Serbia.....	502
Moslems and Turks.....	479
Moslems in Non-Moslem States.....	173
Mussulman Law, English Law and.....	99
Near Eastern Coins.....	291
Near Eastern Problems, Origins of.....	376
Neo-Turanian Prayer, A.....	269
Nile Flood, The.....	76
Nile Valley, The.....	150
Palestine as an International Park.....	201
Palestine Bedouin and the Turks.....	583
Palestine, The Colonisation of.....	490
Pellagra, The Origin of.....	520
Predecessor of Sir A. Murray, A (Joseph Offord).....	543
Prophet's Tomb in Danger, The.....	248
Remarkable Exodus, A.....	16
Roumania and the Allies.....	296
Roumania, An Englishwoman's Adventures in.....	254
Roumanian Cabinet, New.....	221
Roumanian "God's Acre," A.....	54
Roumanian Red Cross Society, Americans and the.....	100
Roumania's Entrance into the War.....	413
Russo-Persian Friendship.....	136
Salonika—An Unfavourable View.....	501
Salonika, Red Cross Work at.....	561
School of Oriental Studies.....	222
Scottish Women's Hospital Work in the Near East.....	151
Serbia, A Pledge to.....	175
Serbian Architecture and Poetry.....	33
Serbian Coins, Find of old.....	133
Serbian Hero, A.....	149
Serbian Life as Shown in the Ballads.....	441
Serbs and Military Service.....	177
Serbian Soldiers, Christmas Fund for.....	150
Serbia, Lady Paget's Hospital in.....	438
Serbia Occupied.....	79
Serbian, Plumbing in.....	64
Serbia, The Progress of.....	341
Serbs and their Kinsmen, Early History of the.....	294
Serbs, Exterminating the.....	437
Shereef's Commander, The.....	54
Sinai, An Incident in.....	481
Southern Slav Customs and Beliefs, Miss Durham on.....	522
Swedes and the Armenian Atrocities.....	561
Syria and Palestine, Fund for Relief in.....	393
Syria, Sufferings in.....	549
Syrian Relief Fund (List of Subscribers).....	107, 203
Talaat: Grand Vizier.....	390
Trebizond, Russian Newspaper in.....	510
"Turanian Conqueror," The.....	277
Turkey, British Prisoners in.....	326
Turkey, Fuel in.....	412
Turkish Atrocities: The Arab View.....	269
Turkish Cabinet, New.....	343
Turkish Greatness and Decay, Causes of.....	388
Turkish Poetry, Professor Léon on.....	583
"Twixt Tigris and Indus.....	302
"Vardanantz".....	422
Venizelist Movement, The: World-Wide Support.....	229
Venizelos Army, Ideals of the.....	246
Young Turk Revolution, The.....	468
Zoroastrianism, An Exposition of.....	254

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Notes and News: 17, 41, 65, 89, 113, 137, 161, 185, 211, 233, 257, 281, 305, 329, 353, 377, 401, 425, 449, 471, 491, 511, 531, 551, 571, 591
--

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Engineering Notes: 21, 46, 70, 94, 118, 141, 166, 190, 215, 238, 260, 285, 309, 334, 358, 382, 406, 430, 454, 475, 514, 535, 554, 594

PRODUCE REPORT.

Produce Report: 20, 44, 68, 92, 116, 140, 164, 188, 213, 236, 264, 284, 308, 332, 356, 380, 404, 428, 452, 473, 493, 513, 554

TRADE NOTES.

Trade Notes: 19, 43, 67, 91, 115, 139, 165, 214, 235, 259, 283, 331, 379, 427, 451, 493, 534, 554

TRADE OPENINGS.

Trade Openings.....	43, 331
---------------------	---------

COMPANY NOTES.

Company Notes: 24, 48, 72, 95, 143, 167, 215, 240, 263, 287, 311, 335, 359, 383, 407, 431, 455, 475, 495, 515, 535, 556, 576
--

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Company Meetings: 95, 142, 167, 239, 262, 287, 310, 407, 495, 555, 593
--

COMPANY REPORTS.

Company Reports.....	22, 71, 143, 191, 215, 239, 407, 593
----------------------	--------------------------------------

SHIPPING NOTES.

Alexandria Prize Court.....	69, 237
Shipping Notes.....	21, 114, 138, 166

COTTON.

Lancashire Cotton Trade.....	19, 43, 67, 91, 115, 139, 165, 187, 213, 234, 259, 283, 307, 331, 355, 379, 403, 427, 451, 473, 493, 513, 533, 554, 573, 593
Cotton and Textile Notes.....	187, 234, 403

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Egyptian Cotton.....	43, 355, 403
----------------------	--------------

ON 'CHANGE.

On 'Change, ...24, 48, 72, 96, 120, 143, 168,	
192, 216, 240, 264, 288, 312, 336, 360, 384,	
408, 432, 456, 476, 496, 516, 536, 556,	
576, 596	

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Agricultural Banking, The Science of	354
American Government Assists Exporters, How the	114
American Trade Energy in the Middle East	472
Banned Firms	474, 494
Berber Campaign, The	330
Bulgaria, The Forests of	429
Bureh, Labour Problem in	90
Cyprus Trading Report for 1915	42
Egypt, The Financial Prosperity of	453
Egypt, The Prosperity of	66, 455
Egypt, Trade Problems in	138
Egypt, Wheat Production in	258
Egyptian Budget for 1916-17, The	552
Egyptian Cotton Crop	18
Egyptian Finance and Trade	162
Egyptian Overseas Trade in 1916	378
Egyptian Trade, Slight Set-back in	573
Greece, The Economic Future of	186
Greece's Lost Opportunity	306
Greek and Turkish Debt, Administration of the	492
Light Railways Problem, -How to Solve the	455
Locusts, Campaign Against	214
Middle East, The Wealthy	420
Sudan and Its Economic Advance, The	212, 330, 402, 450, 512, 572
Sudan Government Budget for 1917	532
Sudan, Trade of the	553
Trade Rivalry and How to Meet It	163
Trade Within the Empire	406
Turkey, The Financial Situation in	282

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aden Skins Market	533
Aden, The Trade of	189
Agricultural Research	165
Algerian Alfa Grass	381
Algeria, Oil in	234
Algeria, Re-insurance in	472
American Relief for Serbians	451

American Trade Methods	94	Greek Tobacco	381
Anglo-Roumanian Trade	532	Homs to Koweit	359, 383
Asia Minor, Irrigation in	22	Important Railway, An	492
Balkan Notes	237	Indian Opium in European Medicine	427
Britain, Backward	310	Libya, Trade in	90
British Cotton Growing	164	Liquid Fuels	405
British Industries Fair	333, 357	London to Karachi in Seven Days	451
British Tobacco	213	Mediterranean Shipping	354
British Trade, Expanding	359	Morocco, Cotton Growing in	139
Bulgarian Notes	513	Mesopotamia	451
Cernavoda, The Danube Bridge at	47	Morocco, Hun Methods in	453
Coal, Substitute for	493	Neutral Cargo on Enemy Ships	69
Consular Reform	575	Pan-German Seer, The	310
Cotton Picking Machine, New	67	Persia, Exchange in	167
Cotton Spinning in 1916	139	Persian Money Values	139
Cyprus Food Prices	381	Persian Trade	66
Cyprus, New Cereal for	67	Persian Trade, France and	335
Cyprus Notes	187, 259, 355, 455, 575	Pink Seed Worm	592
Cyprus, Tobacco in	429	Pivot Carpet Industry	575
Cyprus, Trade Boom in	593	Poppy Cultivation	69
Dates are Dear, Why	575	Prohibited Exports: The Greek List	115
Egypt, Agriculture in	69	Postal C.O.D.? Why not	355
Egypt and "Summer Time"	379	Restricted Trade	191, 260, 286
Egypt as a Rest House	306	Roumanian Oil Industry	93
Egypt, British Trade in	93, 533	Roumania, Russia and	19
Egypt, Cereals in	473	Russo-British Trade	117
Egypt, Crops in	431	Salonika Markets	335
Egypt, Enemy Property in	45, 139	Serbians, American Relief for	451
Egypt, Furniture in	427	Serbia, Reconstruction of	357
Egyptian Coinage Contract	42	Smyrna-Aidin Railway	513
Egyptian Ports, Shipping in	451	Stross Case, The	515
Egypt, Petroleum Panic in	475	Sudan Crops	592
Egypt's Flourishing Finances	235	Sudan, Dates from the	117
Egyptian Food Crops	573	Sudan Produce	212, 235
Egyptian Robbery, An	235	Sudan Trade, Flourishing	162
Egyptian State Accounts	333	Suez Canal, Germans and	119
Egyptian Trade	43, 283	Synthetic Indigo	383
Egypt's Cotton Pest	165	Syria, News from	554
Egypt, The Roads of	475	Syrian Silk Crop	45
Enemy Banks	379	Trading with the Enemy	494
Enemy Debtors	119	Trans-European Railway, New	70
Fruit Fly in Western Greece	383	Trebizond Filberts	213
Germany's Credit System	307	Trebizond's New Oil Industry	189
Germany's Wool Famine	284	Turkestan, Reef Gold in	261
Gezira Plain Irrigation	382	Turkey, German Loan to	406
Greece, Standard Time in	117	Turkish News	333
Greek Currant Harvest	19	World's Tobacco Supplies	574
Greek Insurance Companies	117	World's Trade, The	454
Greek Macedonia	451	World's Wheat Crop, The	236, 573

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 287.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	1	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		In the Jaws of the Teuton		Notes and News	17
Bucharest	4	Monster	7	Egyptian Cotton Crop	18
Syria (via Cairo)	4	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	6	Lancashire Cotton Trade	19
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	8	Trade Notes	19
The Gordon Memorial College	5	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	10	Produce Report	20
The Russian Advance in the		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	15	News From All Sources	19
Caucasus—III.	13	LETTER TO THE EDITOR—		Engineering Notes	21
LEADING ARTICLE—		The Manchester Fund (The		Shipping Notes.. ..	21
The Greek Tangle	12	Lord Mayor of Manchester		Company Report	22
		and others)	4	On 'Change	24
				Company Notes	24
				Stock and Share List	24

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

King Constantine's assertion to an American correspondent that within three weeks Roumania would have been overwhelmed in the same way as Serbia has not yet come true. A few days may still have to be allowed for the limit set by the King of the Hellenes to be reached; but it is safe to suppose that he is not as confident to-day of seeing his prophecy fulfilled as he was at the time of its utterance. While events in Roumania may not have progressed as rapidly as the Emperor William's brother-in-law might wish, they must remain a source of some anxiety to Roumanians and their Allies. During the past week the enemy's attacks both in the Carpathians and in the Dobruja have slowed down; in neither region are the Roumanians out of the wood, but the feeling grows that the days of more acute crisis are passing. We shall see.

In the Dobruja the Russo-Serbian-Roumanian troops have retired northwards, no doubt contesting the ground more and more stubbornly as they withdrew. The reinforcements they will have received and the lengthening of von Mackensen's line of communications will have added to the enemy's difficulties, while the country now reached by the contending forces favours the defence. But the position cannot be a satisfactory one for our Allies. If they fall back beyond a certain point, there will be no alternative to a withdrawal across the Danube under difficulties, and they must endanger the two important Danube ports of Braila and Galatz. On the other hand, if the battle line is allowed to become fixed for any length of time in one place, the enemy may dig himself in to an extent which may make it very difficult for the Roumanians to turn him out at a later stage, when presumably they will have received all the reinforcements they require.

The situation in the Carpathians, complicated as it is by the number of separate conflicts being waged at the various passes, is necessarily even more indeterminate than that in the Dobruja. In the north the Austro-German attempt to drive a wedge in between the Russian and Roumanian forces would seem to have definitely failed for the time being, all attacks on the Allied positions having been successfully repulsed. At the most vulnerable spot—the Praheva Valley—the Roumanians, according to German reports, have evacuated Azuga, a small village six miles south of Predeal. It contains a brewery and a few factories, but none of the things which the invaders are counting on securing in Roumania. Further to the west the

Roumanian Army has distinct successes to its credit. A Bavarian force had penetrated through the Vulcan Pass and was advancing on Tirgu Jiului, the railhead of the branch line joining at Craiova the main line from Orsova to Bucharest, when it was defeated with the loss of a thousand killed and some fifteen hundred prisoners and driven back towards the pass. Again, in the neighbourhood of the Roter Turm Pass, where the enemy had advanced six miles into Roumanian territory, he has been repulsed. On the whole, then, while there has been no important change one way or the other in the Carpathians, our Allies have held their own, and have certainly stopped anything in the nature of a "walk-over" that the enemy may have anticipated from the initial success of his counter-thrust.

As the days pass, the weather conditions in the Carpathians must hamper the attacking force, and will give the Roumanians the necessary respite for strengthening their positions and receiving reinforcements. What number of men Russia will be able to spare will, of course, not be known; but they should more than counterbalance the support that von Falkenhayn is understood to have received from the Eastern front. A no less welcome addition to Roumania's fighting strength will be the aircraft that the French and British have sent to her—128 French aeroplanes, it is said, and a handful of British. These will not only assist the military operations, but, it is to be hoped, will afford relief for Bucharest and other towns from the attacks of enemy aircraft. This Allied Flying Squadron ought to arouse a spirit of emulation among the Roumanians. Before the war they had made a successful start in aviation, and it is a matter for surprise and some disappointment that, in view of the part played by aircraft in this struggle, they should not have used the two years of neutrality to build up a strong Flying Corps. It may not have been easy to obtain machines; but if they have aviators already trained, the question of the supply of aeroplanes may now be solved.

Along the Macedonian front the Allied army has kept in touch with the enemy, but on the greater part of the line the weather has interfered with more serious operations. The Serbians to the south-east of Monastir do not seem to take kindly to inactivity, and few of the daily *communiqués* fail to attribute to them some action which is probably more galling to the enemy than the bald narrative implies. It is evident that the defences of Monastir are formidable, and the Bulgarians have been reinforced by German troops. But the Allied line is gradually closing in on the town. The occupation of

Koritza, about thirty miles south-west of Monastir and not far from the point where patrols of the Italian and Salonika armies established touch with one another, may have for the moment only political significance. On the other hand, if the Italians are able to push forward in any strength, the movement may be the preliminary to an attempt to turn the Bulgarian position at Monastir.

After many days of comparative quiescence the British troops on the Struma have made a fresh thrust. This move has placed them in possession of Barakli Juma, a village strongly held by the enemy, and playing an important part in his line of defence. An advance at this point, where the Bulgarian resistance has been most stubborn, ought to enable other parts of the British front to gain ground and a more substantial section of the railway north of Seres to be occupied. The first step in this direction is indicated by the capture of Prosenik, a village on the railway half-way between Demir Hissar and Seres. The news is welcome as a sign that the Allies are still bent on the offensive when weather conditions allow. On the other hand, it is impossible to contemplate the effort which a small advance in this region entails without recalling the fact that, but for the Greek Government's treachery in handing over this part of Macedonia to the Bulgarians, no fighting would have had to take place on ground as remote as this is from the Allies' real objective.

Allied bluejackets have been performing police duty in Athens, and *post hoc aut propter hoc* an improvement in the Greek situation is now officially reported. The various stages that have led up to what is theoretically a desirable state of affairs cannot be described with any degree of accuracy. All that is known to the public is that the Allied Ministers followed up the strong measures they took in landing a naval force in the capital and taking over the Piræus-Larissa Railway, as well as a number of forts, by calling upon and so recognising M. Lambros's Government and obtaining audiences of King Constantine. The most serious aspect of the situation at the moment was held to be the concentration of Greek troops and war material in Thessaly. These measures the Allies regarded as a menace to the safety of the Allied forces at Salonika, and they demanded the disbandment of the troops or their removal to another part of Greece. In so far as the improvement in the situation has to be attributed merely to King Constantine's acceptance of the Allies' demand, it might be regarded as a somewhat negative affair; but the audiences at the Palace appear to have cleared the atmosphere, and the Allied Governments make no secret of their satisfaction.

Clearly the Palace audiences and any agreements arrived at between King Constantine and the Allied Ministers are only the beginning of a new situation. It is understood that the arrangements then made provided for the disbandment of certain classes of the army, including the men called to the colours on September 10, the removal of the Thessaly Army Corps to the Missolonghi line and freedom of action for the Greeks who have joined or may wish to join the Salonika movement. At the same time King Constantine was given assurances that the Allies had no intention of pressing Greece into the war, but would be satisfied with her benevolent neutrality. Nothing could be more satisfactory than these terms. Their practical value, however, lies in the way in which effect will be given to them and in the solution of the present political *impasse* in Greece with two Governments functioning in different parts.

Whether the agreement between King Constantine and the Allied Governments was a verbal or a written one is not stated. If the latter, the text ought to have been published at once; if the former, a clear and comprehensive *communiqué* ought to have been issued on the subject. No agreement could deal adequately with the situation, unless it contained very definite provisions regarding the relations between the Provisional Government of Salonika and the Athens Government.

It was not enough to stipulate that Greeks wishing to join the Nationalist movement should be allowed to do so without let or hindrance. The subsequent course of events has drawn attention both to the inadequacy of the agreement and to the mistake of observing reticence with regard to it. In the first place there has been a collision between a battalion of infantry proceeding to join the National army at Salonika and troops belonging to a northern garrison who had remained loyal to the Athens Government. Secondly, it is reported that officers joining the Salonika movement are to be cashiered by court-martial. Finally, the anti-Venizelist Press was allowed to interpret the understanding between King Constantine and the Allies according to its own prejudices rather than in accordance with the letter. It indulged in paeans of joy over the downfall of M. Venizelos and the Allies' acquiescence in his eclipse. Not unnaturally this outburst has been received with considerable misgivings in Greece itself and especially in Great Britain, where M. Venizelos has made a strong appeal to the popular fancy.

The subject of the Allies' attitude towards M. Venizelos was raised in debate on Tuesday in the House of Commons. Speaking on behalf of the Government, Lord Robert Cecil strongly deprecated the view that King Constantine was being propped up at the expense of M. Venizelos. He pronounced a eulogy of the latter, and stated that where the majority of the population recognise him as their Government the Allies recognise him as *de facto* the ruler of that portion of Greece. Lord Robert Cecil also made it clear that the Government, desiring nothing more than the greatness and prosperity of Greece, would welcome anything that might promote the reunion of all the Greeks. But he made no attempt to reassure the public mind on the one point which is now agitating it: whether the Allied Governments have been careful to leave no loophole for King Constantine to treat M. Venizelos or anyone else associated with the Salonika movement as a disloyal subject. Here is the whole crux of the position. The idea that M. Venizelos is to be left in the lurch, while the Allied Governments pour unction upon their souls because King Constantine promises to be more reasonable, is abhorrent to the British mind. The King's infatuated antipathy to M. Venizelos is well known. It is hardly likely that, after the establishment of the Provisional Government, he will bury the hatchet, unless he is compelled to do so.

At first sight the *rapprochement* with King Constantine would seem to place the Entente Powers in an awkward position. They have now formally recognised the Athens Government, and have so far admitted the official position of the Provisional Government as to allow their representatives to call on its chief and to make it a loan. There would seem to be no reason why, because Greece chooses to indulge in a perfectly anomalous arrangement involving two Governments in the country, the Allied Powers should take shelter under the same umbrella. We fear, however, that they are there, and some watchfulness may be required to prevent them from emerging from a false position by the line of least resistance, regardless of the future peace of Greece and the personal safety of some of her foremost citizens. It is fair to add that in the absence of an authoritative statement regarding the negotiations between King Constantine and the Allies some misconception may have arisen over the details of the agreement. On the other hand, it is not disputed that when the "improvement" *communiqué* was issued no steps had been taken to make M. Venizelos a party to the agreement. It would have been thought that the Allies' responsibilities to the Greek people would make them press for the immediate settlement of the nation's domestic troubles.

The views of the Provisional Government on the agreement between the Allies and King Constantine are given in an official statement issued at Salonika. They are not enthusiastic. On the contrary, M. Venizelos' Government is inclined to adopt a cynical attitude towards the whole affair. It draws attention to the

anomaly of allowing the Athens Government to continue to exist "with a shadow of power," and adds: "The demands of the Entente will certainly not be loyally carried out. The army in Thessaly will doubtless be withdrawn, but several regiments will be left behind in that province on the pretext of maintaining order, but in reality to form centres of new concentrations. The maintenance of order is only a falsehood and a pretext. . . . The Provisional Government hopes that the Allies will not allow themselves to be easily duped, and will employ every means to maintain their security and that of the real Grèce, which is represented by the Government at Salonika." The statement ends with a note of confidence on the ability of the Provisional Government not only to safeguard Greek interests, but to look after the interests of those who join the movement. It must be admitted that the tone of the *communiqué* is not a happy one; but it is calculated to remind the Allied Governments that they have not solved the Greek problem by extracting promises of good behaviour from King Constantine.

The torpedoing by a German submarine of a Greek steamer within territorial waters on her way to Salonika may provide the first brick for the bridge which is to be the means of bringing about a reunion of the Greek people. Although there were some recruits for the Nationalist army on board, neither King Constantine nor the most bitter Germanophil among his subjects relishes the loss of a Greek ship and of Greek lives. That the outrage should have taken place within Greek waters is an aggravation of the offence, which seems a poor reward for Greek efforts to play the German game. The Athens Government proposes to lodge a protest with the German Legation. A far more practical protest will probably be made by the Provisional Government, when its troops meet Germans in the field. But in the meantime we can imagine nothing better calculated to blunt the enthusiasm of the pro-Germans in Greece.

A Mesopotamian Comforts Fund has now been started under official auspices, with Lord Lamington as chairman, and there is now a good chance of the British troops in Mesopotamia receiving comforts so long denied them. Apart from the organization which will be responsible for the supply of comforts at this end, donors to the Fund and the relatives of the men in Mesopotamia have the satisfaction of knowing that the arrangements for the despatch of parcels and their distribution are now in working order. In this connection we are glad to learn that the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs in India has paid a personal visit to Mesopotamia, and has spent some time there in perfecting the postal arrangements. The War Office provides free transport for goods to bases in Mesopotamia, and the transport service up to the front, which has been so lamentably deficient in the past, is now said to be greatly improved. The least that can be done for those who have been neglected hitherto is to ensure that bumper consignments of comforts shall begin to reach them now. We could wish that there were the same certainty of the Kut prisoners of war, who seem to be interned for the most part at Kastamuni, receiving the parcels sent them from this country. There has been some deplorable muddling in regard to the despatch of clothes to these unfortunate men, but the chief trouble is the small percentage of parcels actually despatched that reach their destination. A request to the American authorities in Turkey would probably rectify the matter. They would at least be able to locate the point at which the goods sent went astray.

The Under-Secretary of State for War was able to give the House of Lords a reassuring picture of the situation in Mesopotamia in so far as supplies and equipment were concerned. Since the War Office took over on July 20 the daily tonnage sent up the river has been quadrupled—an eloquent testimony of the shortage from which the forces must have suffered in the past. Supplies were being accumulated at the base and at the advanced supply depots, and the troops were getting full rations with few exceptions. The quantities of munitions sent out were now regarded as ample. No

less important, the Flying Corps, which had been seriously reduced by sickness and other casualties, had now been reinforced by experienced officers and supplied with suitable aeroplanes—again a significant commentary on what had been the position of this Corps before. Similarly, the medical service had been reorganized and medical equipment, including everything from hospital ships to bandages, had been supplied to an adequate extent. The news will hearten the troops in Mesopotamia and the people in Great Britain. Lord Derby could not speak of reinforcements, but it is not too much to expect that the attention now being paid at long last to Mesopotamia heralds an early advance on a scale not possible before.

A despatch from the Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan on the conquest of Darfur supplies a full narrative of a small military operation crowned with complete success. Compared with the great conflicts in Europe and Asia, as the despatch points out, the expedition was of insignificant importance; but it was attended by considerable obstacles, which were all successfully overcome, and the conception and conduct of the campaign reflect great credit on Sir Reginald Wingate and Lieut.-Colonel Kelly, who commanded the force. The task resolved itself mainly into one of organisation. A makeshift motor-road had to be made, and special attention paid to the rapid convoy of supplies. The actual fighting was of the usual type of shock tactics common to desert warfare. The Egyptian troops were in square formation, the enemy attacked with great desperation, then wavered and broke and fled when our infantry advanced. A picturesque feature was supplied by the aircraft, which, the Sirdar reports, fully upheld the splendid traditions of the Royal Flying Corps.

The Times published a few days ago an interesting communication from a correspondent in Aden. The defence of this key to the Red Sea is described by the writer as well organised and in safe hands; and though a Turkish force is still at Lahej—twenty-five miles from the port and thirteen from our front line—the famous fortress is more than ever unlikely to change hands. It is interesting to learn that six months ago an attack was made on one of our outlying stations, at Imad, and that "a number of Germans from Java who had landed on the Arabian coast a long way from Aden took an active part" in this expedition. Such incidents serve to show that in the minor theatres of the war the spirit of adventure may still find scope, but it is difficult to understand what the enemy can hope to gain from such raids. Perhaps the most amazing thing about the whole situation at Aden is that it can still be regarded as worthy of note at all. But the article referred to shows clearly that such is actually the case.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galimani, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Sheppard's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacamalli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calebotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cabane and Wilson, Nicosia.

Salonika. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafiades.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Sococ and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, October 12.

Meatless Days.

As far as supplies are concerned, Bucharest is suffering little, if at all, as a result of the war. True, there are but three "meat" days out of the seven, but this does not affect the Roumanian as it would the beef-eating Briton, and it cannot be regarded as a hardship. Only the stranger within the gates is likely to find the restriction at all irksome. The present prices of meat, as fixed by the police authorities, are:—Beef, 1.50 per kilo; mutton, 1.40 per kilo; and pork, 2.10 per kilo.

In connection with this subject, it may be of interest to note that, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Domains, there were in Bucharest on December 3 last year 58,116 foreigners, for the greater part Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, and Turks. The population of the city at that time was 341,325, of whom 173,362 were males.

General Berthelot's Mission.

General Berthelot, former Chief of Staff to General Joffre, is on his way to this country with twenty-five officers of the French General Staff. By the time this letter reaches you they will doubtless have arrived. A suitable welcome is being prepared for them both at the frontier and in the capital; and it is generally recognised that, whether they take an actual part in directing the campaign, or merely act as advisers, their presence here will be of great service to the country and to the Allied cause.

War Correspondent's Troubles.

So far, as regards war correspondents, Roumania has followed closely on the lines of Japan, and the military authorities have not allowed any of the "specials" anywhere nearer to the front than the vestibule of the Hotel Athénée Palace or the Boulevard Restaurant. Nor will those whose duty it is to impart news give out anything more than appears in the bulletins issued to the local journals. Last Sunday, however, a number of special correspondents, who had been chafing under these conditions, were suddenly rejoiced to learn that they would be allowed to go to the Dobrujan front; and the following morning, at an early hour, they left.

At Constanza—well, they were at Constanza; and had the wind only been blowing in the right direction they might have heard the sound of the Russo-Roumano-Serbo-Bulgaro-Germano-Hungaro-Turko guns. As it was—Well, all the world knows that "a hungry man is an angry man": and the correspondents were entertained at luncheon by the military authorities. The lunch was excellent; the supply of wine was liberal. Then the party were shown a Russian battleship, which was, it is understood, launched in 1885, and had the difference between a 40-pounder and a machine gun carefully explained to them.

"But when," they asked, "are we to leave for the front?" "Oh," came the reply, "we are extremely sorry, but we quite forgot to inform the Russian Staff. The General is greatly annoyed, and says that if you go down you will all be placed under arrest. We are desolated; but—" There followed a mournful stroll on the Constanza front and a dip in the Black Sea, which was enlivened by an aeroplane attack—one German aviator playfully dropping a bomb into the sea quite close to the party. Another excellent meal and promises that all should—or might—be well on the following day got the correspondents to bed. At five o'clock the next morning knocks at their doors aroused them, and they were informed: "Gentlemen, be quick, or you will miss the train for Bucharest." It was very sad. But "they mismanage these things much better in Roumania."

The Board of Trade has awarded a piece of plate to Captain Dionysios Mousouris, master of the Greek steamship Nicolaos Athanassulis, of Cephalonia, for rescuing a portion of the crew of the steamship Antiope, of London, in the Mediterranean on August 10.

HELP FOR SYRIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 11.

The hope expressed in my notes of October 6 in regard to hurrying the formalities in connection with the individual remittances to Syria has been realized. A good number of applications has just been approved by the Licensing Officer, and the remaining applications are expected to be authorized shortly. In this connection it is highly gratifying to learn that the work done by the various relief committees formed by Syrians abroad has surpassed all expectations. The number of these committees runs into a few hundred, and the subscriptions raised by them have attained a very considerable amount. The New York Committee alone, composed of Syrian and American notabilities, expects to realise over 200,000 dollars, while the total amount of subscriptions being raised in the United States is expected to reach one million dollars.

In the South American States, where the Syrian colonies are important in numbers and wealth, the same munificent spirit is manifested. It is reported that in one of the Syrian churches there £4,000 was raised in one day. The committees formed in Africa have not been behindhand. Even in such outlying places as the French Congo, the Transvaal, and the Orange Free State committees have been formed, and have been very energetic. As an instance may be cited the fact that in Kronstad the Syrian colony, in spite of the paucity of its numbers—about fifty in all—has been doing most praiseworthy work.

THE MANCHESTER FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We wish to draw your attention to the pitiful condition of the inhabitants of Syria and Palestine, and to enlist your active sympathies on their behalf.

Accounts have appeared in the newspapers for some months past showing how, in consequence of the isolation of the country from the outside world, as well as from the ravages of locusts and other causes, the people are dying in thousands for want of food, and are threatened with extermination if they are not rescued in time. All this is unhappily confirmed, as is shown from the following extract from an article which appeared in *The Times* of September 15, written by an American lady who has recently returned from Beyrout, Syria:—

"The Levant is starving. This is no figure of speech, but the literal truth. . . . Towards spring cases of starvation began to be known. People were found in the streets unconscious, and were carried to the hospitals," etc., etc.

In a letter addressed to the Lord Mayor of Manchester on this subject, Lord Bryce says:—

"The information which has reached me from Syria, and of whose correctness there can, unfortunately, be no question, describes the condition of the Christian, and to some extent of the Jewish, population there as most deplorable. . . . All the help that English charity can send will be needed to relieve their suffering. I trust this help will be forthcoming."

The Government of the United States has now obtained the consent of the Turkish Government to administer relief through the various American missions and agencies in that part of the world, and as a proof of their practical sympathy, Congress has just passed a unanimous resolution recommending that a day be set apart throughout the United States for collecting funds for distressed Syria.

The committee which has been formed in Manchester for the relief of distress in Syria now appeals for your sympathy and help. Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, by reason of their sacred association, are dear to all hearts, and surely, in its darkest hour, the Holy Land will not appeal in vain. All contributions received will be sent through the same channel as the funds collected in America. The need for immediate assistance of these starving and destitute people is so urgent that the committee earnestly request a prompt and generous response to their appeal.

Cheques may be made payable to the hon. treasurer, Mr. E. E. Rigby, and sent to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Ltd., Mosley Street, Manchester, or branches, who have kindly consented to receive subscriptions.

We are, etc.,

THOMAS SMETHURST

(Lord Mayor of Manchester), President.

E. TOOTAL BROADHURST, Chairman.

E. E. RIGBY, Hon. Treasurer.

K. JERARA, Hon. Secretary.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The fourteenth annual report of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum, of which we have received a copy from the honorary secretary, constitutes a record of much good work done in spite of difficulties caused to the staff and the authorities by the war. As Sir Reginald Wingate writes in his covering letter: "It is very satisfactory to note that inevitable war economies have been made without detriment to the efficiency and the higher interests of the college, although the effects of war conditions have necessarily limited research work and curtailed the profits of the industrial workshops." Sir Reginald notes with satisfaction that "a number of pupils have been found competent to fill vacancies in private firms and elsewhere caused by the disappearance of most of the foreign employés"; and in referring to the reorganisation of the Upper School he remarks: "The importance of introducing a leaven of practice to meet the shortcomings of a purely literary education needs no emphasis from me."

A note preceding the report records the deep regret of the Committee and Trustees of the College at the death of Lord Kitchener, its president and founder. An appeal, signed by Sir Reginald Wingate, is addressed not only to "past and present members of the Sudan Government and the Egyptian Army," and to the people of the Sudan, but also "to all others interested in the work initiated here by Lord Kitchener," for funds for the proposed memorial to him, which "will take the form of a school of medicine, a project which was very close to Lord Kitchener's heart, and frequently advocated by him in conversation." The committee also pays a tribute to the memory of the Hon. Charles Mills, M.P., who was hon. treasurer of the college, and who met his death in action in October, 1915.

The report, as explained by the principal, Mr. John Crowfoot, M.A., "covers the work of the school and research departments for the last year and a-half," in accordance with the change announced in the preceding report, which dealt with the work of the twelve months ended in June, 1914. The change was due to the alteration from June to December of the date of the final examinations. The period covered thus begins practically at the time the war broke out; and as already indicated, the college very early felt the effects of the calamity. Mr. Crowfoot writes:—

In August, 1914, as soon as war broke out, all members of the staff who happened to be on leave were recalled to Khartoum, and the school was re-opened in the beginning of September, a month earlier than usual. From that date there has been no question as to the policy which the circumstances of the time demanded. It was our obvious duty, so long as the war lasted, to make every economy possible without permanently impairing the usefulness of the College. Vacant posts were not filled, the number of free scholars and bursaries was reduced, and officials engaged in researches which were not of an urgent character were allowed temporarily to join the Censorship office and other war services, a privilege extended during the vacation to officials on the educational side. From our own standpoint a real economy much greater than is shown by the accounts has been effected in this way without the dispersal of an expert staff, which it has taken years to collect.

These economies have naturally reduced the output of the Research Departments and they have increased the work of some members of the teaching staff, but no real detriment has resulted to the usefulness of the College, and this fact is of capital importance, more even to-day than at any previous time in its history. From the very outbreak of hostilities the leaders of native opinion rallied unanimously to the Government and expressed their loyalty in a series of reasoned manifestoes. These manifestoes with unflinching regularity instanced the educational work of the Government as one of the principal grounds of that loyalty, and these tributes, which are comforting to a profession that is frequently charged with fomenting unrest, have rightly met with a generous response from Government. We have been like other Departments asked to make economies and we have made them, but we have not been asked to make any economies which are detrimental to the highest interests of the College.

The numbers enrolled in the various sections of the college in December, 1915, show a decrease of 73, as contrasted with those of October, 1914. This "apparently exceptional leakage," it is explained, is "due

merely to the exceptional length of the school year," which included "two of the half-yearly periods when the Government Departments usually fill up vacancies in their establishment." (It is pleasing to note that all the students who left the Upper School found satisfactory employment.) The same reason, it is stated, has considerably improved the class work, and the final examination papers in both schools "have reached a standard which reflects all credit on Mr. Simpson and his staff."

The organisation of the Upper School, says Mr. Crowfoot, was based on anticipations which have not been realised, and which are not likely to be realised for many years.

So recently as 1912 it was expected that the Upper School would before long contain some 250 pupils, and sections, classes, and staff were arranged on this estimate. Events which no one could foretell have falsified this hope. In the first place, a succession of lean years from 1911-1913, when the rains failed over large areas of the Sudan, and, in the second place, the war and its concomitants have re-acted on all our schools in two ways: on the one hand, parents have been obliged to reduce their expenses and beg for the employment of their sons before they had completed the full course; on the other hand, Government, confronted first with the prospects of a famine and then with the financial situation created by the war, has been unable to devote capital to the new projects which alone will call for a larger output from the schools. . . . Our altered situation clearly justifies a revised organization. It has been decided, accordingly, to amalgamate the Engineering Section, the Literary Section, and the Sheiks (Teachers) for the first two years of the Upper School Course, and to postpone specialization until the Third Year.

The new curriculum, of which particulars are given, has been planned with a double object:—

It should serve as a good foundation for specialized engineering courses on the one hand, and on the other it should give a balanced training of hand and eye and mind such as will fit boys, with or without further specialization, for the occupations, clerical, administrative and educational, which are open to them in this country. The criticisms which have been so rightly levelled at the purely literary education popular in both East and West are only partially met by the institution of technical schools, so long as the literary schools by the side of them remain purely literary in character: the curriculum newly adopted represents an attempt to remedy this acknowledged weakness.

The attempt, we trust, will prove successful. The fact that the change will give the English masters a larger share in the class-work is certainly a point to the good. Another innovation likely to have good results is the proposed extension of the range of subjects studied in the Arifs' Training College.

The Primary School "continues to do good work," and serves a very wide field, a fair proportion of its scholars coming from distant provinces. The financial depression caused by the war has hit the Instructional Workshops rather hard. The staff has, however, risen to the emergency, and in the carpenters', fitters', founders', and blacksmiths' shops good work has been done in spite of the rise in cost of materials and the absence of the usual large orders from Government Departments.

Referring to the internal economy of the college, the principal pays a well-merited compliment to Mr. Simpson, who contributes an interesting note on the boarding and health of the students. The good bill of health, says Mr. Crowfoot, "is largely due to the part which games play in all sections of the college."

Owing to considerations of space we can only refer briefly to the sections of the report which refer to research work. This department also has suffered severely as a result of the war:—

For a large part of the year Dr. Chalmers has been left single-handed to cope with the work in the Bacteriological Section: the list of papers published and the number of routine examinations will show the energy and devotion which he has brought to the task. The striking increase in routine work shows also the position in the medical practice of the country to which his labours and those of Dr. Balfour have raised the Laboratories. Since Mr. King's illness last August Dr. Chalmers has further

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

had direct charge of the Entomological Section. In the Chemical Section similarly either Dr. Beam or Mr. Freak has been working single-handed for half the period under review.

In the circumstances, the amount of work accomplished is truly remarkable. "Original research," as Sir Reginald Wingate writes, "has been confined to urgent diseases and entomological problems of vital importance to the Sudan"; but in these fields much has been done. The report as a whole is one upon which the Principal and Staff of the College and its Committee and Trustees are to be heartily congratulated. The institution is young, but it is extremely vigorous. It has already played a considerable part in the development of the Sudan, and it is undoubtedly destined to play a yet more considerable part in the future.

THE JUGOSLAVS IN FUTURE EUROPE.

At Burlington House last Monday, in connection with the Fight for Right movement, Professor Hinkovitch delivered an address on the Jugoslavs in future Europe. M. C. Miyatovitch presided, and in introducing the lecturer said that beyond the trenches covered with slain and wounded heroes, and the clouds made by such artillery as had not been dreamed of in earlier times, might be seen clearly arising the goddess Victory smiling on the Allies. After the war would come the task of reconstructing Europe on the basis of nationalities, and then the Jugoslavs would realize the ideal of union. The movement to that end was not an artificial one, but absolutely natural and inevitable. More than that, it was a necessity of Europe to have a union of the South Slav nations.

Professor Hinkovitch said that of the fourteen million Jugoslavs five millions lived in Serbia and Montenegro, seven and a half in Austria-Hungary, and the rest in various parts of the world. The Austro-Hungarian policy was "divide and rule," and the Jugoslavs under her authority, while territorially and linguistically one with another, and with their kinsmen across the border, were divided among eleven administrations with fourteen different legislative bodies. They were also divided judicially and ecclesiastically and in railway matters. There was no railway communication between Croatia-Slavonia and Dalmatia. Yet, despite all this, the idea of Yugoslav unity was overwhelming. It was an idea necessarily opposed to the notion of a German domination and exploitation of all the peoples of the Balkan peninsula and beyond to the Persian Gulf. In the hour of victory it should be the aim of the Allies to deprive Germany of all her non-German population, and the Austrian Empire should be dismembered, leaving only the German and Magyar elements. Bulgaria should be reduced to a small State lying between the Danube and the Balkans, where only the true Bulgar was found. The "zone of transition" inhabited by a mixed population, partly Serb, partly Bulgar, should go to Serbia. This could be done without any derogation from the principle of nationality for which the Allies were fighting. Of course the Coburg dynasty should be removed. Probably if the national existence of Bulgaria were rendered secure, she would consent to form part of the Yugoslav State having her own legislature, but under the same king.

The more complete the Yugoslav state of future Europe the stronger would be its resistance against any renewed attempt at German aggression; and if, out of a regard for a mistaken diplomacy, the Powers should insist on tearing off a limb from its national body, the Jugoslavs would still struggle on, and the Balkans would remain a powder magazine. The mysterious forces of the nation longing for union for a thousand years would no more cease working than a river would cease to flow.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM.

Speaking at a meeting held in the Church House, Westminster, on October 24, the Rev. A. C. Headlam said that it would not be fair to judge the Turk's traditional attitude towards his Christian subjects by the atrocities committed during and since the reign of Abdul Hamid. Generally speaking, the Turk had been in a curious sort of way a harsh but just ruler among many warring creeds; and one reason why the various bodies of Eastern Christians had submitted to his rule had been that they had feared that a Christian ruler would mean the giving of political power to some sect not their own. What the Churches had suffered from was not persecution, but the deadening influence of being deprived of all possibility of missionary enterprise; for it would have been at the peril of the life alike of teacher and convert if any Mohammedan had been brought to accept the Christian faith. At Jerusalem there were great ecclesiastical buildings occupied by Greeks, Franciscans, Armenians, Copts, Abyssinians, Anglicans, Lutherans, and others, all without any really useful occupation; but occupied with what he would call the luxuries and unrealities of religion, and most of them spending a good deal of time making proselytes from one another.

According to the latest information 64,000 Jews in Palestine require financial support on account of the increasing economic crisis, says the *Jewish Chronicle*. The harvest has not come up to the expectations. There is also a great lack of medical appliances in the country.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Now that it is all over I am free to admit that I was a little anxious about the success of the Roumanian Flag Day. London has had rather a lot of "flag days" and "flower days" of late, and certain unfortunate incidents connected with some of them have, not unnaturally, served to make people rather chary about supporting them. So I was wondering how the appeal on behalf of our newest Ally would fare. I need have felt no anxiety, however. It is true that the number of flag-sellers about the streets seemed to be far smaller than on similar occasions; but the Londoners were keen on showing their sympathy; and if the flag-sellers did not waglay them, they went in pursuit of the flag-sellers. The blue, yellow, and red was to be seen everywhere, and I understand that in many cases the supply of flags was quite inadequate to the demand, so that the sellers had to cut up their tricolour sashes and ribbons to satisfy their "customers." I do not know what the financial result may have been, but it is safe to say that as a demonstration of friendly feeling for Roumania and of sympathy with her in the trying time through which she was passing the Flag Day was an unqualified success.

By the way, in connection with the attractive posters used for advertising the Flag Day I noticed that King Ferdinand was depicted with a brown, or auburn, beard, whereas it is really the blackest of blacks. The inaccuracy was doubtless due to artistic requirements of some kind; and I may lay myself open to a charge of Philistinism in drawing attention to such a detail. Nevertheless, it seems to me to be a pity that the error was allowed to pass. Many thousands of London's citizens are to-day carrying round a mental portrait of Roumania's gallant Sovereign that is based on these posters, and it might just as well have been a truthful one as not.

After all, the Egyptian "Tipperary" case did not sizzle out, as it bade fair to do, without the judge having a chance of hearing Sheikh Ashur's Arabic version of the famous song. On the contrary, I learn from the Egyptian papers, the Court held a special sitting at the "Egyptian Conservatoire of Music," when the Sheikh's version was sung to the accompaniment of an "orchestra" consisting of two zithers and a violin. The Sheikh's supporters, says one report, "cheered him and congratulated him on his success" as soon as the performance—or should it be "evidence"—was concluded; but the impression left on my mind after comparing all the reports is that the judge evinced no great enthusiasm. He appears to have made an attempt to get the litigants to compromise; but the Sheikh stood out stoutly for his pound of flesh—or his two pounds—and the case was once more adjourned. It is not only in England, therefore, that litigation over trifles can spread itself over long periods and, presumably, entail a great waste of time and money.

Philhellenes the world over—save those in Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, and Turkey, if any such there be!—have been passing through a rather trying time lately, and I gather from letters received that those of them who have been serving with our force at Salonika have been feeling very sorry for themselves. Thus, one, an officer who is well placed for observing the course of events, declares: "I am afraid it is a case of *fuil Hellas*. The Bulgars mean to keep what they have got in Eastern Macedonia, if we will let them, and the Serbians should get the rest of Macedonia. The Greek Army has gone to pieces, and is in practical revolt. Altogether it is a lamentable spectacle for Philhellenes like me, and it is now too late for the position to change in their favour. I am thoroughly disgusted," etc. Of course, things have taken a turn for the better now, but at the time the letter was written no Englishman could have felt anything but "disgusted."

At the same time, I hope that Brother Bulgar's fond hopes in regard to Eastern Macedonia are doomed to disappointment. Greece, as a nation, has not come up to our expectations. Her aspirations regarding Constantinople have proved a sad stumbling block, and have made her fall a ready prey to the wiles of the German and pro-German charmers; her treatment of her Serbian ally has been unspeakable; and the painfully obvious anxiety of her "reservists"—and others—to avoid fighting, at any cost, is not calculated to win respect. But, at least, she has not ranged herself openly on the side of our enemies, as Bulgaria has done. Let us remember that. And, in fairness, let us put the Venizelists and the "revolutionaries" in the scale against those others.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

IN THE JAWS OF THE TEUTON MONSTER.*

Since the publication, last year, of Friedrich Naumann's "Mittel Europa," much has been written around and about the subject, but, lest some of our readers have forgotten the main thesis exposed by the author, we shall do well to recapitulate it as concisely as possible, following the line of argument adopted by Naumann himself.

In the first place, then, we must be prepared to accept as axiomatic the assertion that, as a result of the evolution of political intercourse among modern States, there have emerged from the chaotic pages of the world's history three gigantic world Powers—namely, the British Empire, Russia, and the United States. Their combined might is tremendous; together they control the great world markets and have the largest share of the world's products and supplies. They cannot be opposed except by a Power as great, or almost as great, as they are themselves, and that Power does not exist. Can it be created? According to Naumann, it can: it is the Empire of Central Europe, stretching from the Lower Rhine to the Alps, from the Baltic to the Adriatic, from the Vistula to the Danube and the Black Sea. Will it be created? Again, the author is optimistic, and answers his own question in the affirmative. His reason is distinctly characteristic of Prussian bombast: it will be created because it *must* be created, because otherwise there would be an end of the God-inspired "Deutschland über Alles," which is impossible—certainly a line of argument that makes us smile whimsically the while we pity the German for having only five senses, and totally lacking the sixth, which is humour.

Having given us the reason why the Central European Empire must be born into a world of strife as the illegitimate offspring of the great war and of Prussian ambition, Naumann proceeds to let us into the secret of the process. Germany, Austria, and Hungary, unable each by itself to oppose the wiles and wickednesses of the three world Powers, must combine and amalgamate into one. Admittedly, the Magyar is not going to join in the Deutschland chorus. Vienna will not openly acclaim Berlin as her master (secretly she has done so for a long time past). The Slavs—we are told that they hate the Russians more than they do the Germans—will not be enthusiastic members of the new-born Empire, nor will the Germans themselves be inclined to sacrifice any of the outward and visible signs of their hegemony for the welfare of the new empire. However, these are only some of the difficulties to be overcome; in the eyes of Naumann they can all be overcome: the Magyar, living in dread of the Russian, will become one of the three great members of the Central European Empire; his country will be the granary thereof, and Buda Pest its corn market. Galicia, its constitution altered, will be the oilfield. The Southern Slav States will become practically autonomous, and this will satisfy them. Vienna will surrender her power and influence and retain only their glamour—her traditions and the bitter dregs of a dead history; while the Germans will condescend to waive in public some of that super-patriotism which has made them so obnoxious to the rest of the world. Perhaps even, in hours not occupied with running the empire, they will dance Czech dances and sing Magyar songs. Utopia all round!

Naumann takes his scheme seriously, and seriously thinks it feasible. So it might have been in the event of Germany emerging triumphant from the present war; but, even so, the form in which it would have appeared on the map of Europe would have differed from that given it by the plausible member of the Reichstag. Of course, we must remember that Naumann wrote to please his Austro-Hungarian readers, to convince them of their worth, and to prove to them that in the Central European Empire their lights would shine brilliantly, not dimmed by the great flare emanating from Potsdam. Hence his lavish generosity of sweetmeats to Magyars and Slavs; hence, also, his advice to his countrymen to pretend to be less German than "Central European." And it must be confessed that, with skill and dexterity, he was able to surround the empire of his making with a roseate halo which succeeded perfectly in disguising the iron fist of the Hohenzollern dictator. "The great thing is," the writer must frequently have said to himself whilst painting his sunny pictures, "to get the empire on its feet; that done, I can trust to our military heroes to keep it going." A Central European Empire controlled from and by Berlin was really the scheme, and we must admit that, if Germany had won this war, in all probability she would have forced Austria and Hungary into an offensive-defensive alliance which would eventually have led to the creation of an empire of confederated States, protected by preferential tariffs, self-supplying, and surrounded by a network of trenches similar in object to the old walls of China. The German

colonies regained, and such other colonies as could have been snatched here, there, and everywhere, would have added in acreage, population, and produce to the empire, which would then have been in a position to hold its own against any one of the three world empires already named. Moreover—and this is, perhaps, one of the most important admissions to be made by the author—the smaller States (such as Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, and Roumania) surrounding the mid-European Empire would ultimately either have been convinced that their welfare (*sic*) lay with the confederation, or— For such is the ruthless might of the triumphant Hun! Verily, this is, and has been, a war for the preservation of smaller European nationalities from the jaws of the Teuton Monster. Naumann, the prophet of the Pan-German control of Europe, stands confessed: drugging Austria and Hungary with fair words because they are big, he threatens the small States and warns them of his country's wrath. Roumania has already answered him; and, judging by an article which appeared recently in his organ, *Die Hilfe*, her reply has pained him grievously. His lord and master will have been similarly pained.

From the foregoing it will have been gathered that, thanks to the success of our arms, the whole question of the Mid-European Confederation, proposed by Germany with a view solely to furthering German interests and giving her the whip hand on the Continent, is to-day merely an academic question, and, as such, of little consequence. Like so many other Utopian dreams, it can be disregarded because unrealisable. Nevertheless, the Pan-German spirit which invented it remains, and unless precautionary measures are taken at the Peace Congress there is no reason why that same spirit should not continue to create trouble for us and for smaller nationalities when some of the losses resulting from the war have been made good. This is not the place to discuss those measures, but this much can be said: they must render impossible any realization of Naumann's empire. Even to-day, when, in view of Germany's growing troubles and our continual successes, we might have expected a somewhat more chastened mood in the ranks of the Pan-Germans, Press articles continue to appear on the subject of the Central European Empire, to which will be attached, or wherein will be included, both Bulgaria and Turkey—according to these scribes who out-Naumann Naumann himself. Their attempts must be rendered futile, and the Germans, together with—or without—their kith and kin in Austria, must be so tightly surrounded on the east by Russia and a strong Southern Slav State, as to be obliged to abandon their dreams of territorial and economic extension in the Near East, their sordid intrigues in Balkan palaces and pavilions, their intransigent policy of the "Drang nach Osten" which, with much advertising and publicity, they have been able to foist on an unthinking Europe until it has almost become persuaded into believing that policy to be a divine right and privilege of the Huns, incontrovertible and not to be contested. Further—and this point cannot be too seriously emphasised—all questions relating to the control of the Straits and Ottoman finances, to the future of Turkey-in-Europe, Bulgaria, Albania, and the Adriatic, will have to be decided by Great Britain and her Allies alone, the Teutons and their friends having no vote or voice in the matter. Only by these means can we successfully oppose the realisation within a measurable space of time of the Pan-German ideal so eloquently developed by Naumann.

We have refrained here from delving into the economic aspect of the Mid-European Empire. Naumann, it is true, devotes fully two-thirds of his interesting book to its analysis, and arrives at the conclusion that the prosperity of the great industrial centres of Germany and Austria, and of the huge Hungarian and Galician sources of supply, depends on the realisation of his dream. Some of these pages are intensely interesting and instructive, but we are concerned here mainly with the political aspect, because we maintain that, politically speaking, the Mid-European Confederation, created under Prussian tutelage with a view to further Teuton greed and ambition, constitutes a menace to the life of smaller Continental nationalities, and is fraught with continual danger to the peace of Europe. Therefore, for this, if for no other, reason, the empire must not be created, and we must continue to fight the Hun as we would a pest and a curse, and oblige him to sign a lasting peace, thereby delivering neutral States from the jaws of the Teuton monster.

C. R.

"Notes d'une Infirmière à Moudros," by Jeanne Antelme, which is published by Emile Paul Frères, at 3f. 50c., is a diary kept by the author in the summer and autumn of last year.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have recently published "Malta, the Nurse of the Mediterranean," by the Rev. A. G. Mackinnon. The price of the book is 4s. 6d. net.

* "Central Europe," by Friedrich Naumann. With an Introduction by W. J. Ashley. Translated by Christobel M. Meredith. (P. S. King and Son. 7s. 6d. net.)

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania's Service to The Cause.

In an interesting communication published in the *Morning Post* (October 26) a Roumanian correspondent points out that the recent heavy fighting on the frontiers of his country "will at least serve the purpose of dispelling the view that she has joined the Allies at a time when serious fighting would be unnecessary." He goes on to say:—

Had she come in earlier it would have been impossible for her to exact the price which she is now exacting from Germany. She came in immediately she was adequately equipped and was able to return an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. It has to be kept in mind that she is killing Germans and is drawing forces which might have been used on other fronts, thereby dissipating the energies of the enemy. Germany has paid Roumania a great compliment in sending her best generals to meet the Roumanian Army. It is now generally recognised that the road to Berlin is through Vienna, and Germany has realised that her death-blow may come from Roumania, and is therefore making a desperate effort to ward it off. . . . Another consideration which has entered into Germany's policy is the question of retaining the confidence of her satellites—Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Roumanian intervention on the side of the Allies was an indication to these Powers that they had staked their money on the wrong horse by backing Germany. Germany feels that by knocking out Roumania she would impress her hirelings with the fact that it was Roumania who had backed the wrong horse.

King Constantine and the Intriguers.

In a leading article, "The Enlightenment of King Constantine," *The Times* on Saturday expressed the belief that M. Guillemin, Sir Francis Elliot, and Admiral du Fournet "have now made plain" to the King "the utterly mistaken character of the conceptions of Allied policy and of the aims of M. Venizelos which intriguers like the ex-Premier, M. Gounaris, Dr. Streit, and General Dousmanis had foisted upon him." After touching upon various signs of improvement in the situation, the article concludes:—

It must be assumed that King Constantine and his Government will now no longer countenance the action of the Reservist Leagues, and that the reservists who may in good faith have joined these anti-Venizelist and anti-Ally organizations will be instructed that any "defence" of the King against M. Venizelos is worse than superfluous. It should be the first care of King Constantine and of the official Greek Government to make it clear to the people that the movement directed by M. Venizelos has no anti-dynastic tendency or ambition. It is, as we have repeatedly explained, purely patriotic. Its object is the expulsion of the Bulgarian invader from Greek territory in collaboration with the Allied forces. It is therefore entitled to receive, and will assuredly receive, full help from the Allied Powers. Any officers or men in Greece whom patriotism may prompt to join their comrades in Macedonia may now feel that, in so doing, they would be in reality helping to protect their Sovereign and their country from the worst enemies of both. They should also be persuaded that only by the success of the national movement can Greece be restored to the position she held at the outbreak of war—before she became a prey to interested intrigues and dissensions which had come to threaten her very existence and were within measurable distance of wrecking the dynasty.

On Standing by One's Friends.

The Spectator (October 28), in an article, "The Tragedy of a People," dealing with the situation in Greece, gives expression to views which are undoubtedly shared by most people in this country. The article begins:—

It is not only the most honourable but the safest of rules to stand by one's friends in dangerous times. We think the time has come for Great Britain to state with no uncertain voice that she knows who her friends are in Greece, and that she means to stand by them and see them through at whatever cost to those who are not her friends. Those Greeks who support the cause of the Allies need all the help they can get. Those who have plotted against us, trying to do us every kind of mischief while pretending to be friendly, have quite ceased to deserve our sympathy.

Even if we still desired to treat the latter with patience and indulgence (in the spirit in which Britain always has treated Greece), it would not be possible to show them much consideration if we really mean to help our true friends to the top of our powers. We cannot encourage two contradictory principles at the same time. And since it is impossible to place trust and confidence in both the Government of M. Venizelos and the Government of King Constantine, let us not waste time and energy in maintaining an unfruitful fiction.

It would be foolish, says the writer, after all that has happened, to build upon King Constantine's "offers to return to the policy (never practised, by the way) of benevolent neutrality," though "we need not reject such assurances."

We cannot be wrong in saying that the time has come to side boldly and unequivocally with our friends, for we have all

watched the gradual steps by which M. Venizelos has reached his present position, and noted the reluctance with which he has organised his counter-movement to the Government at Athens. Never has a revolution been more reasonable, more cautious, and more considerate. If we do not go out of our way to express our approval of such conduct, if we confine ourselves to merely frigid phrases of commendation, we shall not prove that we are good people to be with in a tight place. Greatheartedness and loyalty are to be found more freely among the Cretans and the islanders who follow the National Government than among the merchants and café-politicians of the mainland towns. In helping the best elements of the people we shall be helping Greece most certainly back to rehabilitation. The Venizelists are the men who have the future of the country in their keeping.

The Morning Post, also, in a leading article ("The Danger in the Balkans," October 30), protests against "any policy of coquetting with King Constantine at the expense of our friends."

M. Venizelos is for us: King Constantine is against us. Let the sentimentalists and idealists who blink facts in our Foreign Office pretend as they may, the facts remain. In this great Roumanian crisis our assistance from the South has been paralysed because the situation in Greece has never been cleared up. And it ought to have been cleared up, if necessary, by a complete breach with the official Government of Greece. Instead of this we seem still to be coquetting with a Court which is obviously bound hand to foot to Germany.

Two Alternatives.

Discussing the two alternatives of which the Roumanian and Russian Staffs had the choice when Roumania joined in the war—operations against Bulgaria or against Hungary—the Military Correspondent of the *Morning Post* (October 27) points out that in the former case "it would have been necessary to hold the Transylvanian frontier defensively, and a failure at any point would have laid the main territory of Roumania open to invasion. The latter course, which was adopted, required a defensive attitude on the Danube-Dobruja front. The Danube might fairly be considered secure, while the Dobruja has a width of only 100 miles at the frontier, narrowing to less than 40 miles at the Constanza railway, and even if the defence were to fail in this section the invading force would still be on the further side of the Danube." He then proceeds:—

Those who think that it would have been better to invade Bulgaria do not say how they would have proposed to direct the campaign on the two fronts, but it would seem that they have neither appreciated the difficulties involved nor the objects which the Allies had in view. The invasion of an entirely hostile country of such an extent, and characterised by such topographical difficulties as Bulgaria, with the Turkish Army on the flank, would have been an operation of no small difficulty; and it could promise no decisive results in a reasonable time, even so far as the defeat of the Bulgarians was concerned. How the 360 miles of mountain frontier could have been held against Falkenhayn in the meantime is not evident in view of what has happened in the Dobruja and in Transylvania. Moreover, it was doubtless thought more advisable to follow up the advantages gained by the Russians in the Carpathians by attacking the flank of the Austro-German armies than to embark on isolated and divergent operations against a secondary enemy.

It may be conjectured that the plan miscarried because the promptitude of Mackensen's attack with an unexpectedly large force caused the vacillation which has often marred plans which might otherwise have succeeded.

Disquieted by Mackensen's irruption, Roumania diverted troops from the principal scene of action, and in the result Falkenhayn succeeded in obtaining possession of the Maros railway, and was thus enabled to concentrate his forces at Hermannstadt and Brasso more quickly than our Allies, and to distribute reinforcements at the various points of attack on the Moldavian frontier. The situation would have been reversed if the Roumanians had gained possession of the railway. The writer, however, indicates that the plan itself was not necessarily the worst of the alternatives, though, as usual, critics in plenty are to be found to declare that the other would have been preferable.

A Glorious End.

Under the dramatic heading "Sunk," "R.N.V." describes in *Blackwood* (October) the torpedoing of one of our old battleships in the Dardanelles last year. The name of the ship is not given, and though it is not very hard to guess, we will respect the author's apparent desire to preserve her anonymity. "An old battleship whose day of power was long past," she was, when war broke out, "a neglected unit at the very tail of British Sea Power, almost ready for the ship-breaker's yard."

War brought her to life again and to a glorious end. . . . In company with others of her age and kind she made part of that strange squadron, a motley of ancient and modern, headed

by the greatest ship in the world, which won renown at the Dardanelles. Written off by the callous Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as "of no military significance," she yet told her tale of shelling sound and fury to the Turkish enemy in such a fashion as to make it signify some considerable damage to him, and to show that even the tail of our Sea Power had a good deal of nasty sting left in it.

The story of her last day's activities is told simply, and then we get in detail a description of her glorious end: the quiet night, the sudden realisation—as by some sixth sense—of danger, the hurried debate as to the nationality of the destroyer, the call to "Action Stations." Then the officer of the watch heard a faint splash in the darkness away on the port beam. "God! A torpedo," he exclaimed.—

He waited for the torpedo to strike—another long suspense; but within thirty seconds the splash was answered by a roar from the 4-in. port battery of his own ship. Tongues of flame leapt up from the muzzles, lighting up the night, and the shells whistled to their all but invisible mark. But before they could fire another round the torpedo struck. The ship quivered, a tremor running through every plate and rivet: her stern quivered like the hindquarters of a dog coming out of the water. Then she was heaved upwards by some monstrous power beneath. A great spout of water rose, and a great flame leapt out of the ship's belly with a deafening roar, sending its licking tongues high in the midnight sky. And all this was simultaneous: the quiver, the heave, the spout, and the flame were all blended in one vast, hot, terrifying chaos. A second explosion followed, rending the ship to her very vitals. Guns, boats, men, all were flung into the air like leaves in a whirlwind: one of the steamboats was seen spinning like a blazing top a hundred feet up in the air. The great ship herself reeled over to port, hung awhile with her decks steep aslant, and then plunged with a terrible hiss and roar to the bottom.

Even so, if ships had any consciousness, she would surely have preferred this end to one in the ship-breaker's yard. The effect upon the survivors of her ship's company is cleverly conveyed, and the article as a whole fills us with pride in the work done by our Navy at the Dardanelles, as elsewhere in this war.

"The Darfur Expedition."

In a leading article, entitled as above, the *Daily Telegraph* on Monday paid some well-deserved compliments to the conduct of the Darfur Expedition, the official report upon which was published last week. As the writer says, "among the many 'side-shows' in connection with the war, few have attracted less attention, and none has been, on its merits, more deserving of it, than the Darfur Expedition, launched in March of this year by the Sirdar and Governor-General of the Soudan, General Sir Reginald Wingate."

The expedition was, indeed, a model of those enterprises by means of which the prestige and authority of the British power are maintained, year by year, upon the confines of the Empire, and which have grown tenfold in importance since the knowledge that that power was threatened by collision with Germany spread throughout the disaffected or hostile tribes upon all our Asiatic and African frontiers. The difficulties involved were enormous, and the success with which they were overcome redounds greatly to the credit of the Sirdar's administration in the Soudan and of the native Egyptian army, upon whose shoulders the fighting work was laid, the British Army in Egypt being fully occupied with the defence of that country against the Turkish and Arab attack. The whole expedition, carried out in the face of extraordinary difficulties, and against "a numerically superior and fanatical enemy, armed with modern rifles and of no mean fighting spirit," stands as a shining example of what British organization and leadership, working with native troops, can accomplish under the most testing conditions.

A Question of Communications.

Reviewing the position in the Dobruja, in the *Birmingham Post* of October 27, Mr. Edgar Wallace points out that Mackensen and Falkenhayn can render no direct assistance to one another; though they have a single purpose, they are influenced by widely different circumstances. But the Roumanian, "who is fighting on interior lines, would be considerably benefited by an offensive either in the north or in the south, or, for the matter of that, in the south-west, because he could in a short space of time transfer troops from one front to the other."

Mackensen and von Falkenhayn are fighting to secure a single front in Roumania, and so long as that is denied them a slight advantage rests with the defence. The fall of Roumania would be brought about by Mackensen and von Falkenhayn joining hands. As it is, though as the crow flies they are separated only by a little over a hundred miles, they are in reality divided by over 700 miles of indifferent communications.

The Allies' task is, therefore, to retain that wedge between the two armies. We learn from Roumania that there has been a War Council at which the French mission was present, when certain steps were decided upon for the defence of Roumania,

and those defensive measures are now in course of formation. It will take some time to adjust matters, but if the German offensive can be held for a fortnight then the German is defeated, for obviously he has not sufficient troops to hold the line of the Danube in the rear of Mackensen, and (as the Roumanian has already proved) he cannot prevent the crossing of the river in Mackensen's rear. All that is wanted now is the time necessary to bring the troops into line and allow Russia, which is the only Power that can directly help Roumania, to send her divisions to strengthen the Roumanian front, and possibly to develop an offensive.

The Day of Reckoning.

Major Claude Askew contributes to the *Englishwoman* (October) an article, entitled "Round the Serbian Camps," which gives a vivid description of the rejuvenated Serbian Army in its quarters at Salonika. Here is a passage that helps us to realise the feeling that animates our gallant Allies:—

Of one thing I am sure; not a man regretted the comparative comforts of Corfu, when he exchanged them for the much more martial conditions of Salonika. For it was a great step forward to set foot upon Macedonian soil; there were men—and this is no exaggeration—who upon being landed from the transport which had borne them in safety to their destination, threw themselves down and kissed the earth—for Macedonian ground is Serbian ground as well. And I have seen in the camps how the men's faces have lit up when it has been announced to them that yet another step had been taken—that they may move forwards to their destination upon the front—almost, indeed, to the very gates of Serbia, and where but a little tract of land divides them from the enemy with whom they long to come to grips.

They face him under different conditions this time. The odds are no longer three to one, as they were upon the Austrian and Bulgarian frontiers; the day is at hand when Serb and Bulgar will meet man to man, and when victory will be to the right. It is a fact that the Bulgars know of this great force of revenge that is even now clamouring at their gates, and are disturbed in spirit. The whole tone of their Press indicates it. Latterly, they have been trying to console their people by assuring them that there is no Serbian Army at all.

The "non-existent" Serbian Army appears to have done something already to shake the confidence of the Bulgarians in their own Government and their Press!

Articles to Note.

"Gheorghe Lupu: A Roumanian Peasant Hero of the War," by Hamilton Fyfe, in the *Daily Mail* (October 27).

"The Betrayal of Venizelos," in the *Morning Post* (October 31).

"Present-Day Pessimism: Recent Events in the Balkans," by Colonel F. N. Maude, in the *Field* (October 28).

"General Judenich: The Man and His Task," in the *Times* (Russian Supplement) (October 28).

"Roumania and Verdun," in the *Spectator* (October 28).

"The Queen of Roumania," by the Princess Margaret Ghika, in the *Sphere* (October 28).

"King Constantine of Greece and Frederick William of Prussia III.: A Parallel," by Brigadier-General F. G. Stone; "Mitteleuropa and the Meaning of the Paris Pact," by J. A. R. Marriott, in the *Nineteenth Century* (November).

"The One Thing Wanting," by Dr. E. J. Dillon;

"The Position of Roumania," by "Politician";

"Places and Peoples on the Roumanian Danube"; and

"Zionism," in the *Fortnightly Review* (November).

"The Civil Strife in Greece," by H. N. Brailsford, in the *Contemporary Review* (November).

"The Scene of War, II," by "Odysseus," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (November).

"Roumanian Pictures," by the Queen of Roumania, in the *Times* (November 2).

In an article describing "Life in Vienna," the Lausanne correspondent of *The Times* mentions that "since Roumania declared war upon Austria, the orchestras in the theatres, cafés, and restaurants are solely composed of women, for the greater part of her male musicians were Roumanians."



**THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT**
may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI.
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.
Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locomes, Samias, &c.
Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style)	Julian (Old Style)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Nov. 3 4	1916. Oct. 21 22	Friday	1335 Moharrem 7	5677. Hesvan 7
5	23	Saturday	8	8
6	24	Sunday	9	9
7	25	Monday	10	10
8	26	Tuesday	11	11
9	27	Wednesday ..	12	12
		Thursday	13	13

Sunday is the birthday of Princess Helene, wife of Prince John Constantinovich of Russia, and daughter of King Peter of Serbia. The Princess was born at Rieka in 1884, and married at Peterhof in 1911.

Prince Mircea of Roumania is seriously ill with typhoid fever. His illness is reported to be following the normal course, but his condition causes serious anxiety.

A semi-official statement issued in Bucharest describes as "utter nonsense" a report spread in Germany that an attempt has been made on the life of the Queen of Roumania.

The Serbian Legation has received news from Salonika that the Serbian Crown Prince recently paid a visit to the British front on the Struma. His Royal Highness was received at the British Headquarters by the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Corps. After having seen several English battalions and a certain number of the artillery positions, the Prince visited certain villages recently conquered from the enemy by the British forces. He lunched with the Commander of the Corps, to whom he expressed with satisfaction the excellent impression left upon him by this visit to the British front.

Lady Maxwell has recovered from the fatigue of her journey to Ireland, and latest reports state that she is making slow, but steady, progress towards health.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister and Madame Misu called upon the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch on Saturday.

Mme. Camarashesco, daughter of M. Blondel, formerly French Minister at Bucharest, has been decorated with the Russian Cross of the Order of St. George for bravery under the enemy's artillery fire while attending to the wounded.

Lady Howard de Walden arrived last week in London from Chirk Castle, North Wales.

Comtesse Carton de Wiart arrived last week in town from the Continent.

M. P. Psycha, the Greek Minister in Bucharest, and Madame Psycha arrived in London from Roumania last week. M. Psycha has been at Bucharest for two years.

During the absence of M. Psycha, M. Rangabé, who was formerly First Secretary of the Greek Legation in London, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest.

Mr. E. A. Harrison, managing director of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son (Egypt) Ltd., left London to-day on his return to Egypt, via Marseilles.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

IN
PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

Mr. Asquith gave evidence at Tuesday's sitting of the Dardanelles Commission at the House of Lords, Lord Cromer presiding. Admiral Carden was also examined. The Mesopotamia Commission also met, under the presidency of Lord George Hamilton.

The Agent-General for Victoria, Australia (the Hon. Sir Peter McBride), has received authority to make a payment of £500 to the Serbian Minister for the relief of the Serbians, being a further contribution from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne's Serbian Relief Fund.

An engagement is announced between Humphrey Ernest Bowman, Egyptian Civil Service, Captain Royal Fusiliers, elder son of the late John Frederick Bowman and Mrs. Bowman, of 25, Young Street, Kensington, and Garramor, Arisaig, N.B., and Frances Guinevere ("Bobby"), youngest daughter of Colonel Armytage, late R.H.A., and Mrs. Armytage, The White House, York.

The marriage took place at Christ Church, Chelsea, on Saturday, of Lieutenant Ernest Arthur Charles Lloyd, Lovat's Scouts, son of Mr. Ernest Lloyd, of 68, Warwick Square, S.W., to Miss Charlotte Troubridge, second daughter of Vice-Admiral E. C. T. Troubridge. The bride was given away by her uncle, Sir Thomas Troubridge. Captain Ian Maxwell, Cameron Highlanders, was best man, and the bride was attended by her sister Miss Andrea Troubridge.

Colonel Sir David Salomons, accompanied by Lady Salomons, on Saturday unveiled, at the Drill Hall, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, a marble memorial to Captain Salomons and the 128 rank and file of the 1/3 Kent Field Company, Royal Engineers, who lost their lives a year ago that day in the sinking of H.M.S. Hythe off Mudros. Major the Marquess Camden, in the name of the Kent Territorial Association, accepted the memorial, and Colonel Langridge, the Commanding Officer, placed a laurel wreath on the memorial.

It is not often that father and son are on the same front, but Dr. R. Cunyngham Brown, who graduated from medical work at Parkhurst Prison to the Lunacy Board in Scotland, has, together with his son, Lieutenant Gifford Brown, been in Macedonia for some time, says the *World*. Dr. Brown, who is engaged in Red Cross work with the Serbian Army, has been in hospital with malaria, while his son has also been ill but has been sent to Malta to "convalesce."

A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Mr. Trevor M. Shakoar, of the P.W.D., Egypt, son of the late Milhem Shakoar Bey, of the Egyptian War Office, and Mrs. Shakoar, of Liphook, Hants, and grandson of the late Richard Chute, Esq., J.P., D.L., of Chute Hall, County Kerry, Ireland, and the Hon. Rose Chute, daughter of the third Baron Ventry, and Maud, fourth daughter of the late Deputy Inspector General W. G. Ridings, R.N., and Mrs. Ridings, of Havant, Hants, and granddaughter of the late Edward Warrington, Esq., of Dengie, Essex.

Mr. Matheson Lang is giving the proceeds of his first-night performance of "Buxell" at the Strand Theatre, on Tuesday next, to the Scottish Women's Hospitals at present in the Dobruja, Roumania.

For the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of another motor hospital boat for Mesopotamia, a house-to-house collection was made in Wimbledon last week, in connection with the Wimbledon "Silver Thimble" motor ambulance movement, which was inaugurated by Lady Maud Wilbraham. As a result of the effort, several thousand gold and silver articles—old thimbles, bracelets, brooches, watches, coins, curios, and trinkets, many of considerable value—were contributed. On Saturday the more valuable articles were offered for sale at the Wimbledon Town Hall, and found a ready sale. With the price to be given for the articles

set apart to be melted down, it is estimated that the £1,000 required for the purchase of the boat will be secured.

Two lectures will be given by the Rev. Father Nicholas Velimirovitch, Professor of Theology in the University of Belgrade, in the Large Hall, King's College, Strand, at 3 p.m., on Saturdays, November 4 and 11, in aid of the funds of the Workers' Educational Association (London District). The subject of to-morrow's lecture will be "Serbian Architecture and Poetry, and their Influence on a People's Education," and the chair will be taken by Dr. R. M. Burrows, Principal of King's College. On November 11 the subject of the lecture will be "The Russian Democracy, its Foundation and its Future," and the chairman the Very Rev. Dean of St. Paul's. Tickets—5s. and 2s. 6d. for one lecture, 8s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. for both—may be obtained from Mrs. Hugh Dalton, 39, Cheyne Walk, S.W.

SUDAN APPOINTMENTS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Captain F. J. M. Postlethwaite, who formerly occupied the position of Second Inspector at Gedaref, has, as announced in your columns, now left the service of the Sudan Government. During his tenancy of the Inspectorship at Gedaref Captain Postlethwaite brought about a complete transformation, both in appearance and in the conditions of the town and district, a very large one, necessitating the closest and most careful official supervision. It is satisfactory to know that Captain Postlethwaite's services have been suitably appreciated in high quarters, the Sultan of Egypt having conferred upon him the Order of the Nile.

Mr. F. C. C. Balfour, whose appointment as Second Inspector of the Kassala Province has also been announced by you, was formerly Second Inspector of the Nuba Mountains Province. He has seen exactly ten years' service under the Sudan Administration, having first joined the Government in the early days of November, 1906.

The long official services given by Mr. A. N. Wilkinson to the Sudan Administration have now come to a close, he having been placed on pension, dating from September 17 last. Mr. Wilkinson was latterly one of the four Inspectors in the Department for the Suppression of Slave Trade, the present staff of which consists of the following:—Captain F. Atterbury, who is stationed at El Fasher (Darfur), on temporary duty; Captain H. E. Dumbell, stationed at Khartoum, and formerly First Inspector of the Kassala Province; Captain D. S. B. Thomson, who is at present absent on leave; and Mr. A. Wylly, whose headquarters are at Sinkat. Mr. Wylly's appointment as Inspector under this Department dates from September 18 last.

Captain G. B. Wauhope, who was for several years Inspector in the Kassala Province, has rejoined the Egyptian Army, and in recognition of his services he has received, at the hands of the Sultan of Egypt, the Order of the Nile.

Mr. T. A. Leach, formerly First Inspector in the Kassala Province under the governorship of Major C. H. Townsend—who, by the by, has been absent on leave but returned to duty in October last—has now been promoted to be Senior Inspector in the same Province. Of the four Second Inspectorships, three alone are at present filled, the occupants being Messrs F. C. C. Balfour, A. H. Home, and C. H. Thomson.

The Governorship of the Upper Nile Province has become vacant by reason of the transference of Captain J. R. Bassett to the Army. In the meantime, Captain C. H. Stigand, the Senior Inspector, is Acting Governor, and it is believed that in due course he may be appointed to the full governorship. Captain Stigand has seen six years' service under the Sudan Administration and is very popular in Malakal, the seat of the Provincial Government.

Mr. G. E. Seabright, who for some time has filled the position of Assistant Engineer under the Government to the Kordofan Province, and who has had more than eleven years' experience as a Sudan Government official, is now employed with the Western Frontier Force, and has been temporarily endowed with the rank of Bimbashi.

OBITUARY.

The death took place on Thursday, October 26, at Hamel Hempstead, of Dr. James Vaughan-Hughes, aged 95 years. He was the author of "Seventy Years of Life in the Victorian Era," which records his work with Florence Nightingale, when he was attached to the medical staff in the Crimea. He was for a time in charge at Balaclava Hospital, and attended Florence Nightingale when she was suffering from camp fever. When she recovered he secured the loan of Lord Dudley's yacht to convey her back to Scutari. Later he himself contracted Asiatic cholera, and he attributed his recovery to the attention of Miss Nightingale and her nurses. Despite his great age, he rode on horseback and drove a carriage and pair and his own motor-car till a few months ago.

It is announced that Captain F. G. R. Mockler, M.C., Royal Irish Regiment and Machine Gun Corps, was killed in action on July 1. He was the younger son of Major-General Mockler, I.A. (retired), who was formerly British Consul-General at Baghdad, and of Mrs. Mockler, was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, and Sandhurst, and was twenty-six years old. Letters from his brother officers testify to his popularity with them, and he was much respected and looked up to by his men. He was mentioned in despatches, and was decorated with the Military Cross by the King in May of this year.

It is announced that Captain Charles Mill Nicol, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, has died of wounds. A son of the late Mr. John Nicol and Mrs. Nicol, of Brisbane Street, Glasgow, he was born in 1837, and graduated from Glasgow University, with the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. He entered the R.A.M.C. in 1909, and was promoted in 1913, and was gazetted to the staff as Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services. He was stationed in Egypt when the war broke out, but was transferred to France at the end of 1914. He was mentioned in Viscount French's despatches, and was regarded as a brilliant officer. His youngest brother was killed in the Gallipoli operations.

Second-Lieutenant Allan George Condi, Border Regiment, who (as already announced in these columns) was killed in action on October 1, was the only son of the late Frederick Condi, of Corfu, and Mrs. Condi, of Mulcaster Crescent, Carlisle. Born in 1896, he was educated at St. Bees School, where he was in the O.T.C. He left school in August, 1914, and shortly afterwards was articled as a solicitor to his cousin, Mr. C. W. Allan Hodgson, clerk of committees to the Cumberland County Council. He obtained his commission in September, 1915, and went to the front last February. His commanding officer writes:—"He was gallantly leading his men in an attack on the German trenches. . . . His comrades mourn your son's loss very deeply."

Second-Lieutenant Philip Harold Ziegler, East Kent Regiment, who is reported to have died of wounds on September 23, was a partner in the firm of Ziegler and Co., of Manchester and Persia, and was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Ziegler, of Victoria Park, Manchester. Aged 23, he was educated at Tonbridge School and Neuchatel, and soon after the outbreak of war he enlisted as a private in the U.P.S. Brigade. After active service in France, he returned to England, and was granted a commission last July.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
Σχολή Γλωσσών. Διδασκαλία συστηματική. Διερμηνεία κλπ. Διδασκτὰ μέτρια.
 Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.

The Syrian Relief Fund which—as reported in THE NEAR EAST of October 20—was inaugurated in Manchester in the middle of last month, has already met with generous support. We publish below a first list of donations, received up to October 28. In forwarding this list the hon. secretary (Mr. K. Jebara) expresses the hope that by the end of this week the amount received will be £4,000 or over. "It is," he writes, "really marvellous how nobly the British public have responded to the numerous appeals put before them during this terrible war." We heartily congratulate those responsible for the promotion of the fund, and have much pleasure in commending it to the generous notice of our readers. Further subscriptions are earnestly invited, and may be made payable to the hon. treasurer, Mr. E. E. Rigby, and sent to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited, Mosley Street, Manchester, or its branches.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF DONATIONS,

Received or Promised up to October 23, 1916.

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Tootal Broadhurst, Lee, and Co., Limited	250	0	0
Messrs. Horrocks, Crewdson, and Co., Limited	250	0	0
Messrs. S. and S. Sednaoui	200	0	0
E. Kahla, Esq.	200	0	0
Messrs. Rylands and Sons, Limited	105	0	0
Sir John R. Ellerman, Bart (increased from £100)	105	0	0
The Prince Line, Limited	105	0	0
E. Tootal Broadhurst, Esq., D.L.	100	0	0
Messrs. Hourani and Racy	100	0	0
K. Jebara, Esq.	100	0	0
J. Majdalany, Esq.	100	0	0
A. Tarcha, Esq.	100	0	0
Messrs. S. and J. Watts and Co.	100	0	0
P. Zochonis, Esq.	100	0	0
J. Smouha, Esq.	100	0	0
Messrs. Stanley Dawson and Co.	50	0	0
Messrs. Haslams, Limited	50	0	0
Messrs. Rd. Goodair, Limited	50	0	0
S. J. Cohen, Esq.	50	0	0
K. Galie, Esq.	50	0	0
Messrs. Wm. Sutcliffe, Limited	50	0	0
Abdalla Kouri Haddad, Esq.	30	0	0
Messrs. J. Anzarut and Co.	25	0	0
Messrs. George Antaki and Co.	25	0	0
Messrs. Chiha Shoucair and Co.	25	0	0
Sir Edward Donnel, Bart.	25	0	0
Messrs. A. Kabbaz and Co.	25	0	0
N. N. Mansour, Esq.	25	0	0
Amir Mattar, Esq.	25	0	0
D. R. and S.	25	0	0
William Sutcliffe, Esq.	25	0	0
J. Willett, Esq.	25	0	0
Y. Ydlibi, Esq.	25	0	0
Messrs. E. Altaras, Sons, and Co., Limited	20	0	0
Messrs. E. Betesh and Co.	20	0	0
Messrs. B. and M. Bigio	20	0	0
Alfred Brookes, Esq., J.P.	20	0	0
J. P. Garnett, Esq.	20	0	0
A. Hamad, Esq.	20	0	0
Emil Pharaon, Esq.	20	0	0
Major Cardwell	20	0	0
Messrs. Maurice Harari and Elderton	15	0	0
L. Hazan, Esq.	15	0	0
Adib Mattar, Esq.	15	0	0
H. Agar, Esq.	10	10	0
K. Jureidini, Esq.	10	0	0
A. H. Kisbany, Esq.	10	0	0
E. D. Levy, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. D. Mouradian and Bigio, Limited	10	0	0
S. Rihan, Esq.	10	0	0
M. Bentata, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. Djeddah and Sons	5	5	0
A. Aoun, Esq.	5	0	0
George Bradshaw, Esq.	5	0	0
J. Coop, Esq.	5	0	0
George Haroun, Esq.	5	0	0
William Reid, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. Henry Snape	5	0	0
John Mumford, Esq.	3	3	0
J. A. Haiat, Esq.	3	0	0
Ch. Essely, Esq.	2	0	0
S. Hodier, Esq.	2	0	0
Mr. W. E. Buck	1	1	0
F. Stephenson, Esq.	1	1	0
John Vivers, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Sophia Johnson	1	0	0
	£3,405	6	0

Halil Bey, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has returned to Constantinople. Captain Trumpeldor, who won distinction in the Zion Mule Corps, has arrived in London with the view to furthering the enlistment of Russian-born Jews in the British Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

PENNELL.—On October 23, at Port Said, to R. H. and Mrs. Lee Pennell—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

STATHER HUNT—TURNER.—On October 20, at Lausanne, the Rev. William Robert Stather Hunt, M.A., eldest son of the Rev. Canon Stather Hunt, C.F., and Mrs. Hunt, of Tunbridge Wells, to Bridget, third daughter of the late Charles Turner, of Suez, Egypt, and Mrs. Turner, of Mundesley, Norfolk.

DEATH.

STRICKLAND.—On October 31, Paul Strickland, second son of the late Captain Walter Strickland, R.N., and of Mrs. Strickland, of Valetta, Malta, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, aged fifty-four. Funeral at St. Patrick's Church, Conway Street, Plumstead, Friday, the 3rd, at 10.30.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.5; Room, P.T.2; Lunch, P.T.18; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL, Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOUY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to **NAJEM HOUY & SONS, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.**

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "FASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1916.

THE GREEK TANGLE.

In the prevailing uncertainty in regard to the situation in Greece we can but hope that the Allied Governments are doing the right thing. It is by no means clear, however, that, if they are, they are doing it in the right way. We do not subscribe to the theory of democratic control of foreign policy, for in practice such a system is impossible; but this fact imposes upon those who conduct the nation's foreign affairs the responsibility of availing themselves of every opportunity to carry public opinion with them. In the case of Greece at the present moment there can be no excuse for allowing any wrong impression to gain currency either in Greece itself or in Great Britain regarding the plans of the Allies. If it be contended that the Allied Governments cannot be held responsible for misrepresentations in the Greek or any other Press, the answer is that there are very obvious ways of ensuring that the public shall have accurate knowledge of the Allies' actions. Much more is at stake than the time-honoured controversy between official reticence and Press publicity. Some of the Entente Powers, it is to be feared, fail to appreciate the advantage of having popular feeling solidly behind them in this war. Nothing is more calculated to blunt the national resolve to win than the thought that things are being badly handled, that errors of judgment and avoidable mistakes are continually being made. If the tradition of muddle is not being perpetuated in the Allies' dealings with Greece, there can be no reason why the Greek people should have taken it into their heads that the Entente Powers in deciding to make their peace with King Constantine are by way of ignoring their understanding with M. Venizelos or, in common parlance, of "letting him down." The Greeks apparently base their view on a semi-official statement published in *Le Matin* to the effect that France will henceforth take no action in connection with Greek affairs except in common with her Allies and in complete harmony with the very respectable sentiments of the Sovereigns allied to France. We do not pretend to know what this cryptic utterance means; but in Greece it has not unnaturally been interpreted as an intimation that King Constantine has been able to hold his own in his struggle with the Allies and is to retain his autocratic power unimpaired. The anti-Venizelists have not been slow to indicate the inevitable corollary to such a decision, and are already celebrating the political demise of M. Venizelos and the collapse of the Salonika movement.

In all probability the wish is here father to the thought. But apart from the statement in *Le Matin* there has been much to encourage the belief that the Allies' policy in the Near East was once more undergoing the familiar process of vacillation. The sudden recognition of the new Ministry, which, whatever the attitude it might affect towards the Entente Powers, could not be termed the Cabinet of affairs which they had demanded of Greece, and the precipitancy with which a single audience of King Constantine produced a *communiqué*, manifestly intended to reassure everyone except the Greeks who had proved themselves ready for action on the side of the Allies, seemed almost like apologies for the very measures which alone had prompted the Greek Government to adopt a more reasonable frame of mind. The Allies, we believe, have very properly kept one aim in view in their dealings

with Greece—they have desired the minimum of interference with Greek affairs compatible with the safety of the Salonika force and the interests of the Allies as a whole in the Near East. But the methods adopted to secure this end—praiseworthy though they may have been from the point of view of tolerance in the face of the hostility of those in authority in Greece—have been directly responsible for a state of political chaos in the Greek world. It ought to be a self-evident proposition now that the Allies, having brought into existence the two camps into which Greece is divided, and having encouraged, if only by their silence, M. Venizelos to the top of his bent, cannot leave the Provisional Government in the lurch, or indeed come to any understanding with King Constantine and the Athens Government which does not take the Salonika movement into account. It is true that this movement has never repudiated allegiance to the King, and has been careful to leave the door open to reconciliation; but, to judge by the insight into his character and disposition which King Constantine has recently allowed the world to obtain, it is not likely that he will accept in its entirety the "Provisionalists'" view of their own action. *Prosperum ac felix scelus virtus vocatur.* To prevent the ugly name of treason being applied to the Salonika movement the Allies have to make sure that it prospers, and that the Provisional Government is completely justified in the eyes of Hellenism. They cannot divest themselves of responsibility in the matter; for they seem to have provided money as well as hospitality for the Government, and have by various means collected supporters for it.

As we have urged before in these columns, there is no reason why Greece should not emerge from her present crisis at peace with herself. One course to adopt would be to leave the nation to its own devices, even to the possibility of civil strife. Such a solution would not be in keeping with British traditions, and would hardly commend itself to the civilised world. A better course in view of all that has happened is surely for the Allies to bring the whole people together again by a definite process of reconciliation. What can only be regarded as an intolerable solution would be that King Constantine and the Athens Government should in some way be left masters of the situation, so that they can impose terms or even wreak vengeance, if so minded, on those who, realising that Greece's interests coincided with those of the Allied Powers, have sought to promote both by honourable action. Already there are reports of harsh disciplinary measures being adopted to meet the case of officers of the Army and Navy who have thrown in their lot with the Salonika movement. The position is admittedly anomalous, or would be in any other country which has not been accustomed, as Greece has, to see Army officers taking part in unofficial military operations just over the frontier. It is, however, one thing to record formally the resignation of officers so engaged, another to threaten to cashier them by court-martial. The Allies, it would be thought, can be under no illusion regarding the spirit in which King Constantine is meeting them, if simultaneously he authorises a malevolent persecution of all those who have thrown in their lot with or are suspected of wishing to join the Greek forces in Macedonia. If it be true that there is documentary evidence to prove that, in spite of the Greek Government's denial, instructions were issued to the commander to surrender Fort Rupel to the Bulgarians, then the Allies will be justified in looking for Greek "slimness" in other directions. The prospect of being able to pay off old scores against M. Venizelos and his followers may have helped to reconcile King Constantine to having to make his peace with the Entente. Unless care is taken by the Allied Governments to safeguard the Nationalist party, permanent injury will be done to the cause of constitutional liberty and progress in Greece. Having gone so far in their intervention in Greek affairs, the Allies cannot now withdraw unconditionally at the first sign of a more reasonable attitude on the part of the King. Even if there is a feeling that some of the measures adopted have been unduly severe, these cannot be atoned for by half-measures at this stage. It is a case not only of standing by one's friends, but of seeing them duly reinstated without prejudice to their future.

THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN THE CAUCASUS AND THE TURKISH COUNTER-STROKE.

III.*

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The main line of advance of the Russians, as we have seen, followed the valley of the Phrat from Erzeroum to Erzinjan, which was captured in the end of July, while at the same time their right wing, pressing along the Trebizond road, took possession of Baiburt and Gumushkaneh. The Turks, while obstinately contesting this advance, as they still continue to do, prepared by way of counter-stroke a vigorous offensive against the southern flank of the enemy's long line of communications, hoping to delay his progress by the menace to his rear. This counter-offensive, which is said to have been planned by a young German officer, Major-General von Gresman, comprised a variety of skilfully co-ordinated movements, designed to operate against the scattered Russian forces to the south of Erzeroum from as many directions as possible. It met at the outset with considerable success, and created, as Petrograd subsequently admitted, a serious situation.

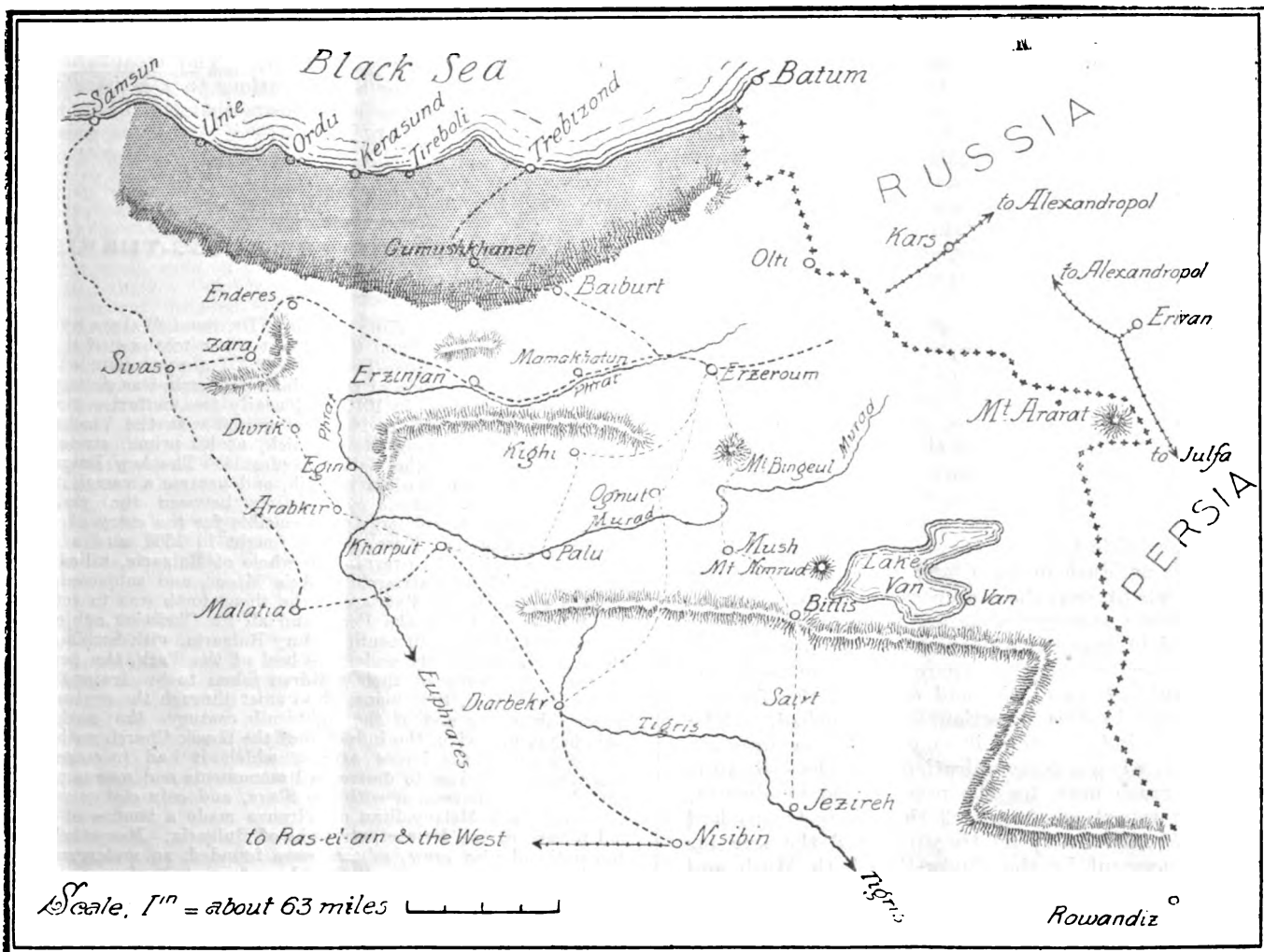
Apert from the movements in Central Persia, which have already been dealt with, the Turkish means of access to the uplands on which it was intended to operate may, as stated in the preceding article, be classified under three heads, and are so classified in the Russian *communiqués*.—(a) *Via Rowandiz and the Persian Frontier*; (b) *via Bitlis and Mush*; (c) *via Kighi and Oghnut*; and the operations which preceded or accompanied the offensive in each of these regions, so far as information has been vouchsafed regarding them, may be treated separately.

* Previous articles of this series appeared in *THE NEAR EAST* of October 20 and 27.

(a) Via Rowandiz and the Persian Frontier.

Rowandiz lies on the Turkish side of the Turco-Persian frontier 100 miles east of the important city of Mosul on the Tigris; hence the Russians frequently refer to operations in this neighbourhood as being "in the direction of Mosul." The conjecture has already been hazarded that it was not found necessary to move troops in force to guard this approach at the time of the original advance on Erzeroum. The Russians already dominated this part of Persia; their communications were better than those on the Turkish side; they could concentrate on the frontier more quickly than the Turks, even in the unlikely event of the latter being at this time in force at Mosul. They waited, therefore, till the spring, when, in pursuance of their policy of threatening the Turkish communications on the Tigris, they moved across the frontier, and took possession of Rowandiz in the first half of May, simultaneously almost with their capture of Kasr-i-Shirin on the frontier 200 miles to the south.

For the next two months no change in the situation was reported, but in the end of July the Turkish preparations for the counter-offensive were complete; they crossed the frontier and advanced rapidly into Persia. Until further information is available we can only conjecture what happened; but it would seem that the Turks attacked in two independent bodies, one of which, based probably on Baghdad, and transported by rail to Samarra on the Tigris along the completed section of the railway that links those two places, crossed the frontier well to the south of Rowandiz, and, meeting with little opposition, pushed forward for 70 miles past Sakiz in the direction of Lake Urmi (south-east of Lake Van), threatening to cut the communications between Rowandiz and Tabriz. The other, consisting of or including the 4th Division, made a frontal attack on the passes above Rowandiz, was led into an ambushade, surrounded, and almost destroyed, in the latter half of August. The greater part of two regiments surrendered, 2,300 prisoners were taken, and the shattered remains of the division were driven back over the frontier. The



SKETCH MAP SHOWING FIELD OF RUSSIAN OPERATIONS
(The shaded portion indicates area in which the ranges run mostly North and South.)

force that operated further south was less easily disposed of. In the beginning of September it was still near Sakiz, 60 miles within Persian territory, but by the end of the month it had been driven back, fighting obstinately, to the border. Desultory fighting still, however, continues in this region.

The chances of a successful Turkish attack in this neighbourhood were small from the start. The Russian hold on North-Western Persia is almost certainly too strong for any forces that the Turks can bring to bear. An account has recently appeared of the completion of railway communication to Tabriz, whence a branch line leads to the frontier; and we may assume that in other directions also communications have been improved. The success of our Ally in August and September effectually dissipates any danger of a Turkish attack from Mesopotamia by way of the northern part of the Persian plateau. It is possible that the Turkish offensive in this direction may have forced the Russians to withdraw some of their forces from the Hamadan country to the south. In all other respects it was a failure.

(b) Via Bitlis and Mush.

The next staircase from the plains to the uplands is by the Bitlis Pass, and here the Turks made their second assault, combining it with a movement on Mush, probably based on Diarbekr. From the outset of the campaign the Grand Duke had taken precautions against such a danger. The advance on Erzeroum was accompanied by a sweeping and simultaneous movement over the plains north of Lake Van. This may have come across the Persian frontier, or the troops employed may have started from the railhead at Erivan. In any case the advance was independent of the main army, and was not a mere movement to the south of a detachment from the troops engaged in the assault on Erzeroum. The rapidity with which it was carried out shows at once the completeness of the Russian plans, the remarkable aptitude of their troops for campaigning in winter, and the unpreparedness of the Turks. No organised opposition seems to have been encountered, and there were probably no troops at hand to offer it. The only garrison town in these parts—Van—lies away to the south, at the eastern end of the lake, and the few troops ordinarily maintained there would be incapable of obstructing a Russian advance in force. The majority of the inhabitants of the plateau are Kurds, who have been freely recruited as irregular cavalry; but the Kurds have no enthusiasm for their masters, and their irregular troops have always been despised by the professional soldiers of Turkey. Their attitude to the Russians seems at the outset to have been almost friendly, certainly not actively hostile. From Mush to the nearest point on the Persian frontier the distance is 100 miles; to Bayazid, in the direction of Erivan, it is half as much again, yet so rapid was the Russian advance that on February 19, only a few days after the capture of Erzeroum, it was announced that Akhlâ, a town on the northern coast of Lake Van, and Mush had been occupied. The Russians then closed in on Bitlis, which lies between these two places, a little to the south, where they met with the first opposition that they considered sufficiently important to chronicle. They were obliged to storm the town, which they captured in the first days of March.

It is improbable that the Russians continued to hold either Bitlis or Mush in force. The question of supply would of itself prevent the concentration of large forces, and such troops as were maintained in this region would be dispersed in quarters convenient for supply and for overawing the country. There they remained unmolested until, towards the end of July, the Turkish counter-stroke in this direction was launched. The *communiqués* indicate that it came from the direction of Diarbekr, whence communication with the railway is easy; but much must for the present remain obscure. A Russian report on August 9 that their troops had fallen back after heavy fighting prepared the way for the announcement by the Turks that both Mush and Bitlis had been reoccupied on the 8th. The Turks were in considerable strength. Their forces, which were estimated at from one and a-half to two corps, advanced up the valley of the Murad, threatening the Russian communications some ninety miles to the

north, and succeeded in covering one-third of that distance before the Russians could concentrate a sufficient force to check them. The distance of the scene of fighting from the main Russian Army at Erzinjan has been referred to in explanation of the time required for reinforcements to arrive, but it may be doubted whether the Russians allowed this sudden thrust of the Turks to interfere with their dispositions in the main theatre of operations. The *communiqués* rather suggest that they fell back to the north of Lake Van for the purpose of concentrating their scattered troops in that region, an operation which took some three weeks. On the 23rd they announced that they had gained the day in fighting west of Lake Van, taking prisoners and guns, on the 24th that they were pressing on, on the 26th that they had re-entered Mush, whence they made a further advance into the hills beyond as far as the Kozma Geduk, a pass over the mountains on the road to Diarbekr. The worst danger was then past, and Petrograd felt free to admit how serious the situation had been. The Turks, however, still occupied the country from Bitlis to Mount Nimrud (an extinct volcano, the crater of which is occupied by a lake) and so on to the shore of Lake Van. An attack on this line was assisted by an armed ship on the lake and by British armoured cars on land; and the Turks were driven back to the heights above Bitlis, which they still appear to hold. The Kurds meanwhile have developed a hostile attitude, and the British cars have been usefully employed in holding them in check, as well as in attacking the regular Turkish troops, overcoming by ingenious and laborious expedients the difficulties of operating in such a country.

It does not appear that any decisive blow was struck at the offensive of the Turks in this sector of operations. On the contrary they seem to have made good their retreat with only small losses in prisoners and guns, and to have been able to establish themselves on the crest of the Bitlis Pass, as well as on the passes which the road to Mush from the plains traverses. Their position still constitutes a menace to our ally, whose line of communication between Mush and Lake Van is threatened, and she must find it increasingly difficult, as winter sets in, to maintain a large force within striking distance of Bitlis. The recapture of that place would bring the operations to a satisfactory close, but the latest reports indicate that the Turks not only maintain their hold on the town, but have gained possession of parts of the road between Bitlis and Mush.

(To be continued.)

BULGARIA BEFORE THE RUSSO-TURKISH WAR.

Lecturing recently at King's College, Dr. Seton-Watson traced the history of Bulgaria from the earliest times to the period immediately before the Russo-Turkish War. The State founded by the first Bulgar invaders of the Balkan peninsula was destroyed by the Emperor Basil in 1018, and nearly two centuries passed before the Bulgars had revived and united with the Vlachs to form a Bulgaro-Rouman State, which, at its prime, stretched over a large part of the Balkan peninsula. The new Bulgaria fell before Stephen Dushan in 1330, and became a vassal state of Serbia. The quarrels of this time between the various Christian peoples were largely responsible for the entry of the Turks into Europe. Kossovo was fought in 1389, and a few years later the Turks overran the whole of Bulgaria, killed its Tsar, removed its Patriarch to Asia Minor, and subjected its Church to the Greek Patriarch, who thenceforth was to act as intermediary between the Porte and all its Christian subjects. By the middle of the fifteenth century Bulgaria, with Serbia and Bosnia, was completely under the heel of the Turk, the people crushed, and many of their children taken to be trained as janissaries. Still, they managed to exist through the centuries. When, about the end of the eighteenth century, the national idea began to revive, the influence of the Greek Church authorities was one of the forces against which it had to contend. These set themselves to destroy all monuments and manuscripts that had any connection with the Slavs, and only eighty years ago the Greek Metropolitan of Tirnova made a bonfire of the old library of the former patriarchs of Bulgaria. Nevertheless, the national idea grew, schools were founded, an underground revolutionary movement with headquarters at Bucharest came into being, and the Porte, in pursuance of a policy of playing off one section of its Christian subjects against another, consented to the establishment of a Bulgarian Exarchate. In the 'sixties a reforming governor, Midhat Pasha, was appointed, but his administration only lasted a few years; and after he was gone the *régime* of corruption and oppression was resumed.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Cast Army Horses.

Oct. 26.

The Earl of DERBY informed the Earl of Mayo that all cast Army horses in Egypt, Salonika, and Mesopotamia were slaughtered. In France they were all to be sold for meat slaughter in the presence of an officer of the British Army. There was a reservation in the case of mares that might be capable of breeding in France a good stock of horses for the future.

Our Forces in Mesopotamia.

Oct. 31.

Viscount MIDLETON asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he could make any statement as to the condition of the Forces in Mesopotamia in respect of supply and transport, whether he could give any assurance that all necessary supplies and hospital comforts were available in the various camps, and whether he could give any statistics of sickness and invaliding during the first eight months of this year.

The Earl of DERBY said that if he did not give statistics on any particular points the sole reason was that they might be of assistance to the enemy. As to the improvement that had taken place in Mesopotamia since the War Office took over that region, he would read a telegram received by the Colonial Office from Colonel Godfrey Collins at Busreh, dated October 29:—“Without exaggeration, Busreh presents a hive of industry with American hustle and British adaptability. A port is being created and a town erected. The last five mixed steamships cleared in twelve days. Each troopship emptied on arrival. Supply situation well in hand; no necessity for anxiety.” Our difficulty had been the transport of stores from the base to the advanced posts. Shortly before the recess he had warned their Lordships that it would be well towards the end of October before any great improvement would be shown, and he thought that improvement would be shown to have taken place; though what had been done so far was not perfection. It was very far from that. Such instructions had been given and such preparations made as will bring us as near perfection as we can possibly get in such a region. In a letter, written to the Quartermaster-General, General Maude said:—“Colonel Gray has taken over the inland water transport, and I hope we shall now get a move on. I was down at Abadan yesterday, where we have a dock-yard for putting barges together, and there will be a steady output in the way of barges. The square-ended barge sent out has been found to be practically useless, as it is unable to pass the narrows. Therefore from these barges from which we had hoped a great deal we have received little assistance. We had a windfall yesterday in the arrival of a ship from Singapore, which brought a couple of stern-wheelers, and some barges, and tugs which were not expected, and these will help to speed up matters. Barges are what we want most. Some more are, I understand, already on the way, and the stream will soon begin to arrive. With the matter now in Gray's capable hands I think we may look forward to the future with confidence. . . . The supplies and ordnance stores are coming along well. The quantity accumulated here is very gratifying, and, providing that a steady stream of all requirements keeps on arriving here, things should be all right in these respects.” The letter also pointed out that labour is a great difficulty, but it was hoped to get over that difficulty by the porter and labour corps promised from India. On July 20, the date on which the War Office assumed control, the average tonnage carried daily up the river was 222 tons, while on October 9 it was 680 tons, and it was estimated that by October 31 it would be 860 tons. The supplies sent out included 4,800,168 rations of preserved meat, 3,925,580 lbs. of biscuits, 1,387,665 tins of condensed milk, and 2,155,787 lbs. of lentils. The Quartermaster-General's report was that the supply situation in Mesopotamia is clearly more satisfactory. General Scott, who had been sent out to supervise these matters, stated in his report that ample supplies were arriving at Busreh, that no difficulty was anticipated in getting all the supplies of forage required from India, that the reserves were greatly accumulating at the advanced supply depots, and that the troops were getting full rations. The War Office now received from the Director of Supplies and Transport of the Mesopotamia Force weekly telegraphic reports, stating what stocks of the principal items of supply are at hand at the front and at the base, and also whether there is any shortage of any description. The stocks were not quite as ample as one might wish, but they were quite adequate. The force was at present being fed on fresh meat, but tentative arrangements had been made for the supply of frozen meat.

As to munitions, in the opinion of the military authorities the munitions sent out to Mesopotamia were in every way ample. There was no remount difficulty in Mesopotamia; we had all the horses we required, and by strengthening the veterinary department it was hoped to keep both horses and mules in good condition. The Royal Flying Corps in Mesopotamia, which had been seriously reduced owing to sickness and other casualties, had now been reinforced with experienced officers and suitable aeroplanes.

The floating hospitals had been considerably augmented, and it was now possible to transport sick and wounded without delay and in reasonable comfort. A fleet of hospital steamers was being built, but they would not be available until next year. Men of skilled trades had been sent to Mesopotamia, and also unskilled labourers from West Africa and Nigeria. We had despatched to Mesopotamia and India several general and stationary hospitals, casualty collecting stations, field and motor ambulances, with 323 officers, 500 nurses, and 2,885 other ranks. In addition, we had sent out assistant surgeons, dental surgeons, and dental mechanics. The War Office had relieved the India

Office of the responsibility of meeting the demands for the medical and surgical stores and equipment required for Mesopotamia, which India was unable to supply, and arrangements had been made for the Commander-in-Chief in India to intimate his requirements in the matter of medical stores direct to the War Office. It was extremely difficult to give trustworthy figures of the amount of sickness in Mesopotamia. Some figures received, which were admittedly incomplete, showed that from April 27, 1916, to July 29, 1916, the admissions to hospitals of British troops were 2,739 per week, the number of deaths 108, and of evacuated 1,048. From August 5 to September 23 the admissions were 1,705 per week, the deaths 39, and the number evacuated 738. A debt of gratitude was due to Sir A. Keogh for the way in which he had met the medical demands, and also to the Quartermaster-General and his department for the manner in which they had endeavoured to meet the requirements of the Mesopotamia Force. As far as possible, we were relieving entire units in Mesopotamia by fresh troops.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Our Roumanian Ally.

Oct. 26.

Sir E. CARSON asked whether the Prime Minister could make a statement regarding the position of affairs in Roumania.

Mr. ASQUITH: I do not think it is possible, or at any rate desirable, to say more at the moment than that the military situation in Roumania is engaging the most anxious attention not only of His Majesty's Government, but of all the Allies. They have taken now for many weeks past, and are taking, every possible step to support our comrades in Roumania in the splendid struggle they are making. I hope we shall not take an unduly pessimistic view of the future. Russia, France, Great Britain, and Italy have been and are concerting measures in which each of us are doing all in our power to support Roumania in her struggle.

Cyprus, Malta, and Man Power.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in order to enable the various colonies to contribute their quota to the man-power of the Empire, measures will now be taken to make the Military Service Act applicable to Malta and Cyprus.

Mr. BONAR LAW: His Majesty's Government do not consider that such an extension of the application of the Military Service Act would be useful.

The Situation in Greece.

Oct. 31.

Mr. R. M'NEILL said that at the present time there was something like a climax of misgiving in the country with regard to the whole of our position in the Near East, and especially with regard to our position in Greece. We had an Army of undefined size at Salonika, where we were on neutral soil, but we were there on the invitation of the Constitutional Government of Greece. That Constitutional Government had been replaced, and M. Venizelos, the statesman who had issued the invitation to the Allies to use Greek territory as a base, had been dismissed from office, had been driven into opposition, and had now formed a Provisional Government. We were therefore confronted with the extraordinary state of affairs of a *de jure* Government presided over by a King openly hostile to the cause of the Allies, and at the same time a rival Government presided over by a constitutional statesman who was responsible for our presence there. The question arose what should be the attitude of our own Government towards these rival authorities. We were taking up an attitude which did not appear to be pronounced on one side or the other, and news was now published, not officially, which added to the disquiet and misgiving with which the attitude of our Government was regarded in the country, and, he believed, in that House. He felt that unless the Foreign Office could devise some way of taking the House, or a portion of the House, more into their confidence the disquiet which was existing might grow and it might become impossible to restrain criticism of a very different type from that he was advancing.

Mr. LYNCH warmly resented the action and policy of his Majesty's Government in protecting and propping up the tottering throne of an enemy King whose attitude showed that he was one of the outposts of Germany and sacrificing the great man who had done so much in the cause of the Allies and was the true representative of the sentiments of his fellow countrymen.

Lord ROBERT CECIL—My hon. friend told us, and quite truly, that the course of events which had taken place in Greece invites attention, and has caused some misgiving in this country. I am not aware of the terms of the publication at Athens to which he referred, but I think we should do well to treat with some caution all reports from Athens. I am not saying anything offensive about the Athenian people, but they were undoubtedly somewhat excitable, and the reports which reach us from that capital are not always moderate. As to the substance of the matter, I desire to protest in the strongest possible way against the allegation made by the hon. member for Clare (Mr. Lynch). I do not know what he means by saying we were propping up King Constantine to assist the German propaganda in Greece. I am sure King Constantine would not take that view. I say quite frankly that I believe anything that makes for the reunion of all the Greeks would be a very desirable thing. I hold the view very strongly that we, who have a very special position in regard to Greece, can and do desire nothing more than its greatness and prosperity. We believe that that greatness and prosperity can be achieved only by a close association of the Western Powers. We believe that the old phrase of a benevolent neutrality conveys a great deal of truth as to the proper attitude

to be assumed. But we believe strongly that whatever her attitude towards the Entente Powers might be, anything which separates her from them must end in disaster to Greece and lead to a serious state of things, which will last far beyond the present war. It has been suggested that we were under special obligations to M. Venizelos, because we went there at his invitation. I suppose everybody who has followed the career of M. Venizelos has the profoundest admiration for that statesman: we all know his deep patriotism, his great courage, his unerring sagacity, and the fine public spirit and single-mindedness which he has shown, not only on this occasion, but on previous occasions. But I do not think it is a true statement or a useful statement to say that we went there at his invitation. It was at the invitation of the Greek Government, of which he was the head. It was the Greek Government that invited us.

The hon. member for Clare expressed the view that the French people and the French Government thoroughly disagreed with our policy. I am in a position to assert in the strongest way that that is utterly untrue. We have acted throughout in closest concert with all our Allies. At the Boulogne Conference, the other day, I am assured by those who were there that there was absolute and complete unity of opinion between the French and English Governments as to the policy to be pursued in Greece. There was not a shadow of difference between them and there is not at the present day. Therefore any statement which is made that we in this respect are diverging from the policy of our Allies is absolutely without the slightest foundation or basis, and is one which ought never to have been made. As to our attitude towards M. Venizelos, the House will recognize the extreme delicacy of saying anything about it. I only say this: that wherever we find a part of the Greek community which is in fact under the government of M. Venizelos or his Provisional Government, where the great majority of the people recognize him as their Governor, we recognize him as *de facto* the ruler of that part of Greece.

Mr. R. McNEILL: Has that been conveyed to M. Venizelos?

Lord R. CECIL: I should not like to answer that without looking up the actual facts. I have said all I think that I can usefully say at the present time about M. Venizelos.

Mr. ELLIS GRIFFITH said the noble Lord had told them, he thought for the first time, that where as a matter of fact Venizelos exercised the functions of government the British Government so far recognized his authority.

Lord R. CECIL: *De facto*.

Mr. GRIFFITH asked whether that meant that where M. Venizelos was in supreme command, where his forces were in control, where the King exercised no functions and had been deprived of them—as in the Island of Crete—the position of the British Government was that King Constantine is *de jure* King of Greece and M. Venizelos is *de facto* ruler of Greece? If so, it was an extraordinary position. It really meant, if anybody could hold those two inconsistent views at the same time, that the Government recognized the authority of King Constantine, and at the same time they recognized the authority of a traitor to King Constantine. What threw a good deal of light upon the subject, and, he thought, justified the feeling of great anxiety and misgiving which there was in this country, was that Lord R. Cecil, after some hours' notice of that debate, told them upon the authority of the Foreign Office, that although that was the fact, he did not even now know whether Venizelos had been made cognizant of that fact. He hoped the noble Lord would take the very earliest opportunity of conveying to Venizelos the fact that we did recognize his authority in places under his control. The noble Lord had in words beyond praise passed an eulogy on the character and achievements of Venizelos. What M. Venizelos wanted, however, was not praise, but recognition. We gave him our praise, we gave him our money, but we did not give him our recognition. M. Venizelos had not only sacrificed his reputation and his career, but he had risked his life in order to prove his bona-fides and his allegiance to the cause of the Allies. We declared ourselves the champions of small nations. Greece was a small nation. She was struggling against her King. We must choose between King Constantine and M. Venizelos, not because one was a King and the other a statesman, but without any regard to Kingship or statesmanship, as between two men each of whom said he represented Greece. If the Government came to the opinion that King Constantine represented the Greeks, let them have nothing to do with M. Venizelos; if they thought M. Venizelos represented the Greek people, they ought not to negotiate any longer with King Constantine, who had turned out to be a very poor friend of the Allies, and who had done all he could to support our enemies. There was a feeling of great disquiet in this country that the Government was not doing the right thing by their friend M. Venizelos. That was a very serious feeling to get abroad. He hoped that after this short debate the country would be reassured, at any rate to this extent, that the Government would not only give money and eulogy, but would also give actual and definite recognition to M. Venizelos in Greece. Nothing else was worthy of us.

Sir H. DALZIEL believed that Mr. Ellis Griffith had stated the views entertained not only by the vast majority in the House of Commons, but by the vast majority of the public outside. We had seen King Constantine practically holding us at bay month after month, and the whole Eastern situation absolutely governed, as it were, from Athens. Did the Government think the British public were going to stand this much longer, and see Ambassadors going cap in hand to this King who had defied the Allies at every point, and who was an agent of the German Government? They could not go on day after day seeing British diplomacy getting slapped in the face. He hoped the Government would make it clear that we were going to stand by M. Venizelos. If we did not do that we would not deserve to have any friends in Greece, and it would be a lasting disgrace to this country.

The Mesopotamia Command.

Nov. 1.

Mr. FORSTER informed Sir E. Cornwall that the forces in Mesopotamia were under the command of Major-General (temporary Lieutenant-General) F. S. Maude. The campaign in that theatre was now under the full control of the War Office.

Commander WEDGWOOD: Is it not a fact that the forces in Persia and India, from which the necessary drafts must come, are not under the direct control of the War Office?

Mr. FORSTER: That is another matter.

A REMARKABLE EXODUS.

Mr. George F. Gracey, of Belfast, who for many years has been working in Armenia under the American Mission, and has recently administered a part of the Lord Mayor's Fund, tells a remarkable story of how he was able to carry through a retreat of 25,000 unarmed civilians from the zone of danger by Lake Van to a region of safety, 150 miles distant, at Igdlah. Mr. Gracey was the only Western European in the district, and he managed the entire exodus singlehanded.

During the spring the Russian authorities had entrusted him with the resettlement of the vilayet of Van. The city itself, which recently held 80,000 inhabitants, had lost 95 per cent. of its dwellings, but sixty families were installed afresh in small shops. A pair of oxen was allotted to each three farmers, with seed and implements, while the widows in each village were given half-a-dozen cows, with which to make a living by serving milk. A community of 300 Turks—starving and practically unclad—received similar attention; indeed, they were also granted clothing.

Early in August, while thus engaged on relief work, Mr. Gracey learnt that Mush had been retaken by the enemy. He heard, across the lake, the guns of the Turkish advance, and was warned by the glare of burning buildings. The military authorities told him that the Armenians under his care should be withdrawn. Seldom has a more formidable task fallen to a British subject. The only available line of retreat lay through the Pass of Bekri-kala—a lonely mountain outlet, infested by Kurds and other marauders. No Russian soldiers guarded this gateway to safety, and Mr. Gracey began by hastily arming with rifles 250 volunteers. This improvised force seized the pass, dealt with the Kurds, and secured the retreat of a hundred times their number from interruption. In the guerilla warfare there were a number of casualties and some deaths, but worse was avoided. It was next arranged that Armenians of the better class should cook food during the night and slip away first, so avoiding a panic and relieving possible congestion.

Next, the Russian troops at Van were, at Mr. Gracey's request, drawn across the route in a cordon, through which only 1,000 of the refugees were permitted to pass every two hours. By this device the column was distributed automatically over many miles of road, a halt of two hours being arranged every five hours. For five days the march continued. The average distance covered was thirty miles a day, and the 25,000 refugees, with their 6,000 cattle, took two days to pass any given point. There were practically no mishaps. Many children got separated from their parents, but were "sorted out," at Igdlah. Five babies are known to have been born en route, and all survived.

The rations were flour and sugar. The refugees improvised stoves out of flat stones, heating them with dry refuse. On these stoves they set metal plates, on which hard cakes were cooked into unleavened bread. For four days Mr. Gracey lived on bread and water, with the help of one military meal at a Russian station.

The final stages of the march lay through waterless plains. Dr. Macallum and Mr. Backhouse (of the Lord Mayor's Fund) arranged for the refugees to be met with soup, bread, water, and fodder. Subsequently the trekkers were dispersed in Alexandropol, Erivan, and other districts, where their resettlement continues.

Happily the Russians were able to hold their line strongly around Lake Van, and our Allies have now again obtained possession of Mush, where they inflicted a very heavy defeat on the Turks. But the march of the 25,000 Armenians will long illustrate the invaluable work, assisted by the Lord Mayor's Fund, to appeal for which Mr. Gracey has paid a brief visit to London.

Prince Waldemar of Prussia, accompanied by Field-Marshal Liman von Sanders and Admiral Rustem Pasha, the Turkish Minister of Marine, has visited Gallipoli.

The Governor of Bessarabia and representatives of the Zemstvos have gone to Reni, on the Russo-Roumanian frontier, to arrange for the distribution of Roumanian refugees.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Without wishing to be in any way pessimistic, I think we must admit that the cutting of the railway between Bucharest and Constantza is a serious set-back. The military significance of Mackensen's thrust is doubtless great, but even greater is the economic effect of the operation. Constantza, the only warm-water port of Roumania—that is to say, the only port available for shipping throughout the year—was entirely dependent on the railway connecting it with the capital and Ploeshti beyond. The railway itself was no ordinary one, resting on dry earth. On the contrary, it was an engineering marvel, built for miles across bogs and swamps (the northern approach to the Danube), and resting on dykes, dams and bridges, the greatest of which, the King Carol Bridge at Cernavoda, was one of the longest bridges in the world. It has been blown up, and its reconstruction will cost millions of lei. Moreover, as has been shown in the present campaign, the line between Cernavoda and Constantza is extremely vulnerable. It is, therefore, an open question whether any great efforts will be made to reconstruct the line after the war, more particularly if its vital parts have been totally destroyed, or if a similar fate has fallen to the best of the quays, elevators, and wharves at Constantza.

Better situated and much more easily defended, are the ports at the mouths of the Danube—Sulina and Braila. But they are at times ice-bound, which is a serious disadvantage. Moreover, like Constantza, they are in the Black Sea, and as long as they are Roumania's only ports, her shipping will be dependent on the free passage of the Dardanelles. If Roumania's seagoing shipping is to thrive, a port on the Mediterranean becomes imperative, and I should not be surprised if, after the war, such a port is allowed her. This would be the end of Constantza's short, but withal, brilliant career in modern times as a port, and there would be little to gain in reconstructing the Cernavoda line. But, whichever way we look at it, it must be admitted that the financial loss to Roumania is considerable, and that she will be hampered in her mercantile intercourse with certain European countries for some time to come. On the other hand, she can retaliate: the enemy capital invested in her oilfields, banks, etc., is enormous, and there is no reason why it should not be expropriated by the State by way of indemnity due to the Cernavoda line. It will partly compensate for a grievous material loss, which we are the first to mourn, and partly pay for the reconstruction of the line in question, or for the building of a new port on the Ægean. I think it advisable in future, however, to consider the possibilities of a tunnel under the Danube,

rather than a bridge over it, which is always liable to attack.

Mr. Thomas Curtin's articles in *The Times* are of exceeding interest, and none more so than that which appeared on Monday last on the German submarine policy. This policy, the "ruthless policy," is founded, it would appear, on the following belief: That by building ships in Germany at top speed, and destroying all enemy and neutral shipping, the Germans will be the world's shipping masters at the termination of the war. At first sight it would appear that the belief is a hope rather than a probability, a dream rather than a possibility. But, on second thought, there is method in the Boche's madness, and the recrudescence of submarine attacks within the past few days seems to indicate that the party advocating the "ruthless policy" is again grasping the rudder.

In other words, the war is to give Germany what she strove to acquire before the war broke out. The whole history of the Continental shipping pool was nothing if it was not a German scheme to control the Atlantic passenger traffic. The Huns disdained no means or methods, however ingenious and unscrupulous, to this end; what is more, they were fairly on their way to attain the goal when war broke out. In German shipping circles it was then thought, in the autumn of 1914, that the European conflagration might be turned to good account, and hence we have this "ruthless policy" which is to give the Fatherland, whatever the result of the war, the control of the world's shipping.

Needless to say, this can never be allowed. Whatever the means adopted by us, they must be Draconic. We must organise ourselves, and take stringent prohibitive measures to prevent at all costs the realisation of the German shipping dream. Not for one moment, with our prestige to uphold in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Indian and the Pacific Oceans, can we permit Germany to overrule the world's mercantile shipping. We must, in the first place, take all preventive measures to minimise our losses and help neutrals to do likewise. This regards the Admiralty, in whom we have absolute confidence. Secondly, we must organise our forces at home, within the Empire, and help our Allies and friendly neutrals to do likewise. This will prevent anything like the formation of a Continental pool after the war. Finally, we must ruthlessly take the severest prohibitive measures against enemy shipping that it is possible to take with a view to reduce its radius of action and to cripple it so that it cannot become a menace to us. This can be done, if all who are interested in the growth, let alone the independent existence, of British trade and shipping, will continually urge the Government unflinchingly to take the requisite measures. We dare not hesitate. If so, not only do we lose our pride of place in all seas, but we risk the shrinking of British-borne trade in home waters as well as in the Mediterranean and seas farther east and west.

Apropos my reference to the C.P.R. in these notes last week, it may be pointed out that practically ever since the war began the C.P.R. has placed most

of its ocean steamships at the disposal of the Admiralty. Some, it is admitted, have been lost, but on the whole the company has been singularly fortunate. This is, above all, most welcome news, because I firmly believe that after the war the company's ocean service, already known in the Mediterranean and in some African and Middle Eastern ports, will be greatly extended in those waters which interest us more closely. Further, in the great shipping war which is bound to result from the dislocation (let us hope it will be permanent) of the Continental "pool," the C.P.R. will, if I am not mistaken, play an important part; and the more important it is, the smaller will be the Teuton's "look in." With such enormous cash resources at its disposal, the C.P.R. is one of our most valuable assets, as the Hamburg, Bremen, and Trieste Huns will learn to their cost and regret. I do not think it is at all likely that the dirty Viennese tricks of 1913, to which the Canadian Pacific fell an innocent victim, will ever be repeated—certainly not successfully.

If it had been suggested a few years ago that an agreement between Russia and Britain regarding Persia and Afghanistan was a matter with which Japan would concern herself, a good deal of ridicule would have resulted. But that is exactly what Japan is doing to-day. The war has effected many changes, and the thorough manner in which Japan has observed her treaty obligations towards Britain—and at considerable sacrifice—has brought the great new Oriental Power into closer communion with us than was ever thought possible. So we find the important paper *Asahi* (Tokyo) declaring that the new Anglo-Russian agreement regarding Persia "is an important guarantee, both for the present and the future, and concerns Japan indirectly to some extent."

A question which concerns us is the relations which will exist between England and Russia after the war. Will the present friendship be maintained? Some Japanese doubt it, and so do a few people in Russia. These persons think that the Germans, who have in the past enjoyed great facilities in Russia, will re-establish friendly relations after the war and cause estrangement between Russia and England. The new agreement puts an end to this idea. . . . No doubt any longer remains that henceforth England and Russia will stand together in close co-operation against Germany in Persia and Central Asia, and that Japan, England, and Russia will stand together in close co-operation for the maintenance of the security of the Far East. A new meaning has, therefore, been given to the phrase in the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Alliance concerning the contingency of the invasion of India by a third Power. It is consequently clear that the conclusion of the new agreement is indirectly of great interest for Japan." Banzai!

COMMENTATOR.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

THE NEAR EAST.

Any Newsagent or Bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of the NEAR EAST every Friday morning.

Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, a post card addressed to the Manager, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C., will oblige.

The Egyptian Cotton Crop in 1916.

Serious Situation in the Fields—High Prices in the Liverpool Market.

By Professor Todd.

There is always a certain satisfaction in being able to say "I told you so," but when one's mildest attempt to throw a little salutary cold water upon over-optimistic estimates is followed by a serious failure of the crop which sends prices sky-high, the feeling of satisfaction becomes sadly mixed. The writer felt it necessary to comment in these columns (June 9, 1916) upon the very rosy estimates of the Egyptian crop which were then gaining currency, and to point out that they were not justified by the recent history of the crop. A record area and a bumper crop were predicted, which in the present circumstances would have been very desirable, but did not seem at all likely to be realised. Since then the cold light of facts has played unmercifully upon these rosy anticipations.

The area, instead of being "normal again this year," which would have meant presumably about 1,750,000 feddans, was stated a few weeks later by the Department of Agriculture at only 1,655,512. The expected yield, too, has shrunk from something which would have given a record crop—8,000,000 kantars was mentioned as "an unofficial estimate"—till now the trade will be thankful indeed if the actual yield is as good as last year, say four kantars per feddan, which would give an estimated crop of only 6,622,048 kantars. As a matter of fact considerably less is now expected.

The Pink Boll Worm.

This failure is understood to be chiefly due to the depredations of the pink boll worm, or seed worm as it is now called, which has apparently become a thing to be reckoned upon annually in Egypt to mar the prospects of the most promising crop as the autumn advances.

The situation is serious, and will require the most serious attention of the authorities in Egypt if the Egyptian crop is ever again to equal its own records of the years immediately before the war.

But what has attracted so much attention to the conditions of the crop in Egypt this season is the dramatic rise of prices which has taken place during the last few weeks, and which has been so extreme as to call for very drastic action by the Alexandria General Produce Association, followed by a threat of equally abnormal measures by the Liverpool Cotton Association. It becomes necessary, therefore, to review the whole position of the market for the Egyptian staple, and find out what has really been happening.

Record Spot Price.

The first fact to be noted is that on Friday last, October 27, F. G. F. Brown Egyptian touched 17d. for spot, which beats the previous highest price of 1910 by nearly a penny. But this of itself does not give a true perspective of the facts. It must always be remembered that the price of Egyptian cotton depends mainly, not on the conditions of supply and demand in the Egyptian market alone, but on those which determine the price of cotton in general, which in this connection practically means the price of American.

The true test of the value of Egyptian cotton at any time is not so much the actual figure of the quotation as the percentage which that figure bears to the price of American, and on applying this test to present conditions one is almost surprised to find that the price to-day is hardly above normal. As will be seen from the table given below, the average premium of F.G.F. Brown over Middling American since 1899 has been about 45 per cent.; and the premium on Friday last

was only 52 per cent. This is very far below the record, which was no less than 102 per cent. in the first week of April, 1910.

AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN CROPS AND SEASON'S AVERAGE PRICES WITH PERCENTAGES.

Season.	Crops.		Egyptian.	Season's Av. Prices		
	American.	Egyptian.		American.	Egyptian.	Premium.
	(In bales of 5000 lbs. —000's omitted)	(5000 lbs. omitted)	%	Middling.	F. G. F. Brown.	%
1899-1900	9,440	1,302	13.8	4.87	6.81	40
1900-01	10,425	1,087	10.4	5.16	6.87	33
1901-02	10,701	1,274	11.8	4.78	6.25	31
1902-03	10,758	1,168	10.9	5.46	8.44	55
1903-04	10,124	1,302	12.9	6.94	8.56	23
1904-05	13,557	1,263	9.3	4.91	7.44	52
1905-06	11,320	1,192	10.6	5.95	9.25	55
1906-07	13,551	1,390	10.2	6.38	10.37	63
1907-08	11,582	1,447	12.6	6.17	8.81	43
1908-09	13,829	1,150	8.3	5.50	8.44	53
1909-10	10,651	1,000	9.4	7.86	13.12	67
1910-11	12,132	1,515	12.5	7.84	10.75	35
1911-12	16,043	1,487	9.3	6.09	9.56	57
1912-13	14,129	1,507	10.6	6.75	9.82	46
1913-14	14,610	1,537	10.5	7.26	9.44	30
1914-15	15,067	1,298	8.6	5.22	7.34	40
1915-16	12,953	961	7.4	7.51	10.42	39
Av. over 17 seasons			10.5	—	—	45
1916-17 (estimates)	13,000	1,300	10.0	Oct. 11-14	27. 1916. 17-00	52

* Sully's Corner.

This table is of interest as showing how the premium of Egyptian over American varies from year to year roughly in proportion to the relative amounts of the American and Egyptian crops. Anyone who cares to plot out these figures in parallel lines on a diagram will find, as is of course only natural, that the premium varies (inversely of course) in close correlation with the percentage which the Egyptian crop bears to the American. Thus in 1909-10 the American crop was short but the Egyptian was a disastrous failure, and the effect upon the price of Egyptian was heightened by the fact that up till quite late in the season everything looked particularly promising for a record crop, so that when the complete failure of the crop came unexpectedly on the market in October the effect on prices was tremendous. The Alexandria market had oversold very heavily on the prospects of a record crop, and were caught short to an unprecedented extent, with the inevitable effect towards the close

of the contract season in Egypt, which is the end of March.

1910-11 Crops.

In 1910-11 the Egyptian crop was a record and the American crop comparatively short again, with the result that the premium on Egyptian fell below normal; but in the following season the American crop beat all records and the Egyptian was not so good, with the result that the premium again mounted to 57 per cent. 1912-13 was more normal in respect of the relative size of the two crops, and the premium was just over the average, or 46 per cent.

But since then the course of prices has been distinctly abnormal. In 1913-14 the Egyptian crop was slightly smaller relatively to the American than in 1912, yet the premium fell to only 30 per cent. In the first war season, 1914-15, the Egyptian crop made a very poor show compared with the bumper American crop, yet the season's premium was only 40 per cent.; and in 1915-16 the proportion of the Egyptian to the American crop was the lowest recorded in the table, yet the premium averaged only 39 per cent. for the season.

A Break-away.

Thus it will be seen that for the last three seasons the price of Egyptian seems almost to have broken away from the leading strings of American, and in the wrong direction. It has been much too cheap relatively to American.

This impression is confirmed by an examination of the two prices from month to month during these seasons. The premium of Egyptian over American has fluctuated widely, as will be seen by a glance at the well-known chart of weekly cotton prices in Liverpool, which is just issued. The price line for Egyptian, instead of following that of American more or less closely (though with a varying distance between them), seems to have gone off to an unusual extent "on its own," with the result that when the prices are plotted down as percentages of American, it is found that the premium has been fluctuating very widely and the line shows very marked peaks and hollows instead of the usual fairly regular line.

A Comparison.

But the chief point to be noted in the comparison is that during these three seasons the premium of Egyptian over American has only three times exceeded the normal 45 per cent., and in each case only for a very short time. Detailed monthly figures for the last Friday of each month from August, 1913, to October, 1916, are given in the following table, which will enable anyone to plot this out for himself.

PRICES OF AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN COTTON ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1913-17, WITH PERCENTAGES.

Month.	1913-14.			1914-15.			1915-16.			1916-17.		
	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.
August	7.00	9.75	41	6.20	8.15	31	5.63	7.75	38	9.42	12.10	28
September	7.85	10.30	31	5.55	7.85	42	6.59	9.10	38	9.47	14.10	49
October	7.63	10.25	34	4.80	7.00	46	7.02	9.50	36	11.14	17.00	52
November	7.22	10.10	40	4.46	7.05	58	7.28	9.70	33	—	—	—
December	7.06	9.90	41	4.62	6.30	36	7.75	10.05	30	—	—	—
January	7.09	9.55	35	5.02	6.50	30	7.93	11.35	43	—	—	—
February	7.08	9.15	29	4.97	6.80	36	7.72	11.75	52	—	—	—
March	7.11	8.85	24	5.52	7.85	42	7.77	10.74	38	—	—	—
April	7.36	9.05	23	5.66	8.20	45	7.94	10.77	36	—	—	—
May	7.75	9.35	20	5.24	7.60	45	8.47	11.39	35	—	—	—
June	7.58	9.10	20	5.20	7.40	42	8.21	11.65	42	—	—	—
July	6.86	8.70	27	5.30	7.30	38	8.15	11.90	46	—	—	—

The bearing of this on present prices is obvious. At the end of August last the premium of Egyptian over Americans was only 28½ per cent., and the apparently rapid rise from then till to-day has only resulted in bringing the relative price of Egyptian up to something like its normal level.

The Moral.

One can hardly help pointing a moral from these facts. Why should the market have been so taken aback by the recent sharp rise of Egyptian prices? Why was it not realised that Egyptian prices, having been relatively much below normal for some time, were liable to make a sudden spurt at any moment, and especially, judging from past experience, just at the time when prices in general began to mount sky high, for it has been observed before that when American goes high Egyptian very frequently goes higher? Further, the danger of those parts of the American Belt which are Egypt's chief rivals, namely Georgia and Florida, being invaded by the boll weevil ought to have been in view, and no one could be surprised at a sharp rise of Egyptian prices.

Why the Market was Upset.

Why then was the market so upset as it apparently was? The writer can suggest only one explanation. The history of the 1909-10 crop has repeated itself. The Egyptian market was deceived by the rosy estimates issued early in the season, and was led into committing itself very heavily by sales against the expected bumper crop. At first the prospects did look like justifying these estimates, and apparently the market forgot the inconvenient habit which the Egyptian crop has developed in recent years of playing ducks and drakes with the most glowing prospects as the later months come on. They forgot to make due allowance for the dangers of the Nile flood and the pink boll worm; and the result was that when the estimates of the crop began to go from bad to worse they were very badly oversold.

It is hardly to their credit that, as far as one can judge by the information available on this side, they were not prepared or not able to face the music, but thought it necessary to adopt restrictive measures which can hardly escape the accusation of being intended to save themselves at the expense of the owners of the crop. It is not surprising that these measures caused a good deal of heartburning among the fellaheen.

Speculators Warned.

There is no use crying over spilt milk, however. The only moral one can draw is, first, that in future, speculative dealers on the Egyptian market should be more chary of high estimates of their crop made early in the season and without sufficient reference to the experience of previous years; and, second, that the sooner something is done seriously to tackle the pink boll worm question the better for all concerned. Boll weevil in the Sea Island districts would mean a golden opportunity for the growers of Egyptian cotton, especially the best varieties. It would be worse than unfortunate if they found themselves prevented from taking advantage of that opportunity by the presence in their own crop of an almost equally serious pest, which, if all accounts be true, might have been more easily handled if it had been tackled with energy and resource when it first appeared a few years ago.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, November 1.

The market has continued to present a healthy appearance. The easier tendency in raw cotton at the beginning of the week caused a little uncertainty, but since then prices have hardened again. There is not much anticipation of values in the near future being on a decidedly lower level. In piece goods the feature of interest has been the increased activity in standard grey cloths for India, a substantial business having been done for Madras, with occasional lines of weight for Calcutta. Relief in this section has been badly wanted for a long time back, and producers are now presenting a stiffer attitude to buyers. A fair miscellaneous trade has transpired for China. One of the best markets at the moment is undoubtedly Egypt, and numerous makers have large contracts on the books which will not be completed for many months ahead. Some re-buying has been necessary during the last week or two owing to goods being lost on their way abroad. The bulk of the demand has run on sized goods, but other fabrics continue to be purchased on an encouraging scale. Clearances on the other side are said to be healthy, and there is nothing to complain about with regard to remittances. Quite apart from raw cotton values there is a tendency for prices in piece goods to harden, as weaving generally is in a better position than a few weeks ago. American and Egyptian yarns have been stiff in quotation, and steady buying has occurred from day to day. Much difficulty is experienced in obtaining early delivery in certain counts and qualities.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A Budapest telegram published by the *Kölnische Zeitung* states that the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, M. Tontcheff, declared to a representative of the journal *Az Est* that it would be necessary to create new taxes.

Business houses in Roumania, and especially Credit Societies and the National Bank of Roumania, says a Bucharest message, are adhering to the English black lists, and have asked to be supplied with additional copies.

Mr. Herbert Allen, chairman of the London group of Baku Oil Companies, has been compelled to postpone his intended visit to Baku. Mr. Richard R. Tweed, a director of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company (1909) and the Russian Petroleum Company, has left London for Baku on the business of the two companies. Mr. Tweed is expected to be absent about two months.

The Roumanian Commission for the Control of the Petroleum Industry, at its second sitting, fixed the following prices for the export of petroleum products:—Benzine, light (with a density of 0.760), 4,000 lei per wagon of 10,000 kilos; benzine, heavy (with a density of 1.760-770), 3,000 lei per wagon; lamp oil (refined), from 1,500 lei per wagon; residues (pacura combustibil), 850 lei per wagon.

RUSSIA AND ROUMANIA.

At the last sitting of the Union of Russian "industriels" and business men, the question of an economic *rapprochement* between Roumania and Russia came under discussion. Several speakers insisted upon the necessity of eliminating once and for always German goods from the Roumanian markets. Up till the outbreak of war these competed seriously with the produce of Russia.

Statistics laid before the Union established the fact that Roumania imported annually from the Central Powers merchandise to the value of over 300 millions of roubles, principally manufactured articles and textiles.

Russia could very well occupy the place of Germany if she took the necessary measures to revive and increase her industrial output, it was pointed out, and the Union decided to demand prompt measures for increasing and developing Russian industries.

It was decided also to approach the various industrial institutions in Russia, and to propose that tours for the study of the Roumanian markets should be organized.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tarbrushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10.)

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs, dressings, sundries, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 25.)

The same Department invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (Nov. 30.)

Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply and delivery of the following supplies required during 1917-18.—Mail bags; boots; fuel; ready-made furniture; letter boxes and accessories; keys and other hardware articles; lamps and electric fans; enamelled plates; safes, strong cupboards and safety locks; stamps; special postal stationery; and miscellaneous articles. (November 15.)

The Sanitary Commissioners of Gibraltar invite tenders for the supply and delivery of the following coal in such quantities as may be required during 1917:—Best Cardiff steam; South Wales small; Newport large; best quality Durham unscreened; anthracite large; and anthracite nuts. Specifications, conditions of contract, etc., may be obtained from the Sanitary Commissioners' Office, Gibraltar, at which address sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to the dates mentioned. (November 21.)

For the supply and delivery of the following stores in such quantities as may be required during 1917:—Engineer's stores; galvanised iron pipes; lead pipes; chemist's stores; drapery; fire brigade clothing; ironmongery; oilman's stores; Welsh or Stourbridge fire bricks and fire clay; English-shaped stock bricks; white glazed bricks and ventilating bricks; tiles, Marseilles, white glazed, etc., of various descriptions; Puzzolana slates, W.C. pans, intercepting traps and kitchen sinks; glazed sanitary pipes and half-pipes; timber; flags and kerbstones; engine oils; special paints; oilskins; petroleum; creosote; coal-tar pitch; and benzoline. (November 14.)

Licence Withdrawn.

The licence granted to J. M. Lichtenstern for the purpose of liquidation only, dated December 11, 1915, has been withdrawn. (*Journal Officiel Egyptien*.)

GREEK CURRANT HARVEST.

The 1916-17 currant harvest is now over, and all the fruit has been safely stored. Official and commercial estimates agree in putting the yield at about 100,000 tons of dried fruit, as contrasted with a normal crop of 150,000 tons. The shortage is attributed to the presence of peronospora and oidium in the vineyards, also to the extremely hot weather that prevailed throughout the country in June, when a new high-temperature record was set. The quality of the fruit is reported to be good. No rains fell during the harvest season, and consequently there is no rain-damaged fruit. The harvesting was effected in good time and order. The shortage of fruit is not confined to any one province or district, but is general and affects all grades of currants.

Owing to the short crop and, no doubt, in part to the belief of growers that the world markets will be willing to pay fancy prices for fruit, prices are higher locally than they have been for more than ten years.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.
ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Smoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE WHISKY FOR CONNOISSEURS.

TUCKEY'S

Years 10 Old
Pure Malt Whisky
per 57/- doz.

Case Free and Carriage Paid.
Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky.
Sample Bottle, post free, 5/3.

The *Lancet*, March 24th, says: "It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

12 Years Old Liqueur Whisky
60/- per doz. Sample Bottle 5/6

CHAS. TUCKEY & CO., Ltd.,
3, Mincing Lane, E.C.



PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, November 2.

Currants.

The market has been somewhat quiet this past week, but prices continue very firm, and in some instances are dearer. Pyrgos and Provincial are very scarce. Amalias of indifferent quality, in bags, were sold at 69s., and good at 76s. Patras, cleaned, sold at 78s., and Vostizza in bags at 78s. to 79s., with same in quarter-cases at 80s. to 85s. Gulf is quoted 79s. to 82s., while siftings are selling well at 80s. to 82s.

Sultanas.

There has been more activity in the market, and prices are dearer. Afghanistan fruit, red, sells at 83s., and North Indian at 88s. to 92s.; Australian was sold from 102s. to 104s., while Greeks sell slowly at late rates. Cretan raisings, old, in bags, are quoted 42s., with boxes at 42s. to 45s.

Figs.

Spanish and Lepe, in boxes, new, are selling from 49s. to 50s., while old bags are offered at 40s.

Dates.

Steamers with new crop are just due, but prices are considered high. New Egyptians were sold at 50s. to 52s.

Seeds.

Linseed, owing to scarcity of sellers, has again advanced; Calcutta to London, spot, sold to-day at 90s., Oct.-Nov. also 90s., and Nov.-Dec. 93s. Bombay, small, Oct.-Nov. is quoted 90s.; Bombay to Hull, Oct.-Nov. 94s. Rapeseed is firm, with an active demand; brown Cawnpore, to London, afloat, was sold at 69s.; bold Ferozepore, prompt 75s.; and Toria, to Hull, Oct.-Nov. 75s. 6d. Cottonseed, Sakelarides to London, afloat, was sold at £15 10s., and prompt at £15 15s. f.a.q.; prompt is offered at £16. Egyptian, to Hull, spot is quoted £16, and prompt was sold £16, while Sakelarides Oct. was disposed of at £15 15s. Rangoon beans are again dearer. Spot and afloat quoted £28 5s., Oct.-Nov. £29 10s., and Nov.-Dec. £30.

Oils.

Linseed oil: With the bad news from Argentine of the linseed crop, and the high freights from the East, prices are dearer; spot pipes sold at £45, and barrels £46; Nov.-Dec. is quoted £46 12s. 6d., and Jan.-April £48. Rape oil is firm; refined English, in barrels, spot £52 to £54. Cotton oil is steady; crude pipes and refined, nominal; sweet barrels £50 to £54. Olive oil is very firm for Spanish and Levant at £62 to £64.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes: There is a much better demand, and the prices have again been forced

up to the extent of fully 5s. per ton, both as regards spot and forward positions. Best London-made are quoted £15 to £15 5s. per ton ex-mill, and East India Seed pures at £14 15s. to £15. Cotton cakes: There is still a scarcity of Egyptians, which are quoted, for Oct.-Nov. shipments, at £10 17s. 6d. to £11 2s. 6d. ex-ship terms, with English makes at £12 10s. to £11 15s. per ton. English from Bombay seed £10 15s. to £11 5s. per ton.

Various.

Egyptian eggs, good quality, have been sold at 14s. to 14s. 6d., and business was done at 13s. 6d. Locust beans, Cyprus, quite unobtainable. Beeswax in good demand; East Indian, yellow £6 to £6 10s., and white £8 10s. to £8 12s. 6d.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade is in receipt of copies of the judgments given as a result of proceedings in the Prize Court at Malta in respect of the sailing vessels Zoodochos Pigi, Ayia Nicola, Panayia, Cleopatra, Taxiarchi, and the motor boat Enterpe; and also in respect of part cargo ex the vessels Virginia, Memphis, Cleopatra, Panayia, and Ayia Nicola. The judgments referred to may be consulted by British firms at the offices of the Department.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal

Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Standard Test for Gasoline.

A statement has been issued by the United States Bureau of Standards with the object of removing any existing impression that the bureau would formulate a test which might be applied by any purchasers to detect at once an inferior product in the gasoline market. "No such simple test is known in the present state of the science of petroleum technology," the bureau states. "In the early days of the petroleum industry, when all our gasolines, kerosenes, fuel oils, and lubricating oils were derived from one source—viz., Pennsylvania crude petroleum—a simple measurement of the specific gravity, or what amounts to the same thing, the Baumé number, by means of a hydrometer, served as a fairly reliable indication of the qualities of these products. To-day, however, the specific gravity test is practically worthless as a check on the suitability of a gasoline, for example, for a given motor equipment." In giving the reason for this change and discussing present conditions, the bureau states:—

Different Methods of Manufacture

Many new oil fields that have been opened up in recent years yield petroleum of very different physical and chemical properties, and new methods of manufacture have been introduced that yield products having very different properties in no way related to the specific gravities. The problem is an extremely complicated one, and presupposes a definition of gasoline. It is highly probable that the specification or definition of standard gasoline and the tests that will be necessary to determine whether the gasoline complies with the specifications will be quite complicated, and will require the services of a trained chemist to make them. It seems most probable that the definition of gasoline will have to be based on the percentage that distills over between specified temperatures, when the distillation is carried out under specified conditions. This distillation test, speaking in non-technical terms, is a measure of the freedom with which the gasoline will vaporise. The gasoline must not vaporise too freely for two reasons—one, that it would not be safe; and, secondly, its loss in storage by evaporation would be too great. Hence, the specification may have to contain limitations of the percentage distilling over below a certain temperature, coupled, perhaps, with a proviso that certain percentages shall distil over below other fixed temperatures, in order that requisite amounts of low-boiling constituents shall be present to ensure easy starting of an engine. Likewise, the specification must contain a provision that all must distil over below a certain maximum temperature in order to exclude from the gasoline the heavier petroleum distillation, such as kerosene.

Other Tests.

Complicated as such a specification as has been briefly outlined may seem to the layman, it is not at all improbable that other tests must be devised to limit the percentage of so-called aromatic and unsaturated hydrocarbons that may be permitted in a good motor gasoline. The question still remains whether or not it may be necessary to define two or more grades of motor gasoline. Enough has been said to show that no simple tests can be used to fix the composition of such complex mixtures of hydrocarbons as are represented by gasolines. The popular opinion that specific gravity (or degrees Baumé) will suffice as a test for gasoline is unfortunately erroneous. For example, a gasoline of 70 deg. Baumé from some oil fields is no more volatile than a gasoline of 65 deg. Baumé from other oil fields. Another point about which there is often a misunderstanding is the relative efficiency of high and low density gasolines. It the

common opinion of gasoline users that gasoline of low specific gravity (or high Baumé reading) is more efficient, in that they can get more miles out of a gallon. This is not true if the motor equipment is adapted to the fuel used.

Caution Required.

The message which it is particularly desired to convey is that the public should not expect hasty action. It is extremely important that we proceed with the greatest caution and in the light of the fullest technical information. There is only one way, or at most a very few ways, of doing the right thing, while there is an infinite number of ways of doing the wrong thing. A mistake of any kind, such as a specification that is unnecessarily restricted and which might unduly limit competition, will disturb economic and manufacturing conditions, and might only result in imposing greater burdens on the consuming public. There are two aspects to the question under consideration, one local, the other national. There is no doubt that the advantages that would result from a satisfactory standardisation of gasoline by the National Government are many. Not the least of these would be its influence on State and municipal legislation relating to this question, and its effect in making such legislation more nearly uniform throughout the country. Legislative bodies are beginning to take up this question, and much of this legislation is certain to be ill-advised, although enacted with the best intentions, because it cannot in the nature of things receive the careful consideration of technical experts that is required for the satisfactory solution of questions of this kind. It will readily be seen that the effect of indiscriminate legislation might produce conditions nothing short of chaotic.

Inspection Service Needed.

The question that very naturally arises at this point is—with such a complicated specification for gasoline, for which the user cannot make the necessary tests—how it will be possible to protect his interests and to assure himself that he is actually getting standard gasoline. The answer is, he cannot possibly do so; in the United States it is held that the Government must protect him by a suitable inspection service, just as it protects him in matters relating to weights and measures, pure foods, etc. National legislation relating to interstate commerce, making it unlawful to sell a product under the name of "gasoline" that does not come within the specifications, with a suitable inspection service, would be an important contributing factor in safeguarding the consumer's interests. Other products, which might be just as good motor fuels for motor and carburettor equipments adapted to them, could not then be sold in interstate commerce under the name of "gasoline," but would have to be called motor fuels, or by some other name which would distinguish them from the standard "gasoline." To protect the interests of the consumer in interstate commerce it would be necessary for States and municipalities to adopt similar legislation and to increase their inspection service to provide for this new work, just as they have provided for weights and measures and pure food regulations in the past. The Bureau of Mines has done a great deal of work on gasolines derived from different oil fields and by different methods of manufacture. Any experimental work incident to the use of gasoline as a fuel belongs primarily to that bureau. The Bureau of Standards, on the other hand, is primarily interested in questions relating to its standardisation. That bureau is accordingly entering into co-operation with the Bureau of Mines with a view to arriving at a satisfactory answer to the question as to what recommendations are possible at this time, and what should be done. Before any final decisions are reached all interested parties will be given a hearing.

SHIPPING NOTES.

It was notified by the Military Administration of Busreh, on October 4, that no mercantile steamship will be permitted to enter the port of Busreh or to load or unload there which, before clearing from the last British port, has not obtained from the Military Administration, Busreh, a special permit to enter the port. Such permit will be good for one voyage only. Applications for permit should be made to the Military Administration on special forms obtainable from the Chief Political Office by the agents of the steamer for which a permit is desired. The grant of a permit will be telegraphed by the agents to the captain of the steamer, and will be notified by the Examination Officer at Fao. Military store ships and privately owned ships, the whole of whose cargo consists of stores, are exempted from the requirement.

In a recent report on Moroccan trade in 1915 it was stated:—"There was a considerable increase in small Spanish vessels plying to the neighbouring ports on the Spanish coast, and this kept the total number of vessels entered at Moroccan ports in 1915 much higher in proportion than the total tonnage, for whilst the total tonnage was actually smaller, the number of Spanish vessels which entered was increased by nearly 40 per cent., as compared with 1913. As regards British shipping, there was a slight increase in the number of vessels, and a considerable fall in total tonnage, whilst in French shipping there was a fall, both in the number of vessels and tonnage. German and Austro-Hungarian shipping, which in 1913 were together represented by 422 vessels, with a total of 512,510 tons, entirely disappeared in 1915. Dutch shipping showed a heavy fall, especially in total tonnage."

Announcement is made that the goodwill of James Moss and Co., of Liverpool, and the share capital of the Moss Steamship Company, Limited, have been acquired by "Sir Owen Philipps's group of companies." Presumably the companies interested in the purchase are the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Limited, Elder Dempster and Co., Limited, and Lamport and Holt, Limited. The Moss Steamship Company, Limited, which has been managed by Messrs. J. Moss and Co., now owns ten steamers, ranging from 1,200 to 4,600 tons gross each, and is largely interested in the trade between Glasgow and Liverpool and Mediterranean ports. No price is mentioned, but it may be assumed, in view of the present level of values, that a very considerable sum is involved in the transaction. Mr. William H. Moss, whose grandfather founded the business in the early part of last century, and Mr. Walter Harding, two of the three managers, will continue to be closely identified with the business, and it is intended that there should be no break in the management or policy. There was in the early days of its existence an association of interests between the firm and Lamport and Holt, to which it now becomes affiliated.

More British steamers have to be recorded as lost, in the Tornio and the Meroe, both Liverpool-owned. The former, an 1895-built vessel of 1,860 tons, her owners being the Atlantic and Eastern Steamship Company (Messrs. J. Glynn and Sons), and the Meroe was a 3,522-ton steamer, built in 1911 for the Moss Steam Shipping Company. The Meroe had on board a cargo of Egyptian cotton. An Athens message of Tuesday states that the Greek steamer Kiki Isaia, 5,000 tons, was sunk by a submarine at the spot where the Angheliki was torpedoed. The ship was bound for Cyprus, and carried no passengers. With the Angheliki, it will be recalled, several lives were lost, including those of a party of Volunteers.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Union Engine, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 127. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 728.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHARBY.
P. O. B. 2095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfred.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

IRRIGATION IN ASIA MINOR.

Four Million Project for the Adana Plain.

A project for the irrigation of the Adana Plain (the Cilicia of antiquity), at a cost of £4,000,000, and requiring eight to ten years for completion, has been undertaken by the Ottoman Government. This project contemplates the regulation of the three rivers which water the plain—the Saihun, the Shihan, and the Berdan Shah—and will open up to agriculture 200,000 hectares (494,200 acres) of land, much of which is at present arid. It is estimated that the completion of this irrigation project will increase manifold the Turkish production of cotton, sugar cane, lemons, oranges, and olives. A part of the irrigation works will be put in operation within the next eighteen months.

When these irrigation works are completed the Adana Plain will be the most favoured portion of the Ottoman Empire, for it already possesses splendid transportation facilities. The plain is traversed by the Baghdad Railway, and, in addition, Adana is connected with Mersina by rail. Further, the port of Alexandretta lies at a distance of only thirty miles from the mouth of the Shihan, which river, as well as the Saihun and the Berdan Shah, will, after the completion of the contemplated regulation projects, be navigable and offer a cheap means of transporting the products of the plain to the sea. The regulation of these rivers will also render available abundant water-power for industrial purposes, such as the generation of electricity.

WORLD'S CEREAL CROPS.

The British Board of Agriculture, in a statement issued this week, notifies having received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute:—

The production of the undermentioned cereals in the countries named is estimated as follows:—

Roumania—Wheat 42,065,000 cwts., barley 12,874,000 cwts., oats 8,267,000 cwts. European Russia (forty-eight Governments)—318,980,000 cwts. of wheat, 420,368,000 cwts. of rye, 189,596,000 cwts. of barley, 248,665,000 cwts. of oats and 35,995,000 cwts. of maize. United States—Wheat 235,485,000 cwts. and of maize 1,358,968,000 cwts. Egypt—19,577,000 cwts. of wheat and 5,650,000 cwts. of barley. Italy—39,369,000 cwts. of maize.

Compared with the corresponding production in the period 1909-13, the above estimates give the following increase (+) or decrease (−) per cent. :—

	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.	Maize
Roumania.....	-10.6	—	+20.2	-0.4	—
European Russia (48 Govts.)	-4.7	+15.6	+5.9	+4.6	+2.5
United States	-11.5	—	—	—	+0.4
Egypt.....	+3.0	—	12.1	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	-21.5

The total production of wheat in Canada, United States, India, European Russia (forty-eight Governments), United Kingdom, Roumania, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Japan, Egypt, Norway, Netherlands, and Tunis is given at 1,192,254,000 cwts., and of barley for the same countries, with the exception of India, at 413,241,000 cwts., while in the countries mentioned for wheat the total production of rye, with the omission of Roumania, Egypt, India, Japan, and Tunis, is estimated at 468,476,000 cwts., and of oats, with the exception of Egypt, India, Japan, and Canada, at 784,238,000 cwts. These estimates represent increases of 14.8 per cent., 3.2 per cent. and 5.3 per cent. for rye, barley, and oats respectively, and a decrease of 7.3 per cent. in the case of wheat as compared with the corresponding average production in the years of 1909-13.

COMPANY REPORT.

GHARBIEH LAND CO.

The following is a translation of the report of the directors, which was submitted to the shareholders at the ordinary general meeting, held in Cairo on July 31 (adjourned from May 31) last:—

The annual general meeting, which, as usual, was held at the end of May last year, decided, by reason of the general situation, without discussing the subjects placed upon the agenda, to adjourn the meeting to a date to be fixed as soon as circumstances permitted. Your directors have accordingly to give an account of the company's affairs during the two financial years, 1914-15 and 1915-16, i.e., the period comprised between March 1, 1914, and February 29, 1916. The position shown by the accounts for the year 1914-15 underwent considerable modification the following year owing to the cancellation of the exchange of the company's Sawalem property. Hence it was deemed unnecessary to prepare a balance-sheet for each of the two financial years referred to above, especially as the single balance-sheet annexed hereto possesses the advantage of showing the results definitely obtained during the two-year period now under review. Care was, however, taken to show in the profit and loss account the income and expenditure of each financial year separately, excluding, of course, the 1914-15 entries, which, by reason of the above-mentioned modification, were of no effect.

The Sawalem Estate.—In 1914 the company entered into a transaction consisting in the exchange of its Sawalem property (ex-Wilson) and of one of the estates owned by the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company for two residential premises at Alexandria in part payment, the balance due to the companies being payable in six annual instalments, free of interest. The principal advantage of this transaction was that it enabled the company to provide for all its immediate and near cash requirements, and, at the same time, considerably to reduce its debenture liability. The realisation of this advantage depended simply on the carrying out of the conditions of the deed of exchange, which had been fully discussed and settled so as to reduce to a minimum the possibility of unforeseen contingencies. Contrary, however, to expectation, the purchaser did not fulfil his engagements, and, as soon as the first instalment fell due, made it clear that he definitely intended to evade the contract. Indeed, soon afterwards, as a last resort, he brought an action against the companies to have the deed of exchange set aside. The first result of this step was to suspend the execution of the contract. The companies could thus no longer rely on the punctual receipt of the annual instalments due to them. In fact, so long as legal proceedings, which might be protracted, were pending, the companies would be deprived of the immediate advantages which had induced them to conclude the exchange, and, whilst the purchaser would continue to have the usufruct of the lands received by him without being bound to pay for them, the companies would be dispossessed not only of their landed property, but also of the Alexandria buildings, against which their former owner had allowed expropriation proceedings to be taken, in spite of his most formal obligations. Moreover, the two buildings had been affected, as had all urban house property, by the disturbing influences of the war, and consequently their realisable value had greatly diminished, as likewise the income derived therefrom. In these circumstances, it was no longer in the interest of the companies to retain the ownership of the buildings.

The prejudice sustained by the companies was, therefore, undeniable, especially in the case of the Gharbieh Land Company, which had suffered more than the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company from the effects of the war, its revenue having been most adversely affected by the collapse in cotton prices. The company, finding itself in this predicament, and no longer able to rely on the immediate resources which the exchange was intended to provide, deemed it inadvisable to incur the delay and uncertainty of legal proceedings before having

carefully examined every possible means of settling forthwith the dispute to the company's best advantage. A settlement was found in the proposals made to the company soon after the lawyers had delivered their preliminary pleadings. The negotiations were particularly difficult, but, after several months' discussion, a compromise was arrived at in September, 1915, which put an end to the lawsuit. In virtue of this compromise, the Gharbieh Land Company withdrew from the transaction, the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company maintained the transfer of its Dakahla estate, converting it into an ordinary sale, and the two Alexandria buildings reverted to their former owner. This settlement, the best it was possible to obtain, also secured to the Gharbieh Land Company, by way of compensation, the financial assistance of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company. It is thanks to this assistance that the company was able to overcome the difficulties due to the insufficiency of its income in the years 1914 and 1915, which, as will be explained later, were mainly consequent on the war.

Lands.—The area of the company's estates, which was reduced in 1914-15 to 5,764 feddans, 4 kirats, 17 sahms, was, on the cancellation of the Sawalem exchange, restored to 7,929 feddans, 20 kirats, 3 sahms, as at February 29, 1916. The cost price of these lands is given in the balance-sheet at £E439,324.347, and includes, in addition to the purchase price, the total expenditure on improvements, buildings, irrigation and drainage works, etc., up to the date of closing the books, but is exclusive of interest on capital expenditure.

Irrigation and Drainage.—Since the outbreak of the war, one of the most serious problems the company has had to solve has undoubtedly been that of fuel supplies. The price of coal increased considerably since August, 1914, and it soon became exceedingly difficult to obtain supplies locally in sufficient quantities for working requirements. It, therefore, at once became necessary to avert the crisis by finding a means of utilising a fuel obtainable more readily and at a less prohibitive price in substitution for coal and anthracite, which had hitherto been used with nearly all the company's lift machinery. This substitution was rendered practicable by modifying the pumping plant, and thus adapting it for either coal or liquid fuel. Steps were also taken to clean the cotton wood of the 1915 crop and thus provide an important reserve of fuel, some of which was employed before the end of the period under review. Further, to reduce to a minimum the work of the drainage pumps, the company carried out, at a small cost, certain minor drainage works by means of which it will be possible to drain by gravitation a large part of the area reserved this year for rice cultivation.

Cultivation.—The war took Egypt unawares in the midst of the cotton season, and almost on the eve of getting in the harvest. The sudden curtailment of credit which then took place, the disorganization of maritime transport, the partial or total closing of most of the important markets of the world, threw the cotton market into confusion and caused a collapse in prices. The equilibrium between demand and supply was temporarily disturbed, the cotton crop was about to flood the market, and it was impossible to react effectively against the unprecedented crisis which had just broken out and which eventually caused Egypt a loss of about £E13,000,000. This loss fell especially, if not exclusively, upon cultivators and landowners, among whom the most to suffer were undoubtedly those in the northern districts of Egypt, who had, in addition, to bear the consequences of the prohibition of rice cultivation decreed in the early months of the agricultural year, in anticipation of an insufficient water supply. This twofold cause of failure was bound to have a most prejudicial effect on the cultivation of the company's lands. The position had been satisfactory in every respect until the war broke out. The absence of rice was counterbalanced by an abundant cotton crop which gave promise of a much larger yield than that of the previous year. The company could therefore look forward to a substantial income, and the prices then ruling even encouraged the hope that the estimates would be exceeded. The sudden outbreak of the European War, which abruptly changed the normal course of things, upset all one's calculations. Taken unawares at a time when it

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

had no available resources, the company found itself confronted with the greatest difficulties. If it succeeded in surmounting them, and was nevertheless able to meet its engagements, it was thanks, on the one hand, to the rigid economy which from the outset it hastened to enforce, and, on the other, to the valuable assistance it received from local establishments, although the financial crisis was at the time raging throughout the country.

The results of the year 1915-1916 were scarcely any better in the aggregate than those of the previous year. To counter-balance the depreciation of cotton, the Government had decreed a general reduction in the cotton area for 1915. (This remedy, however, whilst tending to harden prices, did not raise them again sufficiently to compensate for the resulting shortage in the crop, which was meanwhile intensified by the unfavourable climatic conditions and the ravages of noxious parasites. It will thus be seen that the company's reverses were mostly due to the depreciation in cotton values in 1914 and the reduced cotton area in 1915. Your directors were, therefore, right in stating at the beginning of this report that the difficulties and disappointments which have marked the course of these two critical years were to a great extent due to the war.

Share Investments.—In the absence of sufficient data the company's share investments have hitherto been taken into the balance sheet at their par value. But the anomaly of the present situation and the influence which it will necessarily have on investments in general, and notably on those investments which are not quoted officially, induced the Board this year to write down considerably this part of the company's assets. Your directors have, however, every reason to believe that the value of the company's share investments, as now appearing in the balance sheet annexed hereto, is below their intrinsic, or even their realisable, value.

Trustees: Deposit Account.—This account represents the sums retained for the company's account at February 29, 1916, by the trustees for the debenture holders. Under the terms of the trust deed these sums remain at the disposal of the company for the redemption of debentures or for re-investment on mortgages.

Purchasers of Lands—Instalments Mortgaged.—These two items really form one account, and show the balance at February 29, 1916, due by purchasers on the instalment system. The items are given under two headings in order to show separately that portion of the balance given as security to the holders of the debentures issued in 1912.

Sundry Debtors.—These accounts comprise arrears of rents, loans to cultivators, interest accrued, sundry advances, suspense accounts, etc. The losses incurred by the majority of the company's tenants and cultivators during these two years of the war will, it is feared, practically render irrecoverable most of the arrears of rents, etc., at February 29, 1916. Accordingly an important reserve has been placed to the debit of profit and loss account under the heading "Reserve for rents in arrear, etc."

Accounts to be written off.—The same percentages as in former years have been written off the items under the above heading. It will, however, be seen that the item "Issue and redemption expenses of the 5½ per

cent. mortgage bonds," which figured in the balance-sheet at February 28, 1914, for £E6,638,575, no longer appears in the balance-sheet, having been written off during the two years under review.

Unpaid Calls.—A sum of £E300 has been paid since March 1, 1914, on account of calls in arrear.

Sundry Creditors.—These accounts comprise, in addition to bank credits, sundry suspense accounts, etc., the amount advanced to the company by the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company at February 29, 1916. Your directors believe it needless to reiterate the importance to the company of the assistance received, and still being received, from the parent company in the exceptionally difficult circumstances of the moment.

Unpaid Debenture Interest Coupon.—Owing to the insufficiency of the company's income, it was found impossible to meet the half-yearly interest coupon due December 15, 1915, on the 1910 debentures. The company is at present negotiating with the trustees for the debenture holders, and has every reason to hope that, thanks to the assistance of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Co., sufficient time will be given for the payment of the above interest and that accruing this year.*

Profit and Loss.—The deductions made during the period under review in respect of bad debts, writing down investments, and writing off the cost of issue and redemption of the old mortgage bonds, amount to a sum of £E103,831.988 out of a total of £E111,356.172, the debit balance of profit and loss account at February 29, 1916, after deducting £E631,242 brought forward from the year 1913-4. It follows that the excess of expenditure over income during the past two financial years is in reality £E8,524.184, and is due to the diminution in the company's income, as already explained, and to the high prices of coal. General expenses, on the other hand, show an appreciable decrease. Every effort is being made to keep the company's expenditure within the limits of the most rigid economy, and there is every reason to anticipate that during the current year this item will not exceed £E3,500. In fact, despite the rise in food prices and the continually increasing cost of living, the company has appealed to the self-denial of the members of its staff, requesting them to relinquish part of their salaries. It might also be added that, although the general meeting of June 10, 1905, decided to grant the board of directors a minimum remuneration of £E1,000 a year, your directors have not drawn upon this allowance since the year 1912-13.

Board of Directors.—In terms of the statutes, Messrs. Wacyf Bey Boutros Ghali and Léopold du Monceau retired at the end of 1914-15, and M. Ernest Rolin at the end of 1915-16; they are eligible for re-election. During the current financial year Mr. H. E. Garle was appointed as a director in place of Mr. G. P. Foaden, who had resigned; you are requested to confirm this appointment. You are also requested to ratify the appointment of M. Léon Rolin, in place of the late M. Edouard Thys, and of M. Albert Nourrisson Bey, as an additional director.

Election of Auditors.—Mr. F. H. Russell, one of the retiring auditors, offers himself for re-election in terms of the statutes, and it is necessary to appoint another auditor to replace M. Léon Rolin, who has joined the

*Agreement on this matter has since been come to.

board. Your directors would suggest that one or more substitutes be elected to replace the auditors in case of need.

Auditors' Report.

We beg to report that we have audited the annexed balance sheet of the Gharbieh Land Company at February 29, 1916, with the books and vouchers relating thereto, and certify it to be in accordance therewith. We desire to draw your attention to the report of your directors dated May 1, 1916, regarding the balance sheet of the company at February 28, 1915, which, for the reasons stated in that report, was not submitted to the shareholders for approval. We have, however, verified the accounts for the two years ending February 29, 1916. We have verified the cash on hand and the balances at the banks, with the exception of various sums amounting in all to £E974 included in the item "bank credits, etc.," with certain banks in Belgium, from which, owing to the war, it has not been possible to obtain certificates. We have verified the deposit of directors' qualification shares. We have not been able, owing to the war, to verify the existence at February 29, 1916, of 4,000 shares in the "Société Agricole de Kafr-el-Dawar" and 8,750 shares in the "Koubbeh Gardens," which, before the war, were deposited with the Crédit Mobilier de Belgique, at Antwerp.

Subject to the above remarks, we certify that the balance sheet is in accordance with the books and statutes of the company.

Resolutions Passed at the Meeting

This meeting approves unanimously the balance sheet and accounts of the ninth and tenth financial years closed on February 29, 1916, and grants a discharge to the board of directors in respect of their administration of the company's affairs.

It resolves to carry forward to the next account the debit balance of profit and loss account.

It re-elects Messrs. Wacyf Bey Boutros Ghali, Léopold du Monceau, and Ernest Rolin as directors.

It confirms the appointment as directors of Mr. H. E. Garle, in place of Mr. G. P. Foaden, who has resigned, and of M. Léon Rolin, in place of the late M. Edouard Thys.

It appoints as an additional director M. Albert Nourrisson Bey.

It appoints Messrs. F. H. Russell and J. C. Sidley as auditors for the current financial year, and fixes their joint remuneration at £E100.

FRUIT IN MACEDONIA.

"Macedonia is at present (the end of August) a land of fruit," says a correspondent in the *Scotsman*. "It is a perfect wild market garden, in which anything might be grown, and I am sure there will be some fortunes made here—*après la guerre*. Imagine acres and acres of tomatoes and melons, the latter as sweet as honey; the water melons, with red inside and black seeds, are very large, sweet, and juicy. Then there are fields and fields of grapes, small and black, but very sweet (currants when dried), tons of peaches, apricots, and figs on their trees—all to be had for the picking—also any amount of black, juicy brambles. Here and there are patches of maize, which grow very high, like heavy wheat, only the ears are as big as cucumbers. There is, too, any amount of cotton growing round about—also to be had for the picking, most of it, I believe, being wild."

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skopje (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Pleshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000.

Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298-05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

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

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

There has been a little more activity this week, thanks to a revival of demand from Egypt for Agricultural Banks, and a further increase in the demand for Salt and Sodas. The former, on persistent buying orders, have risen 3-16 to 4½, but owing to the scarcity of sellers only about 500 shares have changed hands. As regards Salts, the price has risen 1s. to 20s. 6d., but here, again, holders have been disinclined to sell, expecting higher prices later on, and the business done has therefore not been very extensive. Alexandria Water continue in demand for Egypt, but in the absence of sellers no business can be carried through. In Delta Light a few small transactions have taken place in the neighbourhood of 5 3-16. Markets have further improved 6d. to 26s. 6d., some few hundred shares changing hands. In Khedivial Mails there has been a renewal of demand, and the price has improved about 1s. to 27s.; but the Preference remains a dull market at 3½. National Banks have been exceptionally dull, and are about ½ lower at 12½, after business covering about 300 shares. In Union Foncière there has been a small transaction in the neighbourhood of 20s.

Greek Bonds, after several weeks of idleness, have again come into demand for Athens, and the market is one to two points higher all along the line. Monopoly have been done up to about 50, and Rentas at 42. There are further buyers, but the scarcity of sellers renders business very difficult.

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, week 22 tons (previous week, 17 tons); Hurgada, 829 tons, against 508 tons.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended October 22, 54,467 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended October 21, 20,185 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended October 28, 2,574 poods.

European Oilfields Corporation.—Week ended October 22, 80,000 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended October 21, 17,382 poods.

North Caucasian Oil Fields.—Week ended October 11-24, 609,037 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended October 21, 56,400 poods. Week ended October 23, 57,600 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—Week ended October 22, 149,580 poods. The total production for the year from January 14 to 22nd inst. was 6,773,845 poods. The total production for the corresponding period last year was 11,079,180 poods, or about 178,696 tons.

Ural Caspian Oil Corporation.—Week ended October 19, 162,637 poods.

Dividends, etc.

Egyptian Hotels.—A dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended April 30, 1915, was declared on the 20th ultimo, payable on and after 30th instant. Holders of preference share warrants to bearer should present coupon No. 11 for payment at one of the undermentioned places:—Anglo-Egyptian Bank, London and Cairo; Banque Commerciale de Bale, Basle, Switzerland; Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Cairo, Port Said, and Alexandria. In our report of the meeting of shareholders of the company, published on September 29, it was stated that a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended April 30, 1916, was declared payable. It will now be seen that the dividend is in respect of the year ended April 30, 1915.

The European Oilfields Corporation announces that 14,531 profit sharing notes of the nominal value of 5s. each have just been purchased and cancelled in accordance with the terms of issue. The original issue of 197,480 notes (£49,370) has now been reduced to 97,064 notes (£24,263 10s.).

THE EASTERN BANK.

The Eastern Bank, Limited, have opened a branch at Amara, in Mesopotamia, where they have been appointed bankers to the Government of India.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price.	Price Oct. 27.	Pre-sent Price.
	July 27, 1915.		
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892.....	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907.....	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909.....	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1909.....	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5 % Bonds.....	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan.....	93½	71½	71½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt.....	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890.....	88	66½	66½
Do. Ins. 8½ %, 1890.....	82½	65½	65½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878.....	80½	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24½ %)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	51½	52
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	51½	52
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	47½	50
Do. 4 % Rentas, 1889.....	45	41	42
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	51½	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893.....	54	49	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902.....	77	62½	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907.....	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.).....	90	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan.....	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911).....	91	72½	72½
Roumanian 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 400p.....	92	77½	77½
Serbian 4½ % Unified Bonds.....	67	85	85
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855.....	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891.....	94½	78	78
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894.....	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902.....	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified.....	79	52	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908.....	65½	37½	37
Do. 4 %, 1909.....	69	38	37
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.).....	4½	4½	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.).....	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.....	83	63½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12½	12½
Bank of Abyssinia.....	2	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	2½	2	2½
Bank of Roumania.....	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank.....	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia.....	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank.....	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3½	3½	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.....	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt.....	13½	12½	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P. do. do. Warrants to Bearer.....	8	5	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.....	8½	5½	5½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.....	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.....	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.....	17½	10	10
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.....	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.....	87	59½	59½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.....	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 %.....	80	10½	10½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ % do. do. 3 % Bonds.....	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds.....	61	55½	55½
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares).....	1½	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.....	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt.....	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment.....	2½	—	—
Do. Co. Def.....	8½	6	6
Béha Co. Pref.....	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh.....	2½	2½	2½
Do. Def.....	7½	7½	7½
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd. do. Delta, Land and Inves. do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Trst. do. and Foreign Trust.....	9½	9½	9½
Gharbieh Land Co. Founders.....	1½	1½	1½
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Debs. Red.....	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.....	9½	7½	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd. New Egyptian Co.	97	76	76
Sidi Salom Co.	9½	8½	8½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. United Egyptian Lands.....	1½	1	1
Do. do.	1½	-79	-79
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt. Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. Egyptian Hotels.....	12½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	1½	26/-	26/6
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	95	95
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	19/6	20/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer Do. 6 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red. Khedivial Mail Ord.	96	95	95
Do. do. Pref.	3½	26/-	27/3
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	3½	3½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (Fr. 500) Upper Egypt Hotels.....	£179½	81/6	81/6
Do.	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Oct. 26.	Oct. 31.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	9/3	8/9
Anglo-Persian.....	20/6	20/6
European Oilfields.....	3/9	3/9
Roumanian.....	13/3	14/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Oct. 26.	Oct. 31.
Banque Impériale Ottomane.....	465	468
Canal de Suez.....	4500	4490
Credit Foncier Egyptien.....	634	642
Turkish Unified 4 %.....	61.50	61.50
Egyptian Unified 4 %.....	86.10	88.50
Serbian, 1895.....	63	63

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON OCTOBER 13.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.			
National Bank of Egypt.....	£ 12½	to 12½	
Tram. d'Alexandrie.....	Frs. 85	" 86	
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	11½	" 11½	
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra.....	L.E. 5½	" 5½	
Do. priv.....	L.E. 3	" 3½	
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 124	" 130	
Bons de Panama.....	Frs. 101	" 103	
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New).....	Frs. 61	" 62	
Do. Privilegiée.....	Frs. 85	" 90	
Cheikh Fadi.....	Frs. 75	" 76	
Urbaines et Rurales.....	Frs. 2½	" 2½	
Comptoir Financier et Commercial.....	Frs. 1	" 1	
Building Lands of Egypt.....	L.E. 10/-	" 10/-	
Union Foncière d'Egypte.....	L.E. 4½	" 4½	
Société des Immeubles.....	L.E. 4½	" 4½	
Bonded Warehouses.....	L.E. 4½	" 4½	
Unifiée.....	L.E. 81½	" 81½	
Privilegiée.....	Frs. 71	" 72	
Land Bank of Egypt.....	£ 4½	" 4½	
Do. Fondateur.....	Frs. 24	" 25	
Pressage et dépôts.....	Frs. 30	" 31	
Nungovitch Hotels.....	Frs. 2½	" 2½	
Agricultural Bank of Egypt.....	Frs. 4½	" 4½	
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.....	Frs. 3½	" 3½	
Do. Ord.....	Frs. 20/-	" 20/6	
Alex. and Ramleh Railway.....	Frs. 32	" 32	
Egyptian Delta Light Railways.....	Frs. 5½	" 5½	
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire.....	Frs. 103	" 104	
Do. Jouissance.....	Frs. 155	" 156	
Egyptian Markets.....	Frs. 24/6	" 25/-	
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.....	Frs. 210	" 215	
Do. Div.....	Frs. 140	" 145	
Brasseries d'Egypte.....	Frs. 125	" 130	
Egyptian Salt and Soda.....	Frs. 18/3	" 18/6	
Credit Foncier Egyptien.....	Frs. 597	" 599	
Do. 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 309	" 310	
Do. 1903.....	Frs. 247	" 248	
Do. 1911.....	Frs. 293	" 293½	
Delta Lands.....	Frs. 34/-	" 5	
Port Said Salt.....	Frs. 7/-	" 7/6	
Cotton Ginners.....	P.T.	"	
New Egyptian Co.	27/-	"	
United Lands.....	5/-	" 5/10	
Levant S.S. Co.	5/-	" 5/10	
Do. Fond.....	5/-	" 5/10	

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to September 13, 1916):—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross Receipts, Aug., 1916.....	Drachmæ. 2,957,941	Drachmæ. 1,763,000
Do. do. do. 1915.....	2,946,645	1,749,000
Estimated Receipts for 8 months (Law of Control).....	19,266,666	7,133,333
Actual do. do. 1916.....	20,118,060	18,185,000
Do. do. do. 1915.....	24,174,147	16,097,887
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 8 months.....	1916 + 3,849,394	+ 11,051,666
1915 + 4,907,480		+ 8,964,563

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49.15 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is at or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.* Week ended Oct. 21.	1916. Week ended Oct. 19.
Cattle markets.....	270	655
General markets.....	201	408
Cattle markets closed.....	1	2
Receipts (£).....	471	1,063
Total from commencement of year (£).....	40,487	42,065

* Baira Holiday.

THE EGYPTIAN HOTELS, LIMITED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 5 per cent. on the Preference Shares of the above-named Company for the year ended 30th April, 1915, was DECLARED on the 20th day of September, 1916, PAYABLE on and after 30th October, 1916.

Holders of Preference Share Warrants to Bearer should present Coupon No. 11 for payment at one of the undermentioned places:—The Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., London and Cairo.

The Banque Commerciale de Bale, Basle, Switzerland.

The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Cairo, Port Said, and Alexandria.
W. B. PEAT AND CO., Secretaries.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 288.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	25	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The New High Commissioner		Notes and News	41
Cairo	27	of Egypt	36	Cyprus Trade Report for 1915	42
Cyprus	28	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	32	Egyptian Trade	43
Syria (via Cairo)	29	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	31	Egyptian Cotton	43
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Trade Notes	43
The Position in Palestine ..	29	A Gallipoli Casualty	33	Produce Report	44
Sir Reginald Wingate	30	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	34	Enemy Property in Egypt ..	45
The Russian Advance in the		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	39	Engineering Notes	46
Caucasus—IV.	37			The Bridge at Cernavoda ..	47
LETTER TO THE EDITOR—				On 'Change	48
Lord Kitchener Sudan Mem-				Company Notes	48
orial (Lord Cromer) ..	30			Stock and Share List	48

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The tenacity of the Roumanian troops, helped in no small measure by the weather, has availed to check the enemy in the Carpathians at a moment when everything depended on the rapidity of his advance. Beyond this it would not be safe to go in appraising the general situation. The Roumanians have received reinforcements, in men and material; but big guns remain an important factor, and until the Austro-Germans have had time to bring theirs up to the new positions, it is not possible to tell whether our Allies are now equally strong in this arm. Of one thing we may be certain, that more confidence exists at Roumanian headquarters than was the case when the double thrust in the Carpathians and in the Dobruja found the Roumanian General Staff in two minds. The requirements of the two fronts must have been accurately gauged, and whatever steps are being taken to meet them will at least be free from the anxiety accompanying the earlier attempts to strengthen one at the expense of the other.

The expectations raised in enemy countries by the Roumanian campaign are clearly shown by the prominence given to it in the Press. An army of special correspondents had been attached to von Falkenhayn's headquarters, and all the stage-management for a successful expedition had been carefully arranged. One of the first *mots d'ordre* given to the Press representatives was to "write up" the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Roumanians during their advance into Hungary. As the German public will have heard little or nothing of German atrocities in Belgium or German connivance in outrages in Turkey, it will no doubt be impressed by the recital. Together with neutrals it will be expected to regard the *ex parte* statements emanating from von Falkenhayn's Press Bureau as an adequate counterblast to the judicial investigation into the excesses in the territories overrun by Germany's soldiery. Most people will be inclined to think that the Germans are overstating their case when they are reduced to recording that the Master-baker Bronovitch "was robbed of his watch and money in the open street." The Roumanians, however, should take note of the systematic efforts made to embitter the people of Transylvania against them.

Further instructions will have had to be issued from von Falkenhayn's headquarters to meet the lull in the Austro-German advance. These, so far as the unanimity of the German press is a criterion, will have taken the form of a hint to vary descriptions of the country

with articles insisting on the military importance of the Roumanian campaign. Some newspapers, greatly daring, have compared Verdun with the Dobruja, entirely to the advantage of the latter. In February, so runs the line of argument, it was important that the French should be dealt a stunning blow at Verdun. That accomplished, there is nothing to distinguish the fortress from any other point in the Western theatre, and in view of events in south-eastern Europe the region has lapsed into comparative obscurity. A small French gain there means nothing, it is contended, when the vital issue is being fought out elsewhere. In due course we may expect the same to be said of the Roumanian campaign. Meanwhile, the employment of such artless reasoning at this stage is not without significance.

That Roumania's time of crisis is not yet at an end is shown by the daily reports of the struggle in the Carpathians. Nowhere has the situation undergone any considerable change; but the announcement that in the Prahova Valley our Allies have been subjected to an intense bombardment indicates that the enemy has succeeded in bringing up some at least of his heavy artillery. If the Roumanian guns are still outranged as they were in Transylvania, a further withdrawal will be difficult to avoid. But it is just at this point that King Ferdinand's order to his Army becomes applicable: "Let no unit retire, but maintain its positions at all costs. . . . Our mountains, which for thousands of years have been the cradle and shield of our race, should be an impenetrable wall." Having reached Azuga, the enemy is uncomfortably close to Sinaia, the summer resort of the Court and Government and of Roumania's Upper Ten. The fate of the Royal Palaces, built by German architects and decorated by the foremost of German artists and woodworkers, is a foregone conclusion, if they should fall into the hands of the invaders. The stories, so carefully circulated, of Roumanian atrocities in Transylvania are an earnest of what the Germans have set themselves to do when the "treacherous" Roumanians are in their power. Something of this presentiment will have prompted King Ferdinand to appeal to his Army, and will steel the Roumanian troops in their resistance at such a vulnerable spot in their mountain barrier.

Next to the Predeal Pass, the enemy's main pressure is being directed in the Aluta Valley. Here again the Roumanian line is directly guarding a sacred portion of Roumanian soil. A few miles down the Valley is situ-

ated Curtea d'Argesh, formerly the capital of Wallachia. It is the burial-place of King Carol, and contains a famous cathedral, dating from the sixteenth century, but restored in the nineteenth, which is regarded as the finest monument in Roumania. The Austro-German forces have already penetrated some distance into Roumania through the Roter Turm Pass and the Törzburg Pass, which lie respectively north-west and north-east of Curtea d'Argesh. At the latter place and at Campolung, half-way between it and the Törzburg Pass, the invaders reach railheads of two branch lines which connect further south and offer a second avenue of approach to Bucharest. For the present, therefore, we may expect von Falkenhayn to concentrate his efforts at these two passes and in the Prahova Valley. But unless the fortunes of war favour him at other points as well in the Carpathians, he will be adopting rash tactics in allowing his troops to advance too far in the centre of his long line.

Roumanian reports speak of an advance on the whole of the Dobruja front. The vagueness of the statement suggests the arrest of von Mackensen's spectacular thrust and a prospect of the passing of the offensive into Russo-Roumanian hands. Constantza has been bombarded by a Russian squadron, but the enemy has replied by shelling Giurgiu, the Roumanian port opposite Rustchuk. Perhaps the most important development in the Dobruja is the arrival, to take command of the Allied forces, of General Sakharoff, the commander of the Russian Army operating in Northern Galicia, who was associated with General Brusiloff's conspicuous successes in the summer. The transfer of General Averescu first from the Carpathians to the Dobruja and then back again to the Carpathians pointed to a shortage of commanding officers of note in the Roumanian Army. General Sakharoff's presence in the Dobruja will offset the glamour attaching to von Mackensen's name, and will reassure the Russo-Roumanian troops who are upholding the Allied cause in this theatre of the war. The enemy has already paid him the compliment of withdrawing some distance before an Allied offensive could be launched.

The past week has witnessed no marked development in the situation in Macedonia. Artillery duels have taken place over the greater part of the front. On the Serbian sector the Bulgarians have launched some unsuccessful counter-attacks, but the Allies have made no serious attempt to advance their line. General Sarrail, no doubt, has good reasons for the slowness of his offensive. Into these the public in the Allied countries will not seek to probe for the present; but it will, we hope, preserve its sense of humour sufficiently to appreciate the German attempt to improve upon the situation. The form this has taken is the publication in the German press of a letter alleged to have been written by General Sarrail to a "very trusted friend" in Paris, who showed it to a neutral, who "on his return home wrote down from memory the contents of the letter," and promptly handed the document to a German newspaper correspondent. In this letter General Sarrail is represented as explaining the reasons for deferring his offensive. They were, in brief, the length of his front and the character of his army. Not content with summing up his troops in general as "the scum of all the armies," General Sarrail, in the alleged letter, proceeds to describe each nationality in detail. The "biggest rabble" of all are "the white and coloured Englishmen"; the Italians are "a cowardly rabble"; the Portuguese make no good impression; the Russians are disappointing; the Serbians alone are of any use. But the German humorist has fallen into the error of imagining that General Sarrail has been watching the war through German eyes. The forgery is almost too clumsy to call for a formal contradiction.

So far there has been nothing in the attitude of King Constantine and his Ministers to confirm the optimism of the *communiqués* issued by the Entente Governments

after the audiences given a week or more ago to their representatives. On the contrary, much has happened to justify the supposition that Greece's rulers have felt encouraged to persevere in their policy of flouting the Entente Powers. No attempt has been made to abandon the system of arresting and imprisoning officers and men who are suspected of a desire to join the Nationalist army at Salonika, although complete freedom of action for these men was part of the pact with the King. A glaring case of assistance being given to German submarines by a Gounarist deputy within sight of the Acropolis has been brought to light. In this connection an interview given by King Constantine to a correspondent will be recalled, in which he denied that German submarines were afforded any help or shelter in Greek waters. Further, the censorship has allowed the publication and transmission by telegraph of a statement to the effect that plans of the defences of the Suez Canal and compromising letters from the King and Queen of the Hellenes to the German Emperor have been found on a German officer arrested at Larissa when on his way to the Bulgarian lines. This report, whether true or not, is symptomatic of the state of feeling in Greece regarding the genuineness of King Constantine's conversion.

In the meantime the Allied Governments maintain the fiction of recognising two mutually incompatible authorities in Greece. King Constantine is allowed to break his agreement to allow his subjects complete liberty to join the Salonika movement, if they wish to do so; but when some officers are cashiered and deprived of their pensions for taking the step, the Allies, instead of settling the question once and for all with the King, inform M. Venizelos, according to the statement of the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons, that they "will not lose sight of the interests of those Greek officials and officers who might desire to offer their services to the Provisional Government at Salonika, and that care will be taken that the interests of these officials and officers do not suffer in the future." Whether such a weak policy is good for any of those concerned—for King Constantine himself, for the Allies, or for the Greek people—must be open to grave doubt. The indefinite prolongation of an impossible state of affairs can only spell greater disaster for someone in the long run.

Sir Reginald Wingate, whose appointment to the High Commissionership of Egypt is dealt with elsewhere, will enter upon his new duties at an interesting point in the country's history. In spite of the war, it is in a prosperous condition, so much so that it has been found possible, we understand, to proceed with certain irrigation works which were postponed two years ago. At the same time other interests than those which directly concern Egypt's material welfare are not being neglected. No feature of the new régime is more prominent than the increased attention given to educational matters, at the direct instigation of the Sultan himself. Provided that the pace is not made too rapid and the real needs of the people are kept steadily in mind by those responsible for educational policy, there can be no more useful partner for material progress.

News from Mesopotamia continues to be scarce, although conditions for the resumption of hostilities must be favourable by now. It is to be hoped that the fierce light thrown upon this theatre and the fact that a Commission is at present engaged in investigating the circumstances of the campaign will not lead those in authority to suppose that their safest course is to do nothing until they are ordered to do it. No more fatal blow could be dealt to our prestige in these parts than to allow the Arabs to see a British force numerically stronger and better equipped doomed to inactivity in the face of a comparatively insignificant force of Turks. No offensive should be undertaken until there has been adequate preparation; but the Allies are falling short of their maximum effort, if one of them holds back from pressing the enemy, whenever opportunity offers, to the utmost of his capacity.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 18.

(Delayed in transmission.)

The High Commissioner's Return.

H.E. the High Commissioner came up to Cairo from Alexandria on Thursday last. Sir Henry McMahon, who travelled by special train and was accompanied by the members of the Residency staff, was received at Cairo station by General Sir Archibald Murray, the Ministers, and the senior Government officials, as well as an unusually large number of European and Egyptian notables. With the return of his Excellency to Cairo the seat of Government has been transferred back to the capital from Alexandria, where it has been, as usual, centred for the summer months. The Ministers are already back in Cairo, and H.H. the Sultan, who is at present slightly indisposed, is expected to come up from Gabbaris next week. Sir Henry McMahon proceeded to Ismailia on Saturday, and thence went on to Port Said, where he met Lady McMahon, who was a passenger in the P. and O. Malwa. Quite a number of prominent Anglo-Egyptians arrived by the same steamer. They included Sir William and Lady Brunyate, Dr. Douglas Dunlop, Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald, and Judge Vaux.

The Sultan has now signed the decrees appointing Sir William Brunyate Judicial Adviser in succession to Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Mr. James Haines Adviser to the Interior in succession to Sir Ronald Graham, and Mr. John Langley Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture in succession to Mr. Haines. Mr. H. M. Anthony, Deputy Director-General, succeeds Mr. Langley as Director-General of the State Domains.* All these officials took up their new duties on Monday.

My more recent information with regard to the Vice-Presidency of the Native Court of Appeal is now confirmed. It is announced that Judge H. W. Halton, Counsellor of the Mixed Court of Appeal, has accepted the offer made him, and the decree appointing him in succession to Judge Bond has just been signed. I understand that his place will not be filled by promotion of an English judge from the lower courts, but that a distinguished member of the Supreme Consular Court will in all probability be selected. At the same time the Government has found a means of overcoming the somewhat serious situation set up by the shortage of judges in the Mixed Courts of First Instance, and I understand that it has been decided to appoint Judge W. H. H. Thorne, at present President of the District Court of Larnaca, to the vacancy left in Alexandria by the transfer of Judge Bateson to Cairo. Judge Thorne, who speaks Turkish and Greek, as well as several European languages, comes to Egypt with an excellent record, and he should prove a very valuable addition to the English magistracy of this country.

Sir Ronald Graham.

Sir Ronald Graham, the retiring Adviser to the Interior, has been the recipient of a remarkable demonstration of regret at his departure at the hands of the Egyptian community. As foreshadowed in this correspondence a fortnight ago, he decided to make a farewell tour of certain of the Lower Egypt provinces. Accompanied by Lady Graham, he visited Shibin-el-Kom, Tanta, Mansura, and Zagazig, at each of which towns they were entertained by the Mudir and the notables. On the afternoon previous to their departure they were entertained at a farewell tea-party organised in the Esbekia Gardens by prominent Egyptian notables, under the presidency of H.E. Ahmed Mazloun Pasha. The reception was a very successful one, and H.H. the Sultan specially lent his band for the occasion.

* According to the *Egyptian Gazette* of October 18:—"The successors to Sir William Brunyate and Mr. Anthony have not yet been selected, but among those in view are Mr. Vaughan Williams, of the Contentieux Department, for the first vacancy, and Mr. Goschen, Controller of the Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance, for the second vacancy." The *Gazette* also reports (October 20):—"It is understood that the seat on the bench of the Mixed Court of Appeal, rendered vacant by the appointment of Judge Halton as Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal in succession to Judge Bond, has been offered to Judge Cator, and that he has accepted it."—[ED.]

The British, European, and Egyptian communities gave them a rousing send-off at Cairo station, and Lady Graham was the recipient of a delicate attention on the part of a committee of Egyptian ladies, on whose behalf Mme. Rushdi Pasha presented her with a diamond pendant of old Egyptian design, in recognition of the great interest she had taken in and all she had done for the welfare of the women of Egypt.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

News has just been received that the Mahmal and its escort have arrived with the pilgrims at Tor on their way back to Egypt. The pilgrimage has been carried out without any untoward incidents, and the Shereef has thus fulfilled his guarantee. The pilgrims are reported by the medical authorities to be in good health; but as the International Quarantine Board, for precaution's sake, declared the pilgrimage at its outset to be infected, the pilgrims will all have to spend the regulation ten days in quarantine at Tor. They will, therefore, not be back in Egypt until the 28th or 29th inst.

The Prime Minister.

H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, has now completely recovered from his illness, and has resumed his duties at the Ministry of the Interior. He presided last Tuesday at the Council of Ministers, which owing to his indisposition was the first to be held for several weeks.

October 26.

"Our Day."

"Our Day" was celebrated on Saturday last by a very successful garden fête at the Red Cross Hospital at Giza, which was attended by H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon. All day long ladies of the various Entente colonies carried out collections at important centres of the city, and very substantial sums were obtained by them. The "Our Day" accounts will remain open until the 31st inst., to enable the provincial subscriptions to be got in. The general list is already very large, but it is doubtful whether the splendid result of last year will be repeated. This is not due to any lack of appreciation of the work done by the Red Cross or of any slackening of interest in the Entente cause on the part of the Egyptian community, who collaborated so generously in making up last year's record total. The reason of any diminution will undoubtedly be found to repose in the fact that this year the Egyptian masses have another and, to them, far more important appeal looming ahead—the appeal for the Kitchener Memorial, to which, more than to any other object, they would perhaps not un-naturally prefer to give the contribution, which, whether it goes to that memorial or to the Red Cross, may be rightly regarded as the practical demonstration of their loyalty to the Protecting Power.

The New Coinage.

As was foreshadowed a week or so ago in this correspondence, the new coinage bearing the monogram or Toughra of Sultan Hussein in the place of the Toughra of the Sultan of Turkey has now been put into circulation. The decree authorising the issue and the letter from the High Commissioner to H.H. the Sultan, conveying the British Government's approval of the changes made in the design and lettering, appeared in last Thursday's *Official Journal*. The new silver coins have been minted in India; they are somewhat lighter than the last issue, but, as far as can be gathered, the people are making no trouble on this score about accepting them.

The Australian Referendum in Egypt.

On the 16th and 17th inst. the votes of the members of the Australian Imperial Force at present in Egypt on the question of the introduction of compulsory

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

foreign service in Australia were collected. The poll was taken at each important centre and polling stations were established at Cairo and Alexandria for the Australians who might be absent from their units. Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Paine, V.D., Commandant of the Australian Headquarters in Egypt, acted as Deputy Returning Officer for Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, and, as far as can be ascertained, the poll was taken everywhere without any trouble or hitch. From conversations I have had with individual men, and from what I have heard indirectly, there is little doubt that the vote from the A.I.F., wherever its members are situated, will be an unanimous one in favour of the Australian Government being given the power of compulsion which it seeks.

The 1917-1918 Budget.

At the present moment all Government departments are hard at it framing their estimates for the next financial year. All proposals involving new or additional credits have to be submitted before the 1st. prox., and the final budget for each administration has to go in before the end of the year. It is understood that within a limited degree somewhat more liberal credits for new and current works may be allowed, but only for the most urgent, and that promotions and increases will be accorded to the categories of small officials who did not benefit by the recent concessions made by the Ministry of Finance, as well as to certain of the medium-paid *personnel*. Whilst the possibility that the cessation of the war may bring about a reduction in certain heads of revenue has to be faced and provided for by the strengthening of the Reserve Fund, the Anglo-Egyptian financial authorities are quite right to spend more than they have done since the outbreak of war on public works, etc., since by such outlay they are also improving the country's prospect of being able to withstand any economic or agricultural set-back if and when it comes. At the same time their decision to increase the salaries of certain categories of Government officials is fully justified by the rise in the general cost of living, which has been very substantial during the past two years, and which falls far more hardly on these categories than on the more highly paid members of the service.

The Sale of "Cast" Horses.

The letter which recently appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* and the correspondence which has been carried on in the local English Press with regard to the sale of cast horses in Egypt deals with a subject that merits most urgent and earnest attention. Even in the piping times of peace, when only a cavalry regiment, a battery or so of artillery and other mounted details were stationed in Egypt, one not infrequently came across ex-Army horses which the Arabs were treating in their own inimitable cruel way, just as if they were locally bred and accustomed to the jerky rein, flicking whip, and hard and spare food of the country, instead of having been, as so many of them were, accustomed from their breaking-in days to decent fodder and handling. The sight of these poor brutes, plodding along courageously in spite of their privations, was sufficient to make the heart of even the most casual of horse lovers sick with compassion and his blood boil with rage. What went on three years ago, however, is as nothing compared with the state of affairs to-day, when, as a consequence of the vast numbers of horses brought into Egypt for military purposes during the past two years, the "casts" have increased to an enormous extent, and one can rarely pass any cab-stand without seeing several *arabes* drawn by "walers" and other non-Egyptian horses, whose former career it is impossible to mistake and whose future fate in the hands of the ignorant but cruel *arbuggis* it is easy for anyone knowing his Egypt to foretell. My remarks refer only to Cairo, though I am creditably informed that numbers of "casts" are also sold into the districts, where the life awaiting them is just as bad. By continuing to countenance a procedure which certainly clashes with humanitarian ideas, the British military authorities are shouldering a great moral responsibility, and the sooner they put a stop to the practice of selling "cast" horses wholesale into Egyptian bondage the better.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, October 21.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner, on returning from Government House, Troödos, to the capital, visited Papho as well as Limassol. At the former place there were various petitions for consideration, as the district of Papho, which was once so famous as the birthplace of Aphrodite, now generally regards itself—though, perhaps on insufficient grounds—as rather a neglected corner of the island.

Departures from Cyprus Prohibited.

By order of the High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, the Commissioners and Provost Marshals of districts have notified the public that, until further notice, no men of military age who may be considered fit for service are allowed to leave the island without special permission. This involves postponement, not only of some would-be emigrants to the United States, but also of a number of Cypriot artisans and labourers who were contemplating work elsewhere.

The Legislative Council.

Great interest has been taken in the election of members, which has been carried out without any friction. The following candidates have been elected by majority of votes for the Nicosia-Kyrenia Division:—A. Sevéris, N. Pascális, and Th. Theodótou; for Larnaca-Famagusta, I. Emphietzis, L. Loizou, and Dr. Zannettos; for Limassol-Papho, N. Nicolaides, E. Zeno, and N. Laníti. Six of these are new members. Amongst those who have failed to secure election are Mr. A. Liassides, Mayor of Nicosia, and Mr. E. Hajji-Ioannou, of Larnaca, both of whom have had long experience in the Council and of local affairs. Their presence will be missed. The Mohammedan member, unopposed, for Nicosia-Kyrenia is Irfan Bey, and for Larnaca-Famagusta, Hami Bey.

Bribery in Village Elections.

Sentences of imprisonment for various terms have been pronounced by the Assize Court of Nicosia against certain villagers convicted of having accepted bribes in connection with the election of Mukhtars (village headmen). Offences of this kind have, it would appear, become far too common, and it is hoped that the sentences will have a deterrent effect. Owing to the improved status of Mukhtars under recent laws, the post of headman, which had become very unpopular, is now eagerly sought in many cases.

The Archiepiscopal Election.

Hope now prevails that the duties of the sixty-six elected voters, whose decisions will settle who is to be the new Greek Archbishop of the autocephalous island church, will be carried out without manifestations of ill-feeling, of which there has been recently no little danger. The action for libel instituted by the Holy Synod against the Greek paper *Kypriakós Kýrx*, which came before the Nicosia District Court on October 7, has been adjourned *sine die*; and the movement, supported by the Press, in favour of concord and union, which has endeavoured to prevent the drifting of matters touching the ecclesiastical body into the law courts, has gained ground. The election of the "general electors" is fixed for October 22, and that of the Primate should take place on November 15.

Winter Railway Arrangements.

From October 23, only one passenger train will run each way daily between Nicosia and Famagusta, and between Nicosia and Evríkou, except on Thursdays, when there will be two services between the capital and the eastern port. Economy in coal is still needed.

Officials and the War.

Of the six British Presidents of the District Courts there are now only two in the island. Each one is acting for three districts. Mr. McCaskie, of Famagusta, is on leave. Mr. Porter, of Papho, has accepted an appointment in the Gold Coast. Mr. Thorne's appointment in Egypt is that of Judge in the Mixed Courts of Alexandria. Mr. Bros, of Kyrenia, is joining the army.

NEWS FROM SYRIA.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, OCT. 25.

Gloomy Reports.

After an interval of comparative silence, during which such news as reached us from Syria was of such a nature as to lead us to believe that the situation there was not, after all, so utterly hopeless, bad reports are again being received. An American, recently arrived from Syria, and interviewed by the editor of an Arabic paper in New York, is said to have confirmed the reports, published a few months ago, about the appalling havoc that famine played in Syria, and especially in the Lebanon, his estimate of the total number of deaths attributable directly or indirectly to this cause being about 150,000.

The students of the American College preferred to remain there during the summer vacation rather than go to their homes and see famine staring them in the face. It seems that the Government has requisitioned all primary articles of foodstuffs, and actually sent part out of the country. In this American's opinion the purpose of relief would be better served if personal remittances were made to one's own people, in small but regular amounts, and if each group sent its remittances to its own village. It would be a mistake, he thinks, to send large collective remittances for wholesale distribution, unless this were to be entrusted to an American committee. The Cairo Central Committee was, therefore, well advised in having refrained from entrusting its funds to the joint committee of the American Red Cross and Ottoman Red Crescent, which the Turkish Government proposed. The same American gentleman further stated that the remittances made by the Syrian emigrants through the American Missions in Syria were being cashed, for the account of the addressees, by the manager of the American Printing Press and Secretary of the American Mission at Beyrout from the Ottoman Bank in paper money. This paper money, however, is accepted by the shopkeepers and those in charge of the ticket grain stores only at one-third of the gold value. Thus, the Government not only lays its hands on the produce of the land, but further exploits the population by reselling it to them at treble the price through its depreciated paper currency.

Druse Deserters.

It is reported from other sources that most of the Druse young men of the Lebanon who have been led into volunteering have not been long in deserting and seeking refuge with their co-religionists in Jebel Hauran, who have risen against the Government and stopped all communication with Damascus. If open rebellion has not broken out there it is simply because the Government has too much on its hands at present to be able to send a punitive expedition, as it did in the palmy days following the proclamation of the Constitution.

"Commissions."

It is reported that the commissions charged with the sale of the property of persons condemned to death and of other property confiscated by order of the court-martial are composed chiefly—especially in the case of Beyrout—of illiterate persons of the boatmen and contrabandist class, who even in pre-war times used to be the terror of the city and neighbourhood. It may be well imagined what sort of work such commissions do, especially when it is known that great powers have been given to them by Jemal Pasha.

THE POSITION IN PALESTINE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

News from Turkey is extremely hard to come by now, or, rather, reliable news is, for of rumour we can have our fill any day. It is certain that there is great scarcity of foodstuffs, and, consequently, much distress. Palestine could be not only almost self-supporting, she could also supply other countries, but she has been so long and so grievously neglected by the Turkish Government that she is very dependent on foreign supplies; these are now almost entirely cut off, and the pangs of want cannot be stayed until the country is open once more to assistance from outside. The corn supply, as a rule, was so plentiful that only 20 per cent. sufficed for the needs of the small population of Palestine and Syria, and the rest was exported; if, therefore, bread and flour have indeed risen to the fabulous prices reported, and the people have gone hungry, it can only be that Germany and Austria have taken with greedy hands to cover their own shortage at home. It is hoped that the economic situation will be really bettered by the help that America is now to be allowed to give. Syrians everywhere are rejoicing at the thought of what this will mean to their people at home, though many agree in saying that things in Palestine are far better than in the Lebanon—a country for which the Porte has always seemed to have a special animosity.

Jerusalem "Improvements."

We hear from time to time of wonderful "improvements" at Jerusalem under German rule—of new streets made and old ones widened, of better sanitation, and so on. No one who remembers the ancient beauty of Jerusalem can help a shudder of apprehension at the thought of her "improvement" at the hands of the German and the Turk. The only improvement possible would be a clean sweep of both as ruling Powers. I should be far from denying that the sanitation of Jerusalem could be improved, if there were any system existing to improve on; but if the Germans are going to dig up old drains in the Holy City they will probably start a series of horrible epidemics, such as one that occurred some years ago, when what is known as the New Greek Market was being built near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Some old shops and houses were then pulled down to make way for the new, and in the course of digging down for the foundations the workmen broke into a pit from whence proceeded a most appalling smell. The workmen who actually dug it died, others fell ill, and several passers-by also suffered. The curious part was that the two who died showed every symptom of the "black death," and it was supposed that they had unwittingly opened one of the old plague burial-pits. The place was hastily smothered in lime and disinfected by a terrified municipality, and after a little excitement the incident was forgotten.

Jerusalem itself is described as a perfect arsenal; troops and military stores pass through it constantly; the Mount of Olives is well fortified. There was good authority for believing that the philanthropic guest-house on the Mount of Olives was in process of arming early in 1912. Certainly there was no reason why a house of rest for missionaries should be endowed with a particularly strong searchlight, seen well out at sea beyond Jaffa; and it is a fact that the Kaiser insisted on being kept informed weekly of everything that took place at the *Stiftung*, to the smallest detail. It has a glorious view over the country on all sides, and commands the city. New roads and railways for military purposes are being pushed forward with haste, yet not carelessly. We know that Germany excels in her planning and execution of railway strategy. It is possible that we may one day find the railways of Palestine are a fact to reckon with.

The Political Executions.

There have been several accounts in the Press of executions, all political, of course. No doubt there have been some, especially in the Lebanon districts, but there is good reason for believing that the number has been overstated. Capital punishment was one of the first "improvements" introduced by the New Constitution of 1908. There were two or three at Jerusalem, and one, early in 1914, took place just outside the Damascus Gate under circumstances so horrible that the foreign consuls protested to the Pasha. No one in Jerusalem knew how to hang a man, and no one could be persuaded to try until at last a gipsy—or one of those very low and disagreeable vagrants who go by that name in Jerusalem—undertook to do it for the modest sum of one *mejideh*, say, 4s. 6d. But he, though willing, was inexperienced, and the unfortunate victim died of slow suffocation. Jerusalem was horror-struck, and up to the beginning of the war there were no more such dreadful scenes.

Worse than the most flagrant political executions are the wholesale massacres of Armenians which have yet again

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE,
HULL.

**IMPORTERS of EASTERN and
MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCE.**

**SPECIALITIES: All Kinds of TANNING
MATERIALS & FEEDING STUFFS.**

Make Offers and send Samples.

EXPORTERS of U.K. MERCHANDISE.

CABLEGRAMS: KUYPERS, HULL.

soaked that unhappy land in blood. The actual assassins were, of course, the Turks, but German officers beheld what was done and forbore to interfere, even when besought to do so by American missionaries. For every Armenian death Germany is as guilty as she is of the murder of Belgian civilians, the sinking of the "Lusitania," and the no less ghastly deportation of the women of Lille.

Fate of Allied Buildings.

We know that the buildings of the Allies were taken into use early on, for hospitals, schools, or military purposes, and in *The Times* of October 28 it was stated that all the buildings of the Imperial Orthodox Society at Jerusalem and elsewhere had been requisitioned for barracks for Turkish and German troops. One of the first establishments to be thus used was the beautiful French possession in the city known as St. Anne's, where is the traditional Pool of Bethesda; but the Turkish soldiers said they could not sleep on account of the spirits, and begged to be removed. The Turks then tried to restore the buildings to the French monks, who very properly refused to receive them except through their Government. It would be interesting to hear the sequel to this strange little story. Were the soldiers removed to quieter places, or are they still there, troubled by the jealous dead? There is no report that the churches, which were closed at the beginning of hostilities under the American Consular seal, have been touched. This honourable distinction between buildings sacred and common, made by Moslem Turks, might be commended to the attention of "Christian" Germany, the ravager of Louvain and the wanton destroyer of Rheims.

LORD KITCHENER SUDAN MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I desire to bring before you an appeal that has been issued by Sir F. Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of the Sudan, to found a permanent Memorial to the late Lord Kitchener in Khartoum. It has been decided that this should take the form of a School of Medicine, to be affiliated to the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories, and thus become part of the Gordon Memorial College. Students who have passed through that institution will therefore be fitted to serve as officers in the Egyptian Army Medical Corps, as officials in the Medical Department, and as general practitioners in that country.

Lord Kitchener's association with the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and the keen interest he took in its development, are so well known in this country that nothing further need be added to the appeal of the Sirdar, which I have pleasure in enclosing you herewith.

Subscriptions to the Memorial should be forwarded to Mr. Baldwin S. Harvey, Hon. Secretary, Gordon Memorial College, 67, Lombard Street, London, E.C.; and communications on the matter should be addressed to Mr. C. J. S. Thompson, Hon. Secretary, "Lord Kitchener Sudan Memorial," 54a, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.—Yours, etc.,

CROMER,

President of the Gordon Memorial College,
Khartoum.

36, Wimpole Street, Nov. 7.

SIR REGINALD WINGATE'S APPEAL.

Lord Kitchener's services in the present war have been so much greater and wider in their appeal than any which even he had previously rendered that the National Memorial Committee rightly determined to dedicate all funds they collected exclusively to the use of those disabled in this war.

But it is equally right that Lord Kitchener's earlier achievements in Egypt, India, and the Sudan should be commemorated in local ways by those who owe to these episodes in his career their most precious possessions or memories. It has been decided accordingly to found in Khartoum a special Sudan Memorial to Lord Kitchener, as the Sudan was the theatre of Lord Kitchener's first great successes, and Khartoum will be for ever linked with his name. The proposed Memorial will take the form of a School of Medicine, a project which was very close to Lord Kitchener's heart and frequently advocated by him in conversation. The School will be, as he wished, directly affiliated to the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories; it will be, in consequence, an integral part of the Gordon Memorial College Foundation, and all moneys now collected will be spent upon building and equipment.

As the immediate successor of Lord Kitchener both as Governor-General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, I confidently appeal to past and present members of the Sudan Government and the Egyptian Army, to the people of the Sudan, and to all others interested in the work initiated here by Lord Kitchener for funds sufficient to provide a building appropriate to our requirements and worthy of the name it will commemorate.

REGINALD WINGATE.

Khartoum, September 27, 1916.

Beginning on the 15th inst., parcels for Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, East Africa, India, Australia, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, China, and other destinations served by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Packet must reach the General Post Office, London, not later than five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, in order to be in time for the same week's mail.

SIR REGINALD WINGATE.

The Foreign Office announces that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of General Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan, to be High Commissioner of Egypt in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Henry McMahon, G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.S.I., to take effect on January 1, 1917.

Sir Reginald Wingate is the one man whom the Egyptians themselves would have chosen to fill the post. His experience of the country and of its people dates back for thirty-three years; for it was in 1883 that, as a Lieutenant R.A., he joined the Egyptian Army after serving for a couple of years in India and Aden. Honours came to the young officer in the very first year of his service in Egypt; for the 4th Class Order of the Osmanieh was bestowed upon him in recognition of his services as commandant of the cholera hospital immediately after his arrival in the country. In the following two years he acted as A.D.C. and Military Secretary to General Sir Evelyn Wood during the expeditions of that period, and was again decorated, this time with the Order of the Mejdieh, and was mentioned in despatches. He left the country for a few months in 1886, when he was appointed A.D.C. to the G.O.C., Eastern Command; but he returned to the Egyptian Army in the same year, and was promoted captain and brevet-major three years later.

During the expeditions which followed Major Wingate's record was a remarkably distinguished one. He was at the battle of Toski as A.A.G. Intelligence, and was on this occasion again mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O. and clasp. Two years later he was again on the battlefield, when his services at the action at Arafit and at the recapture of Tokar earned him a higher grade of the Order of the Mejdieh. Major Wingate acted as Governor of the Red Sea Littoral and O.C. troops Suakim in 1894, and during this period he received the civil Order of the C.B. He subsequently served through the Dongola campaign, as Director of Military Intelligence, and again covered himself with distinction; for he was mentioned in despatches, and was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel. His later services in the country included the Nile Expedition of 1897, when he was appointed A.D.C. to the Queen and was promoted brevet-colonel, and the Battles of Atbara and Khartoum, and the expedition to Fashoda. He was twice mentioned in despatches in connection with his services on these occasions, and received the K.C.M.G., in addition to being thanked by both Houses of Parliament. He was in command of the operations which resulted in the death of the Khalifa, and at their conclusion he was awarded the K.C.B. and the 2nd Class of the Order of the Osmanieh.

Since those days the General has become possessed of the highest decorations which Egypt had to offer, and during all his long years of service there has been no failure to write against his name. It is not only as a soldier, however, that Sir Reginald Wingate has so greatly distinguished himself. Since his appointment as Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan he has had some awkward situations to deal with, and he has met them each and all with tact and firmness. As a consequence of his popularity with the natives of the Sudan he has been able on more than one occasion to smooth over difficulties which might have become really serious in the hands of a less able man.

Since the present war began we have heard little of the Sudan or of Sir Reginald Wingate, merely because the Sudan and her Governor-General were pursuing their accustomed rounds of life unperturbed. Only one chieftain of the Sudan gave any trouble, and he was dealt with swiftly and surely, and a menace of years was removed in a few weeks.

Sir Reginald, who has as many medals and bars to his name as any general in the British Army, has also many foreign decorations. He has been honoured by the University of Oxford, and has received the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Dunbar. The Sudan will lose by the promotion of her Governor-General, but the nation will gain as a whole.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Nov. 7.

Lord SANDHURST informed the Earl of Portsmouth that the Foreign Office knew of no prohibition against sending blankets to English prisoners of war in Turkish hands. It was inadvisable, however, to send articles to prisoners of war unless it was certain that they would receive them.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mesopotamia Wounded.

Nov. 2.

Sir C. KINLOCH-COOKE asked whether Mr. Austen Chamberlain was aware of the privations and hardships undergone by the sick and wounded from Mesopotamia in last July.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: A report reached me (from a private source in August last) that the provision made for soldiers at Wellington had been inadequate, and I at once telegraphed to the Viceroy a request that he would make full inquiry. The Viceroy was satisfied by an exhaustive inspection carried out by the G.O.C. in company with the Governor of Madras that there were nothing more than inconveniences of a temporary character, which were quickly dealt with. The Viceroy added that there was no dearth of comforts or stores, and that private relief was merely supplementing official resources. In particular I am informed that with some 1,500 patients arriving at short notice the deficiency of beds was limited to three men for one night each; that the shortage of crockery affected only twenty men for a few days, and that there was no lack of medicines at any time. All articles of clothing, bedding, or other equipment of which the patients were found to be in need were at once drawn from the reserves, hired or purchased locally, or ordered by telegram from the nearest source of supply. The House is aware that I have not sought to conceal or excuse faults of administration where I believed them to exist, but I do earnestly deprecate uncritical condemnation of the Indian Government and of officers serving under it, who feel deeply the unjust aspersions cast upon them to which it is not open to them to make any reply.

Sir C. KINLOCH-COOKE: Does the right hon. gentleman mean the House to infer that the statements made in the question are not common knowledge in India itself?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: They are common gossip and rumour, but I mean to imply that they are not facts. They are gross exaggerations. I am satisfied the shortage was purely temporary, and that the position is now satisfactory.

Berlin to Constantinople.

Nov. 3.

Sir EDWARD GOULDING, having inquired if the Government is aware that a restaurant train runs from Antwerp via Berlin to Constantinople with unfailing regularity; and, seeing that such railway facilities increase the sources of supply of the enemy, what steps it is proposed to take, by aircraft attack or otherwise, to destroy such connection and interrupt this means of communication.

Mr. FORSTER, in a written reply, stated: I have no reason to doubt the statements made by the hon. member, but it is obviously impossible to give any information as to future military operations.

The Allies and Greece.

Nov. 7.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to Commander Bellairs, said he understood that several military and naval Greek officers who joined M. Venizelos had been dismissed from the service of the Government and deprived of their pension rights. The French and British Governments had meantime informed M. Venizelos that the Allies would not lose sight of the interests of those Greek officials and officers who desired to offer their services to the Provisional Government at Salonika, and that care would be taken that the interests of those officials and officers did not suffer in the future.

Commander BELLAIRS: Has the right hon. gentleman seen a telegram in the *Morning Post* giving specific cases of officers being imprisoned in the common prisons at the Piræus?

Lord R. CECIL: I have heard of the telegram referred to. If M. Venizelos will bring any such cases before the notice of the Governments of the Entente we will be very glad to take any action in our power.

Mr. R. GWYNNE: Has the right hon. gentleman communicated with King Constantine's Government on the subject?

Lord R. CECIL: I should like notice of that.

Mr. PRINGLE: Can the Government not act on the principle that prevention is better than cure?

Lord R. CECIL: I do not know what prevention the hon. member means.

Mr. PRINGLE: The prevention of King Constantine doing it.

Mr. ASHLEY: Will the right hon. gentleman consider the desirability of having nothing more to do with King Constantine?

Lord R. CECIL: I can assure my hon. friend that we desire to take the strongest possible action to prevent any proceedings of this kind.

Lord R. CECIL informed Commander Bellairs that the Allied Governments had no reason as yet to be dissatisfied with the manner in which the Greek authorities were carrying out, in conjunction with the French and British officers designated for the purpose, the pledges in regard to safeguarding the Allied communications. If there should be any reasonable apprehension on the point he presumed the Allied Governments would not hesitate to take effective action; but the House would realize that definite statements as regards the future could not be made except in consultation and agreement with the Allies.

The Serbian Legation at Sofia

Replying to Mr. C. Wason, Lord R. CECIL said:—I understand that the Bulgarian Government not only seized the Serbian Legation house at Sofia, but sold the furniture, confiscated the archives, and arrested and detained as a prisoner of war the former archivist of the Legation, who had been left in charge of the premises. Although his Majesty's Government share the indignation of the Serbian Government at this gross offence against the comity of nations, they nevertheless consider that the treatment of the houses formerly occupied by enemy diplomatic missions in London should rather depend on that accorded to the British Embassy and Legation houses in the enemy capitals. The Bulgarian Government had not so far interfered with the British Legation house at Sofia, though at one time they threatened to requisition it. They subsequently withdrew the threat.

The Greek Tangle.

Nov. 8.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL asked whether, having regard to the fact that wherever a part of the Greek Dominion was under the government of M. Venizelos or his Provisional Government, he was recognised by his Majesty's Government as the ruler of that portion, diplomatic relations had been established between the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos and his Majesty's Government, with full recognition of its status as the Government of an independent and belligerent State, in accordance with the attitude of Great Britain to the Confederate Government in the American Civil War; whether, if such recognition was not accorded to the Greek Provisional Government by his Majesty's Government, while acknowledging its existence, there was any precedent for such a course; and what were the reasons which prevailed with his Majesty's Government for its adoption.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, it is of common occurrence that relations should be opened for purposes of convenience with a *de facto* Government. With regard to the last part, I would refer the hon. member to the debate which took place on this subject on the 31st ult., and I would ask hon. members generally not to put questions that appear as if the attitude towards Greek questions was one in which his Majesty's Government were acting, or were expected by the House to act, alone and independently of their Allies.

Lord R. CECIL, answering Sir E. CORNWALL, who asked for a statement as to the nature and result of the Boulogne Conference so far as it dealt with Greece, said that the Conference showed that there was complete agreement between the two Governments as regards M. Venizelos and Greek policy generally.

Lord R. CECIL, answering Mr. LYNCH, said he must ask the House to be content with the assurance that British troops were landed at Salonika in consequence of an invitation given by the then Greek Government.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Prime Minister whether the proposal to give full recognition to the government of M. Venizelos as the Government of Greece and all the islands had been abandoned; or, if not, whether, in consideration of the dangers of intrigue, espionage, or military or naval aid to the German Emperor, he would announce without delay the recognition of M. Venizelos.

Mr. ASQUITH: As regards the first part of the question, I would refer my hon. friend to a former reply. As regards the second part, I can assure him the Allied Governments are fully alive to the dangers to which he refers. We are in constant consultation with our Allies, and the hon. member will recognise that a public statement can only be made in agreement with the Allies.

The Allies and the Balkans.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked whether steps had yet been taken for the creation in some Allied European capital of a permanent committee, composed of one political and one military delegate from each of the Allied Powers, so as to secure rapid and unanimous decisions with regard to diplomatic measures and military operations in the Balkans.

Mr. ASQUITH: The answer is in the negative. Diplomatic measures and military operations in the Balkans are concerted through the ordinary diplomatic and military channels, supplemented as necessary by political and military conferences.

GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated November 7, reports: A highly placed foreign officer at Salonika states, in an interview published in the *Eleftherios Typos*, "Since the outbreak of war Greece has been in German hands. Pamphlets have been distributed by German agents to all soldiers under treatment in Athens hospitals. The Greek nation does not know that all the Greek public services have long since been placed in Germany's service. The nation is also unaware that German official correspondence is enclosed in the bags of the Greek frontier forces. Does that nation know that a number of German officers, knowing Greek and wearing Greek uniforms, were provided with passes for entering the Allied ranks? The above are not simple episodes, but the result of special orders given in virtue of a secret treaty, of which the nation does not know the existence. Greece is bound by treaty to the Central Powers and the Allies of Turkey and Bulgaria. This document was taken to Athens by Doctors Krauss and Esselberg, who were hidden for four days in an officer's house at Drama and subsequently travelled via Eastern Macedonia under the protection of the Greek authorities."

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The Balkans are still as full of piquant situations as ever they were, and the presence of armed forces representing the might and majesty of most of the European nations does not appear to have interfered seriously with some of the native manners and customs. Thus at one point, which shall be nameless, the time-honoured way of earning your living as a member of a "band"—not of the musical variety—is going very strong indeed. There is a "Royalist" band, a "Rebel" band, a "Francophile" band, and even an "Anglophile" band! These bands, it is hardly necessary to point out, are "political." But there is yet a fifth organisation of the kind, which is frankly non-political, and is run by some enterprising souls who are making a good thing out of smuggling. The correspondent who sends these particulars from the scene of action writes:—"As far as I can make out, all the political bands stalk and kidnap one another on the mountains, and raid each other's villages, but all are shot at by the non-politicals if they interfere with the smuggling." The district is apparently not one that even the most hardened House Agent could describe as a "good residential" one, but it would appear to possess a certain charm for those who thirst for a life of adventure. If I lived there I should certainly be a smuggler, or a non-political, which would give me a four-to-one chance.

Another custom of the country which has not been interfered with to the extent one would expect is the migration of the Kutzo-Vlachs. These interesting folk, as you doubtless know, move down from the hills to the plains each autumn, and apparently it will take more than the War to stop them. At any rate, an officer writing home the other day mentions that on a certain journey, which he made in the pursuit of knowledge of a particular description, he passed through a large body of Kutzo-Vlachs migrating from their summer to their winter quarters. The sight he describes as "most interesting," and he mentions that the "boy children were wearing Christian, Moslem, and Pagan charms against the evil eye." The Vlach, he it noted, is not going to run risks of any serious trouble, though he declines to be put about by such trifles as the presence of strange fighting men and the appearance of many weird engines of war.

Apropos of the references to fishing and sport on the Tigris which appeared in these notes a fortnight ago, I have received the following communication from a correspondent:

Thevenot, the French traveller who in 1664 passed through Baghdad on his way to Persia and India, had something to say about fishing in the Tigris. He descended the river from Mosul in a *kelek*, and at Kizil-Han, a few miles above Tekrit, one of his boatmen hooked a fish above five feet long, with a mouth into which the Frenchman could easily have put his head. Its captor declared that it was only a young one; fish of this sort being commonly much bigger. The Tigris fish that got hold of Tobias, son of Tobit, as related in the "Apocrypha," and would have swallowed the young man had an angel not told him how to land the monster, was doubtless full grown. Mrs. Bishop, when she was in Baghdad, saw strings of donkeys going to the bazaar, each with one of these enormous fish slung across its back. The country about Kizil-Han, Thevenot states was infested with lions, which could be seen going about in flocks like sheep. There are none to be found so high up the river now, but in the days of Tamerlane, Arab historians tell us, five were killed near Tekrit in one day. Thevenot says that the Tigris lions possessed little of the courage of their breed, and that an Arab, if he had no better weapon than a stick, would always go for one, and kill the beast if he could catch him.

My correspondent is well within the mark when he states that no lions are now to be found "so high up the river" as Tekrit. I doubt whether the most careful "beat" of Mesopotamia, Upper and Lower, would put up a single specimen of the king of beasts; for, as a result of personal inquiries while in the country, I was unable to find anyone, native or European, who had seen a real lion wild. One American archaeologist, who was in the Affej marshes in the late eighties, thought he *might* have seen one; but it was in the poor light just before daybreak, and he could not be sure about it. All he knew was that he saw "a big beast on top of a low mound," and that when he waved his arms at it it turned and fled. This would certainly bear out Thevenot's report of the lack of courage of the Mesopotamian lions; but it is unsatisfactory evidence at best, and the "big beast" may have been a hyena, a wolf, or even a stray dog. What is certain is that the Affej Arabs of

to-day have no correct idea of what a lion is like. They called a wild cat which I shot "a lion," and this, though flattering to a would-be big-game hunter, is not valuable testimony to their knowledge of the subject. Similarly, they declined to believe that a boarhound was a dog, and asserted stoutly that it was "a lion."

All this leads me to wonder whether these old Assyrian monarchs, who delighted to have themselves represented in sculptures as slaying lions by the dozen or the score, were, after all, such mighty hunters. If an Arab armed only with a stick would tackle one of these Mesopotamian lions—and here, at least, I am quite ready to accept the old-time traveller's statement; for I myself have seen an Arab lad tackle a big wolf with no better weapon than his *magwarr*, and defeat the brute, too—it can have required no great courage for a monarch, armed with spear, bow and arrow, driven in a chariot, and surrounded by well-armed guards and servants, to risk a similar encounter. Like the Prussians, the Assyrian kings were, in fact, expert advertisers of their own achievements and victories, as Professor Paton pointed out in his remarkable article in the October *Hibbert's Journal*; and in old times their boasting was equalled only by that of their rivals, the vainglorious Pharaohs, who, as Mr. D. G. Hogarth remarks, were given to magnifying: a promenade to the Cataracts into the conquest of the world when it came to recording it for the benefit—or deception—of future generations. CORSAIR.

THE BALKAN LEAGUE.

The story of the various attempts to unite the Balkan peoples into one league, and of the events which led up to the first Balkan war, was the theme of a lecture given by Dr. Seton-Watson at King's College last week. He said that Prince Michael of Serbia endeavoured to bring about a union of Serbia, Montenegro, and Roumania, but his death in 1868 put an end to such schemes; for Milan, who succeeded him, worked in the opposite direction and was a mere agent of Vienna. In 1884 he declined the overtures which came from Bulgaria for a Customs union, and in the following year went to war with her. In 1891 Tricoupis, the famous Greek statesman, put forward a scheme for a joint attack on Turkey by the Christian States of the Balkans, but this was given away by Stambuloff, and the whole thing fell to the ground. In 1907 the endeavour of Serbia to form a customs union with Bulgaria was wrecked by the action of Austria-Hungary. Then, in 1908, came the events of the Young Turkish revolution, and these revived the idea of a Balkan confederation. This time the idea was able to be embodied in the league of Serbia, Greece, and Bulgaria. Reforms were demanded in Macedonia such as it was never expected would be granted, and war followed. At the time it was believed by all the great Powers that the Turks would be rapidly and overwhelmingly victorious, and if this had not been the anticipation, probably the war would not have been allowed to take place at all. Austria, in particular, was glad to see Serbia rushing into a fatal adventure. The Turks, however, proved to be in a state of hopeless disorganisation; the troops they put into the field were a militia without discipline, almost without equipment, often without food, and further weakened by the fact that Christians had been introduced into their ranks.

ARMENIA ON THE SCREEN.

A sad picture of a desolated land was presented by the lantern slides of the lecture on Armenia which Professor Hagopian delivered at Fulham Library last week. The ruined walls of Ani, the capital of an Armenian kingdom which flourished nine hundred years ago, the cathedral of the same city, the monastery of Nareg, and many other fine buildings, showed to what a height architecture and kindred arts had been raised. Ani, said Professor Hagopian, was built in 1010; it passed into the hands of the Byzantines, and was soon after lost to the Seljuk Turks. Its ruin was completed by the Mongols. In recent times it passed into Russian territory. When this happened the Armenians immediately cleared the sanctuary, and began to celebrate the Holy Communion there again. The Christian worship thus revived continues there, and the building has been restored now by French architects. After the destruction of the kingdom, of which Ani was the capital, a lesser Armenia was formed, near the head of the Gulf of Alexandretta. This was the Armenia that was so useful to the Crusaders in the Middle Ages. From the time when, in 302 A.D., Armenia embraced Christianity until now, she had been true to her faith.

PRISONERS FROM KUT.

The Central Prisoners of War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John will be very grateful if all relatives and friends who have received postcards from prisoners taken by the Turks at the fall of Kut, would communicate at once with the Secretary, Central Prisoners of War Committee, 4, Thurlow Place, S.W.

The Committee are extremely anxious to know as soon as possible the names of all such prisoners, as they can then arrange through the Regimental Care Committees for the despatch of parcels of food and clothing.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A GALLIPOLI CASUALTY.*

The author of this book took part in the fighting at Gallipoli, and here records his own experiences of the great campaign with much vividness and force. Regarded as a personal narrative, his book is of real value, for it enables us to enter into the feelings of at least one of the men who went through that terrible experience; and the last chapter helps us to understand what such an one thinks of it all when he has time to think of it collectedly.

Frankly, this last chapter is terribly depressing, and leaves us inclined to think that the Dardanelles Commission was very urgently needed indeed. The author, however, is not a depressing person in his earlier chapters. He "grouses" now and then, it is true—at the quality of the food, the absence of decent smokes, and the non-arrival of parcels. But it is only when he returns to England and runs up against several people, who—we sincerely hope—are not at all representative of the class that usually visits our wounded in hospital, that he permits himself the luxury of a real downright grumble. And then we sympathise with him most heartily. To find the hospital "parson" remarking that "it was really high time the troops left the Peninsula after doing nothing there for the last four months" is surely amazing. No wonder that the author comments: "*Doing nothing!*" Again, is it not pitiable that a man who has been through it all should be able to write:—"That fact that the Suvla and Anzac forces failed in their endeavour should not be detrimental to realisation in this country of the fortitude and endurance shown there in the face of overwhelming odds." The bare fact that it is written does small credit to the imagination—and other qualities—of those whose attitude was responsible for the paragraph.

The description of the conditions amidst which our men "stuck it out" so long in the trenches is very vivid; and though it cannot, naturally, make exhilarating reading, it is enlivened by many touches of real humour. The author's estimate of the Turks as fighters is interesting:—"Taken by surprise, the Turk is a human being; otherwise he is a devil to fight." He records, too, that "the only occasion on which to my knowledge the Turks sent a shell into the Red Cross" was when one of our aeroplanes, partially disabled, descended at the back of one of the hospitals

* "Gallipoli Days and Nights." By Trooper L. McCustra. (Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.)

WORD-FOR-WORD RUSSIAN STORY-BOOK.

WITH INTERLINEAR TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION * * ACCENTED AND ANNOTATED.

By NEVILL FORBES.

NOW READY. * * * 1s. 6d. net.

THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR LANGUAGE.

By Mmc. JARINTZOV.

WITH INTRODUCTION DISCUSSING PRO NUNCIATION AND TRANSLITERATION.

6s. net.

"The right guide at last . . . an invaluable book."—*The Morning Post*.

"The merits of the book are great."—*The Times*.

"The intelligent student of Russian will be fascinated by this clever book."—*The Spectator*.

TWO MONTHS IN RUSSIA, JULY-SEPT., 1914.

By W. MANSELL MERRY.

2s. 6d. net.

"A really capital book of Travel, pleasantly informing and refreshing in its candour."—*The Aberdeen Journal*.

MORE TALES BY POLISH AUTHORS.

Translated by ELSE BENECKE and MARIE BUSCH.

NOW READY. * * * 5s. net.

Sequel to "Tales by Polish Authors."

"A book to be bought and read . . . it cannot fail to be remembered."—*The Contemporary Review*.

B. H. BLACKWELL, OXFORD.

on the beach. Apparently he did not form a high opinion of the Greeks on the Peninsula, for he writes:—"Luckily we had no Greeks at Suvla. There I suppose the authorities had heard the new rendering of 'Timeo Danaos . . .': 'I fear the Greeks, even when running canteens.'"

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. have published "*A Balkan Freebooter*" (7s. 6d. net), by Jas. Gordon.

Messrs. Kegan Paul have published "*A Little Serbian Phrase Book*," compiled by E. Chivers Davies. (6d. net.)

In view of the present struggle in Mesopotamia, a brief description of the ancient empire of that land is of much interest. In "*Ancient Assyria*," which Messrs. Black have just issued in their popular "Peeps" series, the object aimed at is to give a clear and simple picture of the country, the civilisation and the spirit of what was probably the greatest nation of the ancient world. The "*Land Between the Rivers*" is first sketched, and the story of the resurrection of its ancient cities is then told. Subsequent chapters describe Assyrian city life, royal sport, and the merciless warfare of this great robber nation, and, finally, the books and legends of the Assyrians and Babylonians are dealt with, the chief legends being told in detail. The book is illustrated with photographs of sculptures in the British Museum and with sketches in colour.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Peeps at Many Lands: Ancient Assyria. By the Rev. James Baikie. (Black. 1s. 6d. net.)

Word for Word Russian Story Book. By Nevill Forbes. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1s. 6d. net.)

SERBIAN ARCHITECTURE AND POETRY.

Last Saturday, at King's College, London, the Rev. Father Nicholas Velimirovitch showed a number of lantern slides illustrative of Serbian architecture, and told some quaint old stories and legends. With regard to the latter, he said that the Serbian bard who recounts them accompanies himself on the gusler, and usually concludes: "God only can know if these things were so, but, my brothers, it makes us rejoice."

Mediaeval Serbian architecture, he pointed out, was in a quieter and more reposeful style than that of the West. To him Gothic architecture spoke of crucifixion, while Eastern styles suggested thoughts of the Resurrection. The Serbian churches were usually built in courses of red brick and white stone—in some of the finest in courses of red and white marble—were circular, not cruciform, and were surmounted by domes, not steeples. In their decoration very little use was made of the figures of plants or animals; imaginative geometrical designs, and tracery were used instead, as in the Byzantine and Moorish styles. The style of the paintings with which they were adorned was not so stiff as that of the Byzantine painters, nor so free and realistic as that of Raphael or the other great painters of the West. Of the Serbian poetry one feature was the friendly feeling towards plants and animals. This was shown in the following dirge by a lover over the woman he was to have married, but who died on the way to the church and was buried in the forest: "Oh thou shady forest be not frightful to her. Oh, black earth, be not heavy over her. Thou chaming pine-tree, let thy branches grow longer to make a cool shadow for my bride; and thou cuckoo bird do not wake her early: let her rest under the earth." The Serbian folklore showed that of all vices ingratitude was the most condemned. There was a story of a mother and nine unthankful sons. After she had brought them up and found wives for them, they said to her: "Our mother, thou art our shame; thy ugliness frightens our guests; therefore, go from here." She went weeping and broken-hearted, but in the forest met an angel, who bade her return. She did so, to find in place of the nine sons and their wives, nine stones and nine snakes creeping over the stones.

The poetry of war and valour has no finer example than Lord Tennyson's sonnet on Montenegro which first appeared so many years ago in the *Nineteenth Century*. King Nicholas of Montenegro having recently expressed a desire for a copy of this wonderful expression of Montenegrin character and history, Sir J. Roper Parkington, the Consul-General for Montenegro, and Chairman of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, has sent on to his Majesty a complete edition of Tennyson's poems, containing the sonnet which is the source of so much admiration in the Royal household and amongst the sorely distressed peoples of the Land of the Black Mountain.

A new series of the war charity stamps, called "*Timbru de ajutor*," or aid stamps, is being prepared in Roumania, says the *Daily Telegraph*. These stamps are sold at a premium, the extra amount over the ordinary postal value going to a fund for the assistance of refugees and the dependents of Roumanian soldiers. The first three stamps in the new series will depict a Roumanian woman spinning, and will be of the denominations 5 bani, black; 10 bani, red-brown; and 50 bani, blue. On the 1 leu, red, and the 2 lei, chestnut, a hemp-dresser will be shown at work; and on the 5 lei, lilac, and 50 lei, orange, will be represented the Roumanian standard, forest met an angel, who bade her return. She did so to find in Tennyson's Sonnet on Montenegro which first appeared

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Nov.	1916. Oct.		1335 Moharrem	5677. Hesvan
10	28	Friday	14	14
11	29	Saturday	15	15
12	30	Sunday	16	16
13	31	Monday	17	17
14	Nov.			
15	1	Tuesday	18	18
16	2	Wednesday ..	19	19
	3	Thursday	20	20

By order of the Tsar the Russian officer who is attached to the Roumanian General Headquarters has presented to the Queen and the Princesses Elizabeth and Marie the medal of St. George, in recognition of the services rendered by them in the hospitals during the air raids by German airmen.

Under date of the 3rd inst., Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—The following official communiqué has been issued by the Montenegrin Legation: "The King of Montenegro, accompanied by Colonel Le Roy-Lewis, Military Attaché at the British Embassy, and M. Delaroché-Vernet, French Minister to Montenegro, with the members of his suite, has paid a four-days visit to the British front. His Majesty, who was delighted with the journey and the reception accorded him, expressed the greatest admiration for the gallant British troops. The King conferred on General Sir Douglas Haig the highest military distinction of Montenegro, namely, the Obilitch gold medal, and also bestowed Montenegrin decorations on British officers and men who had particularly distinguished themselves during the recent fighting."

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (October 26):—I understand that the engagement will very shortly be announced of one of the daughters of H.H. the Sultan to one of the first-class Mudirs in Lower Egypt, who will then be appointed to an important post in Cairo.

Prince Andrew of Greece arrived in Copenhagen from Berlin on Monday evening.

News has been received at the offices of the Jerusalem and the East Mission that the Bishop in Jerusalem, Bishop MacInnes, and his family arrived safely at Port Said on Monday evening.

Colonel Sir J. Roper Parkington, Montenegrin Consul-General, has disposed of the lease of 58, Green Street, Park Lane, and is now residing at Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, where all private communications should now be addressed.

Madame Slavko Grouitch is expected to return to England shortly from the United States.

Dr. F. G. Clemow, C.M.G., who recently left this country in charge of two hospital units to help the Serbian forces operating in the Dobruja, arrived safely in Odessa at the end of September. His friends will be glad to learn that he was then quite well. A telegram received on Tuesday from Dr. Clemow states that the units are temporarily established in a hospital at Galatz. Having visited the Dobruja front, Dr. Clemow found the requirements of the 1st Serbian Division fully supplied, and is, therefore, taking Roumanian wounded, as they are numerous and not so well provided for.

General Sir C. Monro, the Commander-in-Chief in India, who on his appointment proceeded direct to the Persian Gulf, arrived in Bombay on the 2nd inst. from Mesopotamia.

General Sir John Maxwell left London for Dublin last Friday.

Last Saturday the *Morning Post* announced that General Maxwell was about to relinquish the Irish Command, which he had held since the rebellion at Easter, and that he was to be succeeded by General Sir Bryan Mahon. This announcement was confirmed on Monday, when the Secretary of the War Office issued the following for publication:—"The King has approved of the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan Mahon, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., to be General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Forces in Ireland, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., who is being appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command."

At the same time it was announced:—"His Majesty has been pleased to confer the distinction of Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath on Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell." The bestowal of this honour will cause sincere pleasure to Sir John Maxwell's many friends and admirers both in this country and in Egypt, as marking the official recognition of the splendid service he has rendered in a position of extraordinary difficulty. That service was all the more remarkable because at the time when he went to Ireland General Maxwell was not in the best of health—there was, in fact, a prospect of his undergoing an operation; and Lady Maxwell's serious illness might also have been regarded as a sufficient reason for his wishing to be free from care and responsibility at the time. General Maxwell, however, is not the man to turn a deaf ear to the call of duty, and he answered it on this occasion as promptly as he had always answered it before, to the great benefit of his country.

Like General Maxwell, Sir Bryan Mahon, his successor in Ireland, is well known in Egypt and the Sudan. He served with the Egyptian Army from 1893 to 1900; took part in the Dongola Expedition (1896), when he won the D.S.O., and served in the Nile Expedition of '97, '98, and '99. From 1901 to 1904 he was Military Governor of Kordofan. He has also seen much service in India and in South Africa, while his services in the present war will be too fresh in the memory of our readers to require recapitulation.

It is proposed by some friends of the late Lieutenant-Colonel O. Fitzgerald, personal military secretary to Lord Kitchener, to institute some permanent tribute to his memory, and it is suggested that a fund should be raised privately for the foundation of a scholarship at Wellington College, his old school. Lord Derby is chairman of the committee. Donations may be sent to the Hon. Mrs. Maguire, 3, Cleveland Square, St. James's, S.W. (who is also acting as hon. secretary), or to Messrs. Boulton Bros., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Baron de Kusel has arrived in London on his return from Egypt.

The departure for Egypt of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross and Miss Ross, who are accompanied by Miss Rea Ross, has been unavoidably postponed. They are for the present at Bournemouth.

General Roques, the French Minister of War, arrived at Salonika at the beginning of the week.

Mr. George Boncescu, Commercial Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from France.

We notice that Captain George E. Whittall, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, has been mentioned in despatches (under the heading of "desire to bring to special notice") of General Sir Percy Lake, K.C.M.G. This is the third time that Captain Whittall has been mentioned in despatches, having been recommended on two former occasions by Sir John Nixon, K.C.M.G. Captain Whittall was invalided to Bombay with an attack of paratyphoid, from which, however, he has recovered, but he is still in quarantine. We learn also that he has been

offered a staff appointment at Bombay, which he will take up as soon as his health permits.

News has been received in London this week that a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leavitt in Constantinople on September 4.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Glasgow on Saturday, November 11, between Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Liddell, D.S.O., Inspector-General of Telegraphs, Cairo, son of the late Captain J. Liddell, R.N., of Rodlease, Lymington, and Theresa, elder daughter of Paul Rottenburg, Esq., LL.D., Glasgow.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (October 23):—The marriage of Mr. Russel, King's Advocate, with Miss Gordon took place at Papho, the civil ceremony being in the office of the Commissioner, and the religious service in the house of Captain Fleury, Acting Commissioner.

It was announced in the official casualty list last Friday that Lieutenant-Colonel Adrian Carton de Wiart, V.C., D.S.O., Dragoon Guards, attached Gloucester Regiment, has been wounded again. He was awarded the V.C. last month for "most conspicuous bravery, coolness and determination during severe operations of a prolonged nature. It was owing in a great measure to his dauntless courage and inspiring example that a serious reverse was averted." Lieutenant-Colonel Carton de Wiart has seen much active service. He was twice wounded in South Africa; in Somaliland in June, 1914, he lost an eye; and while serving in Flanders he lost his left hand.

The *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports (November 3) from Bucharest:—The British Vice-Consul at Constantza, Mr. A. A. Adams, has arrived safely at Odessa on board a British steamer after a narrow escape from the incoming Germans and Bulgarians. The enemy mounted batteries on the shore at the moment of their arrival at Constantza and fired on the steamer, which they fortunately failed to hit. While on the way to Odessa the steamer was attacked unsuccessfully by a German submarine.

At St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, last week, the banners, swords, helmets, and mantles of Lord Kitchener and Lord Abergavenny were taken down, and those of Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the Duke of Devonshire, and Lord Hardinge were subsequently put up in the Choir.

Dr. Robert Brindle, D.S.O., Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, who was present at the battles outside Suakim in 1884, and served under Lord Kitchener in the Khar-toum Expedition in 1898, and who died on June 27 last at Sheffield, left estate of the gross value of £22,254.

A Red Cross Unit organised by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John is leaving for Roumania this week. This unit is a gift from the miners of Great Britain, who voted funds to meet the expenses of its formation and equipment. There will be four ambulances and one touring car. The unit will be in charge of Dr. O'Leary, and the other members of the personnel will be:—Surgeons.—Mr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, F.R.C.S. (Edin.); Mr. D. C. L. Fitzwilliams, F.R.C.S. (Edin. and Eng.); Mr. T. Scott Shepherd, F.R.C.S.; Dental Surgeon, Mr. M. Warrack. Nursing Staff.—Miss E. Sheriff-MacGregor (matron), Miss H. M. Coleman, Miss F. E. Barrow, Miss E. Hyde, Miss F. E. Jacobs. Cooks.—Miss E. Barber and Mrs. M. J. Condon. Orderlies.—Messrs. R. Douglas, F. E. Gunn, C. Bingham, S. H. Smith, C. Ruggles, R. Price (secretary and storekeeper), S. D. Neal (radiographer), and J. C. Neville (carpenter). Transport Officer.—Mr. T. E. Preston Gardner. Drivers.—Messrs. E. N. Lawley, C. V. Deakin, L. Dyer, L. R. Parsons, and R. Lapworth. The cars, together with 120 tons of stores and supplies, are being sent in advance of the staff from the Red Cross Headquarters, 83, Pall Mall, S.W.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (October 22):—Mr. Fenn, of the Financial Department, is acting Chief Secretary to Government during the absence on leave of Captain Orr.

It is notified in the *London Gazette* that the King has granted authority for the wearing of the following decorations:—

Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Italy (conferred by the King of Italy).—Vice-Admiral Sir A. H. Limpus, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Second Class of the Order of the Nile (conferred by the Sultan of Egypt).—Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, Consulting Agriculturist.

Third Class of the Order of the Nile.—Mr. W. Littlewood, Director of the Veterinary Service.

Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile.—Mr. L. H. Gough, Entomologist; Mr. W. Cartwright, Inspector; Mr. F. E. Mason, Sub-Director of the Veterinary Service; and Mr. T. W. Brown, Director of the Horticultural Section.

The grade of Commander of the Nile has been posthumously bestowed by the Sultan on the late Miralai Snow Bey, formerly Director of the Western Districts of the Egyptian Coastguards Administration.

Mr. H. A. Humphreys, formerly of the Survey Department, Egyptian Government, has been made a Commander of the Nile on the occasion of his retirement.

The *Sudan Times* announces that Bimbashi R. G. MacLaine, Camel Corps, has been transferred to the 13th Sudanese, and Bimbashi D. H. Thorburn, 3rd Battalion, has been transferred to the 10th Sudanese.

At a levée held on the second day of the Kourban Bairam at the Palace, Khartoum, the Governor-General of the Sudan announced that the Sultan of Egypt had been pleased to confer the following honours:—

The Order of the Nile (Second Class) on Lewa M. Coutts Pasha, Director of Stores and Prisoners, S.G.; Lewa E. C. Midwinter Pasha, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager, S.G. Railways; and Lewa M. R. Kennedy Pasha, C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Works, S.G.

The Order of the Nile (Third Class) on Dr. Chalmers, Director of the Welcome Research Laboratories, Gordon College; Dr. E. S. Crispin, Director of the Sudan Medical Department; Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education; Mr. R. H. Dun, Advocate-General; Miralai H. D. Pearson Bey, Director of Surveys, S.G.; and Miralai E. O. A. Newcombe Bey, Traffic Manager, S.G. Railways.

The Order of the Nile (Fourth Class) on Kaimakam D. S. B. Thomson Bey, Kaimakam P. C. Lord Bey, Kaimakam F. J. Atterbury Bey, Bimbashi R. Chenevix Trench, Mr. A. P. Bolland, Mr. T. J. Morris, Mr. (temporary Captain) H. Claxton, Mr. E. W. Drummond Hay, Mr. R. Hewison, Mr. F. J. Osborne, Mr. C. F. Ryder, and Mr. C. H. Walker.

Under date of the 5th inst., Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports:—The Swiss Confederation has created the Legation at Bucharest which has been contemplated for some time past. M. Gustave Boissier, formerly First Secretary of the Swiss Legation in Paris, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires. The Roumanian public views with much satisfaction the establishment of serious diplomatic relations with Switzerland, which has hitherto been represented at Bucharest only by a Consulate.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
Σχολή Γαλλῶν. Διδασκαλία συστηματική.
Διερμηνεία κ.λ.π. Διδασκτρ μέτρια.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

OBITUARY.**PRINCE MIRCEA OF ROUMANIA.**

A Reuter's telegram received in London last Friday announced the death of Prince Mircea of Roumania the previous day. As reported in these columns last week, the little Prince had been suffering from typhoid fever, and though the illness was at first stated to be taking a normal course, his condition gave rise to great anxiety. Very sincere sympathy is felt for the King and Queen of Roumania in their great loss, not only in their own country but by the peoples of all the Allied nations, where Roumania's gallant fight against her powerful enemies has aroused intense admiration, and where King Ferdinand's conduct in putting aside all thoughts of family ties and associations, and in completely identifying himself with the aims and aspirations of his people have won him unbounded respect and admiration. In this country the sympathy is quickened by the fact that Queen Marie is of British extraction and that her love of England and the English has never been in question.

Prince Mircea was born on January 3, 1913 (December 21, 1912, o.s.), and was thus not quite four years old. He was the third son and the sixth child of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie.

A requiem service was celebrated on Friday at Bucharest, in the presence of the Royal Family and members of the Court. On Saturday morning the funeral took place, very quietly at the Palace of Cotroceni, where the body of the Prince was interred in the Palace Chapel in the presence of the Royal Family, State dignitaries, Allied and neutral Ministers, and the military missions of the Allies.

The Roumanian Court has gone into mourning for three months.

CAPT. L. H. KING-HARMAN, R.H.A.

Captain Lawrence Hope King-Harman, R.H.A., attached Royal Flying Corps, who has been killed on active service, was the elder son of Sir Charles Anthony King-Harman, K.C.M.G., formerly High Commissioner of Cyprus, and Lady King-Harman. His grandfather on his mother's side was General Sir Robert Biddulph, who served in the Crimean War. He was H.M. Commissioner, Constantinople, in 1879, and High Commissioner of Cyprus from 1879 to 1886. Captain King-Harman was born in 1889, and educated at Bradfield College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He obtained his commission in the R.F.A. in July, 1909, and joined his battery in India. In June, 1915, he was selected for the R.H.A., and took part in the Mohmand Expedition on the North-West Frontier, for gallant conduct in which he was mentioned in despatches. Early in this year he responded to a call for volunteers for training as observers in the Royal Flying Corps in India, and proceeded to the front in June last, attached to that branch of the service. On arrival at the front he was placed in temporary command of a field battery, and rejoined the R.F.C. shortly before his death. He was killed in an accident while flying on October 26.

Egyptian papers received by the last mail contain the announcement of the death of Mr. Frederick William Cuming, head of the firm of Cuming and Co., of Alexandria and Cairo. Mr. Cuming had been in very indifferent health for some time, and his death, which took place in Cairo on October 18, was not unexpected. He belonged to an English family established for many years in Constantinople, and settled in Egypt in 1902. He was forty-one years old.

A Bucharest message states that the celebrated Slav poet, Svetozar Hurban Vajansky, has died. He had served two years in prison for an anti-Magyar article.

A Cairo correspondent informs us that the real name of the Grand Shereef of Mecca's Agent in Cairo is Mohammed Shereef Bey El Faruky. The name "Omar" was assumed by the Bey when he left the Turkish army, and he retained it until he was definitely appointed as the Agent of the Grand Shereef.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

GREIG.—On October 28, at Salonika, the wife of Temp. Lieut. Charles Alexis Greig, of his Majesty's Consular Service in the Near East—a daughter.

SPARKS.—On October 19, the wife of F. T. Sparks, Heliopolis, of a son.

DEATHS.

ELDRIDGE.—On October 30, at Canea, Crete, suddenly, Edmund J. Eldridge, Acting British Vice-Consul, son of the late George Jackson Eldridge, C.M.G.

SPARKES.—On November 5, at Streatham Hill, Thomas Camps Sparkes, late superintendent, P. and O. S.N. Co., Egypt, after a long and patiently-borne illness, aged 71.

WHERE TO STAY.**Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.****SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.**

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: **AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.**

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.55; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL, Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine.

Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: **LIMASSOL.** All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1916.

THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER OF EGYPT.

The appointment of General Sir Reginald Wingate as High Commissioner of Egypt does not come as a surprise. Sir Henry McMahon's tenure of office was known to be of a temporary nature. As a former Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, a man of proved sympathy with the Moslem world, a tried diplomatist and a capable administrator, he had special qualifications for the Cairo post, and during the past two years his political experience has enabled him to carry out with marked success the work which devolved on the representative of his Majesty's Government as a result of the change in the status of Egypt. The menace of a Turco-German attack on the Suez Canal kept the hands of the military authorities full, and the High Commissioner was left to deal with the many administrative problems which the new order entailed. Now that the danger of any large enemy force being able to threaten the safety of Egypt has been eliminated, it becomes possible to adjust British representation in the country to the changed conditions. For obvious reasons martial law must remain until the end of the war, if only as a check to the recrudescence of enemy intrigue. But it is desirable that the military and civil régimes should be so dovetailed one within the other as to secure the smoothest possible running of the Government machinery. Considerable advantages are to be expected, therefore, from the appointment as High Commissioner of an administrator with the military prestige of General Wingate. His peculiar knowledge of Egyptian affairs and his great personal popularity among Egyptians will relieve him of the suspicion that he might allow the country's interests to be subordinated to any unnecessary misgivings in the military mind; his record as Sirdar will give the military authorities the fullest confidence in his judgment on all military matters. There is, moreover, further ground for welcoming an eminent soldier to the post of High Commissioner at the present moment. Egypt has acquired added importance during the war; her influence has become extended west, south, and east. That influence, it is true, will always be exerted for peace; but by choosing as British representative a general whose name comes next to the late Lord Kitchener's as a household word among widely scattered native populations the Imperial Government has adopted the surest way of attaining the peace that it desires.

There is a double fitness in Sir Reginald Wingate's assumption of the post of British Representative at Cairo. He follows a brief but distinguished tradition, which has caused the Sudan to be regarded as a successful training ground both for Egypt and other spheres. At the same time the Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan has established for himself special claims on the promotion now accorded him, and there can be little doubt that he would have succeeded Lord Kitchener directly, if the exigencies of the war had not rendered his undivided attention in the Sudan necessary. The recently published despatch on the Darfur operations is a reminder of one aspect of the work which Sir Reginald Wingate has had to perform. From

a military point of view, especially at this time of world conflict, the expedition was of minor importance; but it called for the exercise of two qualities which are a criterion of military ability—a readiness to accept responsibility and swiftness of execution, combined with thoroughness. These qualifications will stand the new High Commissioner in good stead. The Sudan, however, testifies quite as eloquently to his capacity for administration as to his success as a soldier. Nineteen years have not yet elapsed since the Battle of Omdurman; but in this short period the country has both accustomed itself to settled government and acquired a firm appreciation of its advantages. No severer test could have been imposed upon its loyalty than the outbreak of the war between Turkey and Great Britain and the determined efforts of Turco-German agents to proclaim a *jihad* throughout the Moslem world. Those efforts, as we know, met with no response in the Sudan, with the exception of the belated rising on the part of the Sultan of Darfur. It will not have been overlooked that in practically all the protestations of loyalty to the British connection that were received from the notables and people of the country in the earlier stages of the war reference was made to the feelings of devotion entertained towards the person of the Governor-General. There can be no question that the Sudanese realised what they owed to the exercise of Sir Reginald Wingate's personal interest in the country committed to his charge. From the first he had taken the people into his confidence, both in regard to the extent of the war area and to the possibility of Turkey being implicated. When war was declared against the latter a great gathering of notables was convened at Khartoum to discuss the new development, and other meetings were addressed by the Governor-General. He decided that it was not enough that the Sudanese should be actuated by a spirit of loyalty, but that there should be no room for the least misunderstanding in regard to the origin and issues of the war. Under a less conscientious administrator, or one not possessing Sir Reginald Wingate's intimate knowledge of the country and people, the Sudan might not have preserved so easily its equanimity during the war.

Whatever arrangements may ultimately be made in regard to the Sudan—it will not always be easy to find a soldier to combine the duties of Sirdar and Governor-General—Sir Reginald Wingate's appointment to Cairo will not deprive the country of his personal interest nor, in view of the near relationship between it and Egypt, materially affect for the present the closeness of his touch with it. Rather we may expect that the popularity which the Sirdar has gained in the Sudan will bespeak for him similar prestige in Egypt itself and be a lively factor in promoting both Egyptian and Imperial interests in the Land of the Nile. In the new High Commissioner the Sultan has a personal friend whose co-operation and advice he can be relied upon to welcome eagerly at a time when the responsibilities of Egypt are increasing. The war has revealed the danger of leaving the countries bordering upon Egypt too much to their own devices. Such a policy is a testimony to the non-aggressive character of British rule in Egypt; but it has proved in the long run unfortunate for the Senussi, the Sultan of Darfur and the ruler of Abyssinia. Although it has been found necessary to incorporate Darfur in the country to which it properly belonged, there can be no desire to extend Egyptian jurisdiction in general. Common prudence suggests, however, that the neighbouring peoples should be brought to realise that their interests are linked up with the maintenance of good relations with Egypt, and that they cannot be allowed to become a forcing ground for intrigues against the British Empire. It is to be hoped, therefore, that before Sir Henry McMahon hands over the High Commissionership to his successor at the end of next month he will have found time to evolve solutions for the major political problems which a protectorate over Egypt presents, and will leave Sir Reginald Wingate the greater liberty for adjusting the relationships between the Egyptian or the Sudan Government and the adjacent territories—a work for which his personal prestige in the native world makes him peculiarly well fitted.

THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN IN THE CAUCASUS AND THE TURKISH COUNTER-STROKE.

IV.*

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The third and last sector in which the Turkish counter-attack in the end of July and beginning of August was made is referred to in the reports under the names of Ognut and Kighi, and it was here that the most obstinate and sanguinary fighting occurred.

Ognut is a village some 60 miles south of Erzeroum, in a direct line almost to Diarbekr, and the operations here are, as in the case of Mush, occasionally referred to as being "in the direction of" that place. Ognut lies in the valley of one of the tributaries of the Murad, and 30 or 40 miles further to the west is Kighi, on the head waters of another tributary, at the foot of the high ranges that run east and west between Erzeroum and Erzincan. The two places are so frequently mentioned together that the operations in their neighbourhood would seem to constitute an entirely separate thrust, connected with that at Mush, but independent of it, and probably under a different command. The natural base for an expedition to Kighi would be the important city of Kharput, whence an easy road leads up the valley of the Murad as far as Palu. Ognut might be reached by way of Diarbekr, but there are some indications that when the Turks were pressed back from that place their line of retreat was towards Kighi, to the west: and it is possible, therefore, that the whole of the Turkish forces employed in this region moved from Kharput as their starting-point. Similarly, on the Russian side a comparison of dates shows that the troops employed were independent of those operating about Mush, and it may reasonably be concluded that they were detached from the army guarding the main line of communications at Erzeroum rather than from the troops operating in the Lake Van plateau. There was no news of military operations in this neighbourhood till August 1, but since then fighting has been incessant, and the crests and passes have been the scenes of sanguinary conflicts, in which victory has inclined now to one side, now to the other. The official reporters, following a system that has now become universal, have ignored the failures and magnified the successes of the side they represent.

At Ognut the Russians claimed on August 3 to have driven the Turks out of strong positions at the point of the bayonet, and to have captured prisoners and guns. The Turks admitted a slight withdrawal, but only as the result of five days' heavy fighting, which had cost the Russians a loss of 3,000 men in dead alone. The Turks had certainly not been broken; by the end of the month they had been reinforced, and a fiercely contested battle followed, in which their troops swept through the lines of a Turkestan regiment and temporarily captured its guns. The Russians rallied, retook the guns, and drove back the enemy with great losses, which, if the tales of prisoners could be believed, included one divisional general killed and one wounded. The Commander of the 2nd Turkish Army Corps was also reported to have been either killed or severely wounded. The Russians pressed on to the west of Ognut; but the prisoners had probably exaggerated, as prisoners do, the casualties in the Turkish higher command: and it is clear that neither the resources nor the spirit of the Turks were exhausted. A week later they attacked in force, and the continuance of desperate fighting was admitted by the Russians, while the Turks claimed to have repulsed all attacks made on them "with extraordinary losses." During the same period fighting of a minor character was in

progress at Kighi, where both sides claimed victories, with the capture of men and material. The general result was, however, favourable to the Russians, and the Turks fell back gradually to the south-west of that place. A feature of the fighting in this neighbourhood which calls for notice was the intense activity of hostile Kurds. To the west of the Erzeroum-Diarbekr road the Kurds differ in many respects from the tribesmen near Lake Van. They speak a different dialect; they follow a different religion. Nominally Mohammedans, they reject many Mohammedan precepts; their religion includes traces of Christian influence and relics of pagan observances. In the mountain fastnesses west of Kighi they long maintained a rugged independence, and the establishment of Turkish authority was a tedious and difficult process. Even then the rule of the Turk sat lightly on the mountaineers, but they would seem to have rallied to his side at the approach of a more powerful enemy, whose success would more quickly bring about the enforcement of law and order. Their hostility may in the long run give more trouble than the organised opposition of regular troops.

The most that can be said of the operations in this sector is that after sanguinary fighting the Turkish offensive has been definitely checked, and, in the circumstances, at this season a check is equivalent to defeat. The main avenues of approach from Ognut and Kighi to Erzeroum lead over a pass some 9,000 ft. above sea level; and while the winter lasts the menace of an advance of the Turks in this direction is reduced to very small proportions. It will be interesting to see whether the Russians decide to maintain their positions south of the pass or to withdraw nearer to Erzeroum. If they should announce a retirement "for strategic reasons," we may for once accept that discredited phrase as meaning no more than it says.

It is only by this piecing together of reports and by reference to the maps that some idea, however imperfect, may be gained of the intention and results of recent operations in Armenia, and especially of the strong counter-offensive on which the Turks embarked in July. The intention was, by a threat against the enemy's communication between the Russian frontier and Erzeroum, to oblige him to weaken his forces on the main line of operations in Northern Armenia; the result was almost everywhere failure. In only one direction did the counter-stroke lead to a definite advantage which the Turks have been able up to the present to maintain. In Persia they were repulsed, and one of their columns was shattered. Desultory fighting still continues there; but the Russians are too firmly established to give any chance of a successful attack in that quarter. On the west, in the country of the Murad and its tributaries, the Turks have been held back until the approach of winter has deprived them of all hope of seriously menacing the Russians' communications, even should the latter now retire towards Erzeroum. Only in the centre, where the Turks still maintain their hold on Bitlis, have they secured a definite advantage. Their position there may be compared to the possession of a bridge-head on the enemy's side of a river. Their communications are better than the Russians', they can draw supplies from the plains, and can, if necessary, be reinforced and munitioned by way of the railhead at Nisibin. The retention by them of Bitlis constitutes a standing menace to the Russian occupation of the country round Lake Van, and we must hope that ere long news of the recapture of this place may be received.

Speculation on the future of military movements is an interesting but unprofitable occupation; for the speculator, looking at his maps, is almost invariably wrong, unless specially skilled in the gentle art of hedging. The result of the summer's campaign, if

* Previous articles of this series appeared in THE NEAR EAST of October 27 and November 3.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE
AND

NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

Digitized by Google

these jottings have correctly interpreted it, has been to leave the Russians free to continue their forward movement in the main theatre of operations, unhampered for the next five months by any serious fear of organised attack on their communications. How far they are in sufficient force to break through the Turkish forces directly opposed to them is a point on which no information is available. Both Russia and Turkey have heavy commitments on other fronts, and either may at any time be obliged to weaken its forces to an extent that may affect the whole situation. For both parties, but especially for the Russians, the question of supply may well prove to be the determining factor. The difficulty of maintaining large forces in an inhospitable country at an ever-increasing distance from their base must be immense; and their progress must be dependent on their power of overcoming this obstacle. They will no doubt use their command of the sea to secure fresh bases of supply as their advance proceeds. At present their right wing on the Black Sea coast is pushing steadily forward, keeping a little in advance of the left near Erzinjan. It has now occupied the line of the Karshut river, which flows into the sea near Tireboli, but there does not appear to be any good road to the interior until Kerasund, forty miles further west, is reached. From Kerasund a fairly direct road, which could probably be improved, leads south to Kara Hissar, north-east of Enderes. The possession of this road would facilitate supply, and further west still better lines of communication between the coast and the interior will be available. At present, however, the most westerly point reached by the main Russian advance is sixty miles from Kara Hissar, and if the resistance of the Turks continues to be as obstinate as it has been in the past, we must not look for the early capture of that place.

Meanwhile the Russian Fleet maintains a close surveillance over the various port towns. Raids have been made far to the west on Samsun, Sinope, and Ereoli, and recently Tireboli has been bombarded from the sea. As the advance proceeds, we may look for a continuance

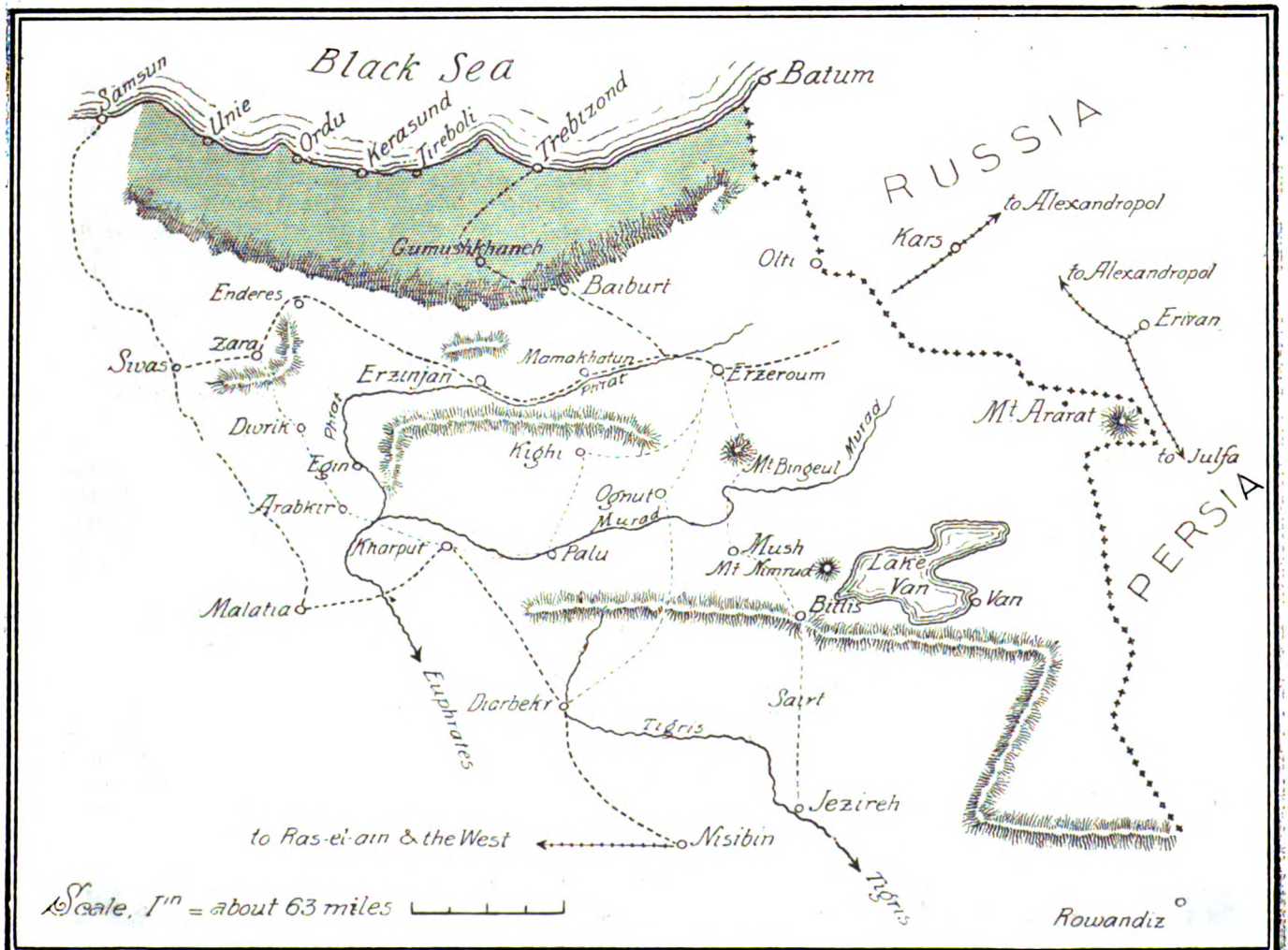
of this close co-operation between the fleet and the army. Without the command of the sea the Russians would find it difficult to maintain the positions they have occupied, and the continuance of their advance would become impossible.

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND.

In a letter appealing for support for the above fund, Lord Lamington, the Chairman of the Committee, writes — "The Committee trust that the response will be prompt and generous. With the funds in their hands they have already given instructions for purchases of goods in India, which it is hoped will very shortly be distributed; but much is required to provide comforts approximately adequate to the needs of our men. The Committee understand that the difficulties of transport up-country have been largely overcome, and every month will mark an improvement in this respect. Articles sent by the Committee will have the advantage of being forwarded under the supervision and with the assistance of the military authorities on the spot, and will be conveyed by the regular steamers that go up the river constantly. Thus, if the public afford the Committee the means of creating the supply they may be confident that the comforts will reach those for whom they are intended, and by whom they are sorely needed."

We earnestly hope that the appeal will meet with a prompt and generous response. Our men in Mesopotamia have felt that they have been badly neglected in the matter of "comforts," and it is impossible to avoid the belief that they have had some reason for so feeling. Yet, if ever troops deserved well of their country, those of our Mesopotamian Force certainly do. They have worked and fought under conditions that cannot be conceived by those unacquainted with the country and its climate; and everyone who has had the opportunity of judging is loud in praise of their conduct throughout. The British public has now an opportunity of showing its appreciation of the efforts that have been made by this force, and it can hardly be doubted that it will gladly avail itself of that opportunity.

The Rev. T. R. Hodgson, who has been agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Constantinople for a quarter of a century and has remained at his post there ever since the war began, writes:—Our Bible work goes quietly on, so far as I can keep in touch with it. Our colporteurs here, and in Bulgaria, are working quietly and steadily, with quite encouraging results.



SKETCH MAP SHOWING FIELD OF RUSSIAN OPERATIONS.
(The shaded portion indicates area in which the ranges run mostly North and South.)

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Allies and M. Venizelos.

A view of the puzzling situation in Greece which is often lost sight of is put forward by the *Spectator* in an article, "M. Venizelos and King Constantine." Referring to the charge that the Allies have played M. Venizelos false, the *Spectator* says:—

We are bound to express our opinion that the autocratic persecutions of the King are no sort of evidence that the Allies have been unfaithful to M. Venizelos. Is it, or is it not, true that the best way to help a man is to help him in the manner he himself desires? Surely it is true. In that case the Allies are right to be guided by the obvious desire of M. Venizelos that no disabling blow should be struck at the Greek monarchy. We do not pretend to knowledge of any official secrets. We are simply judging by the information sent from Greece to the newspapers, which is all to the same effect—that M. Venizelos wishes to keep the Greek dynasty in existence. In recognising the King's Government the Allies are therefore only doing what M. Venizelos has all along hoped that they would do. Of course, if the King takes this recognition as a sign that he is free to attack the Venizelists he is making a vast mistake, and the Allies must prove to him most plainly and at once that such conduct will not be tolerated. But to say this is not to admit that the King's excesses are any evidence of insufficient regard on the part of the Allies for M. Venizelos. The mistake is the King's, it is not that of the Allies. Error can be charged against the Allies only if they fail to insist that the arrested officers and Civil Servants must be released forthwith. The King, in fact, had promised not to interfere with the personal liberty of any man to attach himself to the National Government. He must be held absolutely to his word.

Later, the article expresses the opinion that M. Venizelos probably believes that "it would be an unwise policy to unseat the ruling House. Very likely he is right."

Small nations, where gossip about officials is contained in too small a compass and is too intimate to be harmless, are most easily ruled by Kings or Princes. So long, therefore, as M. Venizelos believes the present monarchy to be necessary we shall behave very foolishly to imagine that we are helping him by refusing formally to recognise that monarchy. Civil war in Greece would be a new and serious embarrassment to us. Yet such a thing might come about if we set the factions against one another.

The article concludes:—

Of course, it is possible to imagine circumstances in which for military reasons it would be essential to remove King Constantine. The Allies would be better judges than M. Venizelos of those circumstances, and might have to act against his sentiments. But at present the evidence shows that we have acted in accordance with his wishes. He has means of expressing his views, and he has uttered no word of reproach. Once more let us say that it is imperative to back him up in every way. When he says that we are doing it in the wrong way we shall confess that the Allies have blundered, but not before.

A Labour View.

The situation in Greece and Lord Robert Cecil's statement regarding it in the House of Commons last week form the subjects of an article, entitled "Greece and the Entente," in the *British Citizen* (November 4). The opinion is expressed that "the British Parliament and the British Democracy have a right at this stage to have a much clearer explanation from our Government than that vouchsafed by the Under-Secretary with regard to a situation which is giving rise to suspicion and dread." The article concludes as follows:—

We think that the Labour Party should now intervene in the discussion—and intervene with resolution and determination. M. Venizelos is the incarnation not only of Hellenic national aspirations, but of the Liberal opinion of Western Europe. We warn Lord Grey that democratic sentiment in this country is profoundly disturbed by the news that has reached it from Greece. Europe has already suffered enough through the existence of a string of kinglets associated mainly but not entirely with the family of the Hohenzollerns. The workers of Britain are prepared to fight and to die in defence of national interests, but for nothing less or meaner.

Are we to be the friends of our friends, or are we to betray them?

Views from Athens.

The situation in Greece has continued to occupy public attention very largely throughout the past week, and, whatever the official view may be, it is obvious that the British public is becoming more and more dissatisfied with the state of affairs and, more especially, with King Constantine's policy of shilly-shallying. The same sentiment is obviously shared by the English correspondents in Athens. The following extracts are taken at random from various despatches from that capital. The *Daily Telegraph* on Monday published a series of

messages received from Mr. G. J. Stevens, in Athens, who on the Friday telegraphed:—

King Constantine is responsible for letting loose civil war by the large military force he despatched from Larissa. He is playing for moral effect in an attempt to stem the stream of desertions that is going on from his camp to that of M. Venizelos. The apparent attempts which the Entente Ministers are making in Athens to bring about an arrangement and avoid further bloodshed are loudly proclaimed and are construed as meaning that we are taking sides with King Constantine. As no public statement to the contrary is forthcoming this belief is unfortunately gaining ground.

On the following day the *Daily Mail* correspondent in Athens (Mr. J. M. N. Jeffries) telegraphed:—

It is not unreasonable to suppose that once more our real interests and general equity have been subordinated to the necessity of meeting King Constantine half way. If this be so we are farther than ever from grappling with the situation here.

Panic was caused both at the Palace and in the anti-Venizelist newspaper offices by the news of the Greek debate in the House of Commons, and the idea of a mission to London has been conceived to try to stem the tide. The suggestion is in itself ridiculous and futile, but it is interesting as showing that it is recognised that in England's hands lies the fate of this country. The gratitude of patriotic Greeks for the speeches of Mr. Lynch, Sir E. Carson, Mr. Ronald McNeill, and Sir Henry Dalziel is extraordinary. I can testify that their hands were being wrung by proxy all day. The *Nea Hellas* says: "In the representative Chamber of the most practical people in Europe no empty words were heard. When the national struggle of the Greek people is supported by the British people it is certain that the struggle will succeed."

This message was published on Monday, on which day also the *Daily Chronicle* published a despatch sent from Athens on November 4 by Mr. G. Renwick, which concluded:—

I have the highest authority for stating that M. Venizelos himself not only desires but expects fuller recognition than that his Government is a mere de facto concern, which always keeps it under the stigma of being simply a temporary recruiting agency for the Allied Balkan Army. That full recognition means that his Government should have its representatives in the Allied capitals, and that the Entente should have its representatives at the seat of his Government.

It is due to the statesman who has thrown himself so wholeheartedly on the side of the Allies, and to his compatriots who are sacrificing so much for their own cause and ours, that this recognition should be given, and given at once. It is also due to British public opinion, which can accomplish so much, that this should be thoroughly understood. Nothing less will meet the case and nothing less can do elementary justice to the great patriotic movement which is finding spontaneous and practical expression in Greece—a movement which may yet largely redeem past errors, and which is capable of exerting a profound influence on events in a highly important theatre of the gigantic world struggle.

The Fate of Constantinople.

The following passages are taken from a despatch (dated November 1) forwarded from Petrograd by Dr. Harold Williams to the *Daily Chronicle*, and published on November 4:—

The Germans are again intriguing very actively with the object of splitting up the Entente Coalition, and their efforts are increasing in vigour in the degree that the Allies are gaining the upper hand in the military operations. Their attention is now particularly directed to Russia, where their intrigue takes the form of malevolent insinuations against England. It is a desperate move on the part of the Germans, and is only to be explained by the hopelessness, for them, of the military situation.

The latest move is to suggest that Russia does not need Constantinople, that England is the only Power interested in opposing the freedom of the Straits, and that the freedom of the Straits could be guaranteed by Germany. Ironical comments on these suggestions are made to-day by the *Noroe Vremya*, which points out that they are a symptom of the extraordinary desperation with which the Germans are seeking an issue from an intolerable situation. "But," adds the *Noroe Vremya*, "let the Germans grasp firmly the idea that the question of the fate of Constantinople will be decided without their knowledge and participation."

Hungary and Roumania.

The Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* continues to send most interesting reports from that city, and on Saturday the *Post* published one of his letters, dated October 25, in which he describes the feelings aroused there by Falkenhayn's advance into Roumanian territory. "Some of the newspapers," he says, "go so far as to predict what will be the fate of the 'war makers' if the enveloping movement should succeed and the whole Roumanian Army, with its stores, leaders, and even the King himself, should fall into the hands of Falkenhayn and Mackensen. An endless stream of nonsense on this subject is poured out daily,

and it is only here and there that one finds an article worth reading."

The most conspicuous feature about the articles are the numberless reports from headquarters in which the correspondents, who are evidently officially inspired, describe the alleged atrocities and barbarities committed by the Roumanians who invaded Transylvania. These stories are circulated in thousands of copies among the soldiers on the Roumanian frontier who are expected to invade Roumania, with the obvious suggestion that they should distinguish themselves as the exponents of German ruthlessness once they get into enemy territory.

But if the correspondents of the yellow Press indulge in this kind of writing, "the more respectable papers adopt quite a different tone."

Their correspondents, who have travelled extensively throughout the evacuated regions of Transylvania, state that the "Roumanian officers took every precaution against illegal acts on the part of their men," and they record cases where Roumanian commanders dealt most severely with offenders. Soldiers who looted houses, they say, were shot down by their officers, and the same correspondents quote orders of the day in which commanding officers threaten to have any man shot who is caught red-handed, and so forth. It is clear, therefore, that even if individual soldiers did commit excesses, these formed no part of the Roumanian system.

This testimony from an enemy source is of great value. It is to be feared that the Bulgarians will find it hard to get any evidence on *their* behalf from any of the Allied nations. But that is by the way. The *Post's* correspondent goes on to say:—

After the official incitements to hatred and outrage, there is little doubt that should Roumania succumb to the frenzied attack that is being made upon her, her population will suffer a fate compared with which that of the Serbians was mere child's play. The Germans regard their war against Roumania as a kind of "war of brothers," one Hohenzollern against the other, and they say that fratricidal wars have always been more desperate and ruthless than between natural enemies. While the Hungarian divisions are artificially incited against the Roumanians in the manner described, the Germans and Bavarians who are fighting for the passes just now need no incitement. Every one of them is a child of "Kultur," and regards the entry of Roumania into the war as a special insult to his Emperor, who weeps tears when speaking to them of the innumerable enemies confronting him, and says: "Here you see even a Hohenzollern committing blood treason against your Emperor." Never since the beginning of the war have such hatred and lust for revenge been displayed by the soldiers on any front as is manifested by the men who are fighting against the Roumanians. This is the result of German policy. The seeds of hatred are deliberately sown among them with a view to increasing their energy and fighting power.

The Hungarians are told by their Press that the doom of Roumania is sealed. "The leading and special articles in the Budapest and Vienna newspapers seem to have been diverted from all other subjects." But, fortunately for Roumania, these things are not settled entirely by the journalists!

The Roumanian Magnet.

On Saturday the *Daily Telegraph* published an article, "Roumania: 'Pivot of the War,'" by Dr. E. J. Dillon, who emphasizes the need for energetic action on the part of the Allies. Referring to "the enormous power of attraction" which the invasion of Roumania has for the Kaiser and for Hindenburg, Dr. Dillon writes:—

It is no exaggeration to affirm that for them it connotes a definite victory over all the Allied nations, and everything else which that would involve. We may laugh this notion to scorn, but we cannot gainsay that it is the conviction of the Germans, and supplies them with an astonishing driving power, of which, at this stage of the campaign, they were deemed incapable. However difficult the invasion of Roumania seems, and is, Hindenburg may deem it well worth while to attempt it repeatedly at a seemingly prohibitive cost, and for this eventuality, it behoves the Allied nations to be prepared. Unwonted promptitude and thoroughness on their part are essential to success. Russia, having discerned this, is now doing her part, and during the past few days has been despatching troops which the enemy hoped would never come. It would be contrary to public interest to disclose the number, but it may be permissible to say that it represents a very liberal contribution to the undertaking. Italy's effort is already known. In short, all the Allied Governments are strenuously exerting themselves to belie the popular proverb that prevention is better than cure. And this is as it should be. For to frustrate Hindenburg's scheme no efforts can be too strenuous, no sacrifices too costly, because, as already stated, the bearings of the Roumanian campaign are become so far-reaching and varied that they can no longer be gauged by the standards of strategy, nor by those political criteria still in vogue which were hitherto looked upon as infallible.

Germany's Turkish Dupes.

In an article entitled "Prolonging the War," the *Spectator* (November 4) thinks that the time has come

to let it be known that those who prolong the war in the hope of securing more favourable terms will certainly be punished; and "the fact that such punishment will certainly ensue ought not to be concealed out of some morbid punctilio against boastfulness." Germany is, of course, the chief offender, but her allies must also be warned, and the *Spectator* thinks it possible "without injury . . . to indicate the various directions in which the screw may be applied." The following passage will be of interest to our readers:—

In the case of Turkey, we must warn those who hitherto have taken pride in the feeling that, through the claims of the Caliphate, they led the Moslem world, how terribly the position of Ottoman Mohammedanism is being compromised by their craven dependence upon the German Emperor. The Entente wish no ill to the Moslem faith, but on the contrary are determined to place it in a position of real independence and make it impossible for even its most timid adherent to imagine that there will be Christian interference with or Christian control of his religious practices and beliefs.

At the same time punishment for the prolongation of the war must of necessity fall to a very great extent upon the Turkish Empire and upon those Mohammedans who were bribed to bow the knee to Germany by the plea that Turkey was to become once more the great centre of Mohammedan power. They must be sharply reminded that they are going the sure way to leave the Turks no share whatever in the re-establishment of the faith . . . but Mohammedanism as a whole is not going to be injured by the results of the war, whatever they are. Ottoman influence in the Moslem world, an influence which has now lasted for well-nigh five hundred years, may, however, be obliterated through the madness of those who have bowed the knee to, and taken the gold of, the pinchbeck autocrat of Potsdam.

The Roumanian Peasant.

Writing in the *Graphic* (October 28) of "Roumania's Peasant Defenders," Miss Edith Sellers says:—

There are other peasants, no doubt, who love their country every whit as devotedly as these Roumanians love theirs; but there are no other peasants whom I have ever met who have the same feeling of responsibility for their country as they have. They look upon Roumania as belonging to them, the peasants, a sacred trust, under their special protection. She is their own possession, one of which they must take care, over which they must watch lest harm befall her. They are a shrewd race; and they lived too long in bondage to be trustful. They have no faith at all in Boyards, no faith in politicians, no great faith in priests, though them they fear. They have faith, it is true, in their King, although even in him less than in themselves, when the safety of Roumania is in question. For they look upon themselves as their country's natural protectors, born defenders.

Articles to Note.

"A Review of the Greek Situation," by T. Constantines, in the *New Age* (November 2).

"King Nicholas at the Somme Front," by Percival Gibbons, in the *Daily Chronicle* (November 6).

"German Aims in Roumania: The Railway System and the Petroleum Fields," by W. B. Forster Bovill, in the *Sunday Times* (November 5).

"Roumanian Pictures," by the Queen of Roumania, in *The Times* (November 9).

A Petrograd message says a British aviator has arrived at Reni, having flown from the Greek Islands, near the Bosphorus, to the Dobrudja.

The Geneva International Committee has sent to the Roumanian Red Cross the first list of Roumanians who have been captured as prisoners of war by the Germans.

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815

COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.

Illustrated Catalogues on request

ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms. Mufti. Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits. Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements. Leather Clothing, Explorers & Travellers Outfits.

4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The loss of the Arabia has had no adverse effect on P. and O. shares, a fact which proves very clearly how great is the public confidence in our premier shipping concern. On the day of the publication of the news of the disaster to the Arabia the final dividend and bonus were announced, bringing the return to shareholders up to 18 per cent. free of tax on the deferred stock. This is 3 per cent. better than the result of the previous year, and proves, I think, that the increase in the earnings of the company must have been very great. The report will be coming along presently, and we shall then know the extent of the company's turnover.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil shares ("B") have done well this week. As will be seen by reference to our Company Notes a new well came into production on November 1, giving a steady production of 600 tons per day. This caused a big increase on last week's output from Hurgada, which led to continued speculative dealings in stock, which had bargains up to 12s. 6d. Egyptian oils have not had a rosy time in recent months, and this indication of prosperity will be welcomed by all who are interested in the fields.

Greeks in Manchester—who are, I understand, Venizelists to a man—appear to be falling between the devil and the deep blue sea, and declare that they have been penalised for their loyalty to constitutional ideals in Greek politics and for their adherence to the cause of the Allies. To a representative of the *Manchester Guardian* a few days ago one of them said: "In Greece we and our customers are 'black-listed' in the Royalist papers as something like traitors, and many obstacles are put in the way of our trading. On this side we receive no help from the British Government. We are given export licences freely, and are thus encouraged to trade, but when we have bought goods and paid for them and committed ourselves to further contracts we find that the authorities will not allow steamers to leave for Greece. We have then to store the goods anew and insure them until they can be shipped."

It is a curious and uncomfortable position, but one which, I fear, must be borne for some time to come. The treatment of which our friends complain has not been invented for them alone. There are many British firms trading to the Near, Middle, and Far East—and, indeed, all over the world—who would give gladly and cheerfully any money in reason for freight space. I believe I am right in saying that goods have been "held up" for some neutral countries for months—Holland and Scandinavia, for example. I am ready to admit that the British Government have not handled the shipping problem with very conspicuous distinction; but I should be very surprised indeed if, in respect of sailings for Greece, they could not put up a very good defence of their policy.

Recently the special courts in Cairo instituted to deal with cases of trading with the enemy have been called upon to

sit very infrequently, I learn from a local correspondent. In the early part of the year, however, they had a considerable amount of work to do. It is, indeed, remarkable how ignorant and slack some business people are at times, when it comes to interpreting licences and proclamations, and how ingenious others can be in trying to evade the terms of those very necessary regulations. From the fact that very few cases have of late come up before the courts, it would appear that the sentences inflicted have had the requisite deterrent effect on the section of the local commercial community most affected by the enemy trading regulations.

According to the report of the Administration of the Ottoman National Debt, a summary of which appeared recently in a German paper, the revenue for the first five months of 1914-15 was actually 11.45 per cent. less than for the same period of 1913-14, but would be 4 per cent. more if both years are considered on the reduced territorial basis of 1914-15. From August to February the revenue gradually declined, so that for the last seven months the 1913-14 total fell short of the previous year's by 54.30 per cent., or 48.30 per cent. for the reduced territory. In 1913-14 the general revenue amounted to £T5,378,872, in 1914-15 to £T3,581,433, a decrease of £T1,797,439, or 33.41 per cent.

The explanation of this deficit is somewhat laboured. The report states that the Turkish Government is owed £268,000, including the £114,000 tribute of Eastern Roumelia, which could not be levied for lack of ingress, and £130,000 due on account of the Cyprus surplus, but not paid. The compensation due to Turkey from the Balkan States for ceded territories could not be determined owing to the adjournment of the International Financial Conference at Paris. The report makes special reservations with regard to these points, and the tributes formerly paid by Greece, Serbia, and Montenegro. The tobacco monopoly administered since April 15, 1914, under the new concession, has brought in £887,000. Since October 1, 1914, the Government has raised the *ad valorem* import duty from 11 to 15 per cent., bringing the share which falls on the National Debt up to 7 per cent. The general expenditure was reduced from £681,656 to £619,094, a decrease of £62,562, or 9.18 per cent.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST will recall the series of articles in which were set out the defects of the British Consular Service, particularly in the Balkans and certain Mediterranean countries. In the Imperial and Foreign Trade Supplement of *The Times* for this month I observe an exhaustive statement, compiled by the Secretary of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, showing the number of British Consular representatives in various foreign countries prior to the war, the number paid and unpaid, the expenditure, and the cost of the service per million pounds of imports to each country from the United Kingdom. From this table have been extracted the details relating to eight countries, and these are published elsewhere in this issue. The figures are so illuminating that comment

is not necessary; but I would like to draw attention to these details, if only to suggest that in the grave neglect of our Consular Service in the past we may find the reason for British trade backwardness and German predominance in the Balkans and other countries in which we are particularly interested.

The "tobacco crisis" in Egypt appears to be completed. I hear that no Greek leaf has been imported into Alexandria for nearly two months, the last consignment received being about 5,000 small packages. During August, I am informed, there was no importation at all, and as a result there is a general shortage. Greek tobacco is the only leaf in the Egyptian market at present, and prices have more than doubled during the last few weeks. My correspondent adds that "in September last the price of a certain sort of tobacco varied between P.T. 12 and P.T. 15 per oke, and the same stuff is now being sold at the rate of from P.T. 25 to P.T. 30 per oke. In some cases prices are going up to P.T. 32 and even to P.T. 35, showing that a tobacco crisis has begun to show itself."

Stocks are not altogether depleted, of course, but Egyptian merchants are said to be withdrawing large quantities of tobacco from the Customs warehouses at the rate of 500 to 600 packages per day. If new stocks are not available—and it is difficult to see where they can come from at the moment—the tobacco stock now in hand will not last more than five or six months.

It seems likely that Cyprus will come to the rescue of Egypt in the matter of the meat supply, a question as acute in its way as that of tobacco. A recent issue of the *Cyprus Gazette* contained a proclamation by the High Commissioner that special licences to export sheep may be granted subject to the following conditions:—"No ewes may be exported, save such ewes as the Customs authority shall be satisfied cannot be used for breeding purposes. Every licence to export sheep shall be upon the condition that the exporter of such sheep shall export at the same time an equal number of goats or such other proportionate number of goats as the Provost Marshal shall from time to time prescribe." Meanwhile prices have risen at Alexandria, and the Municipal Food Tariff Commission have decided to consult the director of the slaughterhouse at Mex before introducing any change in the tariff. It is expected that considerable consignments of live stock will come from the Sudan before long, which, with supplies from Cyprus, should ameliorate the situation.

I have frequently called attention to the great efforts which American merchants and manufacturers are putting forward in the Near East to improve their position and to the success which they are achieving. From Salonika comes the news that our American friends are doing large lines in silk stockings, perfumery, expensive toilet soaps, hair oils and similar goods—a somewhat astonishing catalogue, unless the presence in the town of large allied armies offers the explanation. I am told that provision merchants in the town are anxious to purchase bacon, beans, margarine, sugar, and coffee, and are able to offer therefor considerably advanced prices.

COMMENTATOR.

Cyprus Trade Report for 1915.

Highest Revenue Record Reached Since the British Occupation of the Island.

In THE NEAR EAST of October 27 we quoted statistics relating to the trade and industry of Cyprus for the year 1915, extracted from the report of the High Commissioner in the Blue Book.

The surplus on the year's revenue transactions amounted to £26,574, the figures being as follows:—

Local Revenue, 1915-16	£363,692	
Imperial Grant-in-Aid	50,000	
		£413,692
Local Expenditure	294,318	
Share of Turkish Debt Charge	92,800	
		387,118
Surplus		£26,574

The local revenue, says the report, was the highest on record since the British occupation, exceeding that of 1913-14, hitherto the highest, by £21,886. It exceeded that of 1914-15 by £73,582, or over 21 per cent., and the average of the last preceding five years by over 15 per cent. The increase is mainly attributable to the high prices obtained for the sale of the Government tithe grain and to large increases in the sale of forest produce. Fifteen of the nineteen heads of revenue show an increase over the figures of 1914-15.

The tithe, etc., wheat stored in the Government grain stores was retailed at regulated prices for the purpose of maintaining a 3 cp. loaf in the towns, and the usual wholesale sales of wheat did not, accordingly, take place. Likewise, a portion of the Government barley was disposed of by retail sale at fixed prices with a view to controlling the market prices. The wheat harvest of 1915 was the smallest in quantity since the famine year 1902, and the barley harvest was the smallest since the same year, with the exception of 1912. During February and March, barley reached the enormous price of 6s. per kilo, and even more in certain hill villages. Oats yielded an average crop, while vetches fell far short of the last few years.

Expenditure.

The local expenditure (exclusive of the share of Cyprus of the Turkish Debt Charge, £92,800) was £294,318, as against £316,414 in the previous year, which represents a decrease on the preceding year of £22,096, mainly due to decreased expenditure on Vote 29, Expenditure Chargeable to Surplus Balances. Abnormal expenditure has been incurred in the maintenance and repatriation of distressed Cypriotes abroad, and considerable sums have been placed at the disposal of the United States representatives in Ottoman dominions for this service. Expenditure was likewise incurred under the heading of "War Expenditure," which, besides covering various miscellaneous expenses in connection with the war, such as passages of officers going to join the forces, included the supply of wood fuel as a gift from Cyprus to His Majesty's troops in Egypt.

At the end of June the notes issued in pursuance of the Proclamation of December 2, 1914, were demonetised, following the discovery of forgeries of the £1 notes. In consequence, however, of representations from the banks and leading merchants to the effect that the supply of currency in the island might prove inadequate to meet the movements of the carob crops in the anticipated event of the simultaneous charter of a number of vessels, it was decided to remonetise the Government currency notes of the value of £5, 10s., and 5s., and to place a limited quantity of paper money at the disposition of the leading banks. Little advantage was, however, taken of the facilities afforded, as the supply of metallic currency eventually

proved to be practically sufficient, and consequently the small quantity of notes placed in circulation had gradually been withdrawn.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Asbestos.

All the available statistics relative to the trades and industries of the Island have been given, and it will be recalled that these showed an increase in the total value of imports of merchandise for the year of £91,275, and of exports of £153,714. No real purpose is to be served by going over this ground in detail again; but some of the notes in the report are of interest.

Thus we are told, in reference to mines and quarries, that although the war and a serious fire in May, 1914, which destroyed a large part of the factory, have adversely affected the operations of the Cyprian Mining Company's asbestos mine at Amiaundos, the company was able to work throughout the year, and materially to increase its output.

Cyprus benefits from the company's operations not only by the royalty paid to Government, but by the fact that many mountain villagers, who otherwise might be unemployed, find work at the mine. In the year under review the company employed in day labour 59,309 men and 17,523 women.

Copper, Magnesite, etc.

A considerable amount of prospecting and development work has been done at the Foucassa Hill Copper mine near Skouriotissa, for which a mining lease was granted in November, 1915; 934 feet of main tunnel and 3,015 feet of cross cuts and drifts have been bored, and 382 feet of shafts sunk; 730 tons of first-class ore and 11 tons of second-class ore were extracted during the year. Work on the railway, which will connect the mine with the sea at Karavostasi, in length about four miles, has made appreciable progress. In the year under review the mine employed in day labour 41,467 men and boys, and 10,279 women.

The Cyprus Development Company extracted from the Akamas mines for export to England 14½ tons of magnesite. Eighteen fresh prospecting permits were issued during the year, and six were extended for six months.

3,890 tons of terra umbra, to the value of £4,991, were exported during the year; the Government royalty amounted to £681. Gypsum is extensively quarried, and is exported, principally to Egypt, for use in the manufacture of plaster of Paris; the quantity exported in 1915 was 2,635 tons, of the value of £1,575, the Government royalty being £44.

Agricultural Interests.

The industries of Cyprus are mainly agricultural, and manufactures are few. The wine industry, however, is of some importance; and in 1915, commandaria (a heavy dessert wine) to the value of £654, and other Cyprus wines to the value of £37,504, were exported, also Cyprus spirits valued at £5,431 and vinegar at £1,697.

2,881 okes of cigarettes, valued at £2,400, were exported, mainly to the United Kingdom; and cotton manufactures, being produce and manufacture of Cyprus, to the value of £12,874.

Sponge Fishing.

During the year Cyprus waters were fished for sponges by seventeen harpoon boats, and seven machine boats, fitted with diving apparatus, the fees being £1 and 25 per cent.

in kind of the total catch in the case of each machine boat, and 10s. with 20 per cent. in kind in the case of harpoon boats.

The number of sponges fished was 229,216, weighing 4,819 okes, as compared with 67,734 sponges, weighing 1,800 okes, fished in the previous year. The Government share is expected to realise about £1,500, which will bring the sum derived by revenue from this source since Government took over the supervision of the fisheries in 1903 to £15,875.

Shipping.

The total number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared in the foreign trade were:—

	Vessels.	Total. Tons.
Entered	492	155,152
Cleared	481	153,159
Total	973	308,311

The total number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared in the coasting trade of Cyprus were:—

	Vessels.	Total. Tons.
Entered	2,183	267,944
Cleared	2,221	274,878
Total	4,404	541,822

Altogether an interesting and encouraging review, which will lead those interested in the affairs of the Island to hope for an era of steady development and progress when peace has returned to the earth.

EGYPTIAN COINAGE CONTRACT.

The contract between the Government of India and the Egyptian Government, under which it was arranged that the Indian mints should coin about £600,000 worth of silver coins for the Egyptian Government, is rapidly approaching completion. The coins required by the Egyptian Government were pieces of the value of 5, 10, and 20 piastres, as there has been for some time an extraordinary scarcity of silver coinage in Egypt, so much so, indeed, that some months ago the Government of Egypt obtained from the Government of India a large quantity—about 30 lakhs—of silver rupees which were declared legal tender for the time being, the intention, no doubt, being to withdraw the rupees from circulating as soon as it became possible to substitute their own legitimate coinage.

As soon as the silver coinage has been completed, the Indian mints will proceed to coin a large quantity of nickel coins for the Egyptian Government, as these coins are also in great demand, and the supply is very limited.

The Indian mints have been, and are, exceedingly busy, as, in addition to the large number of rupees and nickel annas which have been required for the Indian currency, the mints have manufactured a large consignment of bronze pennies for Australia.

A Cairo message of the 7th inst. states:—The Government's October bulletin on the cotton crop gives the condition as 12 per cent. below the average in Lower Egypt, and 7 per cent. below the average in Upper Egypt. The report for September was 10 per cent. and 4 per cent. respectively below the average. This is the final result of the observation of the crop in the field. It is announced that the ultimate crop estimate will be published in five days, after adjustments necessitated by the decrease in the ginning outturn have been made.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially uniflow engines, boilers and superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift centrifugal pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 8056.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfred.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan, "
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

EGYPTIAN TRADE.

Continued Expansion in External Operations in September.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 22.

The Customs returns for September show a continuation of the expansion of the external trade of Egypt. During the month imports amounted to £E2,715,175, and exports to £E1,518,688, as compared with £E1,782,948 and £E1,273,184 respectively in the corresponding month of the preceding year. For the nine months imports total £E22,380,908, and exports £E19,952,534, respectively £E9,148,574 and £E3,081,025 above the figures for the end of the third quarter of 1915. How satisfactory this is can be gauged from the fact that during the same period in 1913 the totals were respectively £E19,725,698 and £E17,661,741.

The principal imports during the month were:—Preserved meat, £E214,164; cereals, £E1,113,623 (of which £E44,118 was flour); mineral oils, £E48,228 (mostly from the States); liquid fuel, £E38,704 (from Borneo); beer, £E35,745; stationery, £E89,459 (of which Italy and England each sent 35 per cent.); coal, £E472,309 (the quantity was, however, 16,401 tons less); cotton threads, £E77,416 (an increase of £E50,648 over 1915, and of which India has sent nearly 50 per cent.); cotton tissues, £E525,084 (of which 80 per cent. was from England); sacks, £E71,346 (India); ready-made linen and millinery, £E57,821; and worked iron and steel, £E97,893. New coinage to the tune of £E193,300, of which £E175,000 was made in India, was imported during the month.

On the other hand, the chief exports were:—Skins and tanned goods, £E52,893; cereals, £E72,289 (there has been a large falling off in wheat, beans, and lentils, the while a substantial increase has taken place in maize, flour, and rice); refined sugar, £E20,091 (half of which went to India); cotton, £E1,042,630 (an increase of £E276,074 over the figure for September, 1915, although the quantity was 61,544 cantars less); cotton seed, £E131,702; and cotton-seed cake, £E62,540. Cigarettes to the value of £E26,153, or approximately the amount of September, 1915, were exported, the figure for the nine months being £E198,203, or £E18,204 more than in the preceding year.

Amongst the nations sharing in the trade of Egypt, Great Britain comes out with just under 50 per cent. of the imports and 70 per cent. of the exports during the month in question—on the nine months an all-round proportion of 50 per cent. on both sides. Australia's shipments to Egypt rose from £E30,688 to £E214,968, mainly due to the increase in preserved meat, and India increased hers by £E58,439 to £E178,188, mainly due to cotton tissues, flour-sacks, and indigo. Imports from the States went up by 70 per cent. to £E198,963 (mineral oils and coal), from Spain by £E14,175 to £E21,262, from Italy by 25 per cent. to £E215,634 (cotton tissues and stationery), and from Japan by 140 per cent. to £E29,727 (mostly ready-made millinery and linen). The other countries showed practically no change in their sales to Egypt. As regards exports, Great Britain absorbed more than the extra amount exported during the month, for the figure recorded against her rose from £E613,876 to £E1,143,365, whereas the increase in the total for the month was only £E245,504. As a natural consequence, the other countries all took less, Japan dwindling down to £E4,321, Russia to £E10,628, the States to £E35,822, and Italy to £E48,928. Greece was the only other country which improved her share, in this case by 100 per cent., her purchases being mostly skins, tanned goods, and maize.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, November 9.

Prices in the market during the past week have again gone against buyers, and the tone throughout has been strong. As values advance the confidence of buyers seems rather to increase, and it is remarkable that such a healthy trade can be done at such high prices. Spinners of yarn have been doing well for many months, and an improvement is now showing itself in the position of manufacturers of cloth.

The Egyptian cotton market has been excited with a big rise in quotations, the bullish tone being accentuated by the loss of two or three boats in the Mediterranean. Business in Egyptian yarns and fabrics made from fine counts has been demoralised. In cloth for Egypt the undercurrent of demand has continued healthy.

According to a telegram just received by a leading firm clearances on the other side are on a free scale, and Manchester buyers are being instructed to purchase goods on the best terms possible, as it is absolutely necessary that further supplies should be sent out without delay. The bulk of the buying has been in sized goods, but printing cloths and fancies have also attracted a good deal of attention.

The larger inquiry for India mentioned a week ago has been maintained with a rather increasing turnover in shirtings, jaconets, and dhooties, and producers are in a stronger position than for some time back. Some exporters to China have been stimulated to act with more freedom. If the present brisk demand is maintained it will not be an easy matter to obtain early delivery of certain cloths in a week or two. Prices in American yarns have advanced, and spinners have held firmly to the higher rates. A healthy trade has been done in both twist and weft.

We take the following from the *Manchester Guardian*:—

Attention was drawn in our columns some weeks ago to the serious difficulties which spinners have experienced through string and other material being mixed with Egyptian cotton. The British Cotton-growing Association took up the matter with the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt, and forwarded nine samples of waste which had been found in bales of cotton. Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, consulting agriculturist to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, now informs the Association that he has addressed the following letter to the President of the Alexandria General Produce Association:—

"SIR,—The attention of the Ministry has been called to the repeated occurrence of pieces of string in bales of Egyptian cotton arriving in England, the effect of which seems to be serious at the present juncture, as, owing to complaints of bad spinning, due to the presence of these fibres in the cotton, operatives seem readily to leave the employment of the mills and to take up other work, which at the present time is easily obtainable. I am submitting to you a copy of the letter received from the chairman of the British Cotton-growing Association, with a number of attachments, complaining of the presence of twine or string in the bales, and I recommend to the notice of your Association the great importance of this matter and the suggestions which have been made by the spinners to alleviate difficulties in this connection in future.

"The pieces of string are supposed to enter the cotton when the seed-cotton bags are being opened for ginning, and perhaps if ginners were circularised, pointing out that steps should be taken to prevent the string being cut into small pieces, better conditions would be obtained in the final bale. One spinner mentions that if the string used were coloured black it would assist, as these black pieces could be more easily detected before spinning. A recommendation has also been made for the employment of cotton twine instead of the ordinary hemp string, and it is even demanded that the Government shall legislate to prevent the use of any but cotton twine. The action would not appear to be called for at present, but, as will be seen from the correspondence, the loss to spinners is in some cases so great that it seems incumbent upon everyone in Egypt to take special

steps to render complaints re the adulteration of Egyptian cotton impossible in the future. I would be very grateful if you would put this matter before the members of your Committee."

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tarbushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10.)

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs, dressings, sundries, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 25.)

The same Department invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (Nov. 30.)

The Director of Stores, Coast Guard Administration, Arsenal, invites tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required by the service at Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez during year 1917. (December 1, 1915.)

Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply and delivery of the following supplies required during 1917-18:—Mail bags; boots; fuel; ready-made furniture; letter boxes and accessories; keys and other hardware articles; lamps and electric fans; enamelled plates; safes, strong cupboards and safety locks; stamps; special postal stationery; and miscellaneous articles. (November 15.)

The Sanitary Commissioners of Gibraltar invite tenders for the supply and delivery of the following coal in such quantities as may be required during 1917:—Best Cardiff steam; South Wales small; Newport large; best quality Durham unscreened; anthracite large; and anthracite nuts. Specifications, conditions of contract, etc., may be obtained from the Sanitary Commissioners' Office, Gibraltar, at which address sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to the dates mentioned. (November 21.)

For the supply and delivery of the following stores in such quantities as may be required during 1917:—Engineer's stores; galvanised iron pipes; lead pipes; chemist's stores; drapery; fire brigade clothing; ironmongery; oilman's stores; Welsh or Stourbridge fire bricks and fire clay; English-shaped stock bricks; white glazed bricks and ventilating bricks; tiles, Marseilles, white glazed, etc., of various descriptions; puzzolana slates, W.C. pans, intercepting traps and kitchen sinks; glazed sanitary pipes and half-pipes; timber; flags and kerbstones; engine oils; special paints; oilskins; petroleum; creosote; coal-tar pitch; and benzoline. (November 14.)

Liquidations.

It is announced that the Board of Trade has ordered the winding-up of the business of Moritz Feldman, trading under his own name and as The Anglo-Oriental Agency, at 5, New Street, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., dealer and broker in carpets and rugs. Controller: Horace Evelyn Sier, 99, Cheapside, London, E.C.

The Public Custodian (Egypt) has been instructed to liquidate the business of W. Schimmelpfing.

Mr. R. Colley, Khedivial Buildings, Cairo, has been appointed Receiver (on instructions to liquidate) of the affairs of Mr. George Hess, Zifta.

Trading Licences.

A licence to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain, in accordance with the terms stated in Section B of the notice published in the *Journal Officiel* of January 13, 1916, No. 4 bis, has been granted to Mr. Adrien Engel, 68, Rue Rosette, Alexandria.

The following have been granted licences to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licences granted to them, as stated in Section B of the *Journal Officiel* above mentioned:—Adda, Jacques V.; Filature Nationale d'Egypt, S.A.

SMYRNA CIGARETTE Co.

Genuine Turkish and Egyptian Cigarettes.

SPECIAL BLEND FOR NEAR EASTERN SMOKERS.

Premières	-	7s. 6d. per 100.
Deuxièmes	-	6s. " "
Bourdelakis Bros.	4s.	" "
Do. (Gold-tipped)	5s.	" "
Corbetti (Egyptian)	5s.	" "

Packed in boxes of 50 and 100. 5 per cent. discount on orders for 500 and upwards for Near East Readers.
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, November 9.

Currents.

There has been a good demand this past week, and prices are, more or less, unchanged. Provincial quoted at 67s. to 71s., Amalias 74s. to 75s., Patras 74s. to 79s., Gulf 78s. to 82s., Vostizza 80s. to 86s., Zante 76s. to 82s., and smalls 78s. to 84s. There is only one cargo reported afloat and on its way here, and no other is expected to arrive before the end of this month. The stocks of currents in London on October 31 were 5,960 tons, against 5,960 tons the same period last year.

Sultanas.

Only moderate business is passing in Afghanistan and Greek (old crop) fruit, at late rates. The stocks of sultanas, of all kinds, in London on October 31 were 1,875 tons, against 873 tons the same period last year.

Figs.

There has been only a moderate inquiry for this article during the week, but quotations are unchanged.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer, London-Calcutta spot being quoted at 95s., with afloat and October-November selling also at 95s. Bombay

ordinary, December-January, was sold at 97s. 6d.; Bombay small, December-January, 96s. Rapeseed is rather quiet, but firm; brown Cawnpore, November-December, 74s., Hull; Toria, November-December, 77s. 6d.; bold Ferozepore, November-December, 77s. Cottonseed is firm; London Egyptian, Sakelaries, afloat quoted at £16 15s., November ditto. Rangoon beans are firmer, spot selling at £33, afloat quoted £32 15s., October-November £34, November-December £34 10s., December-January were sold to-day at £35 c.i.f. New Mustard seed offered sparingly at recent rates.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firmer; spot pipes landed offered at £48, barrels ditto £49. Rape oil is firmer, ordinary brown naked spot quoted at £48 10s.; English refined barrels, £52 to £54. Cotton oil is firm; crude, spot and refined nominal; barrels sweet, £52 to £54, as to make. Olive oil is steady and in good demand at £62 to £64 for Spanish and Levant per tun, ex store in barrels, and shipments firmer.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes have shown during the week a tendency for higher prices. Best London-made are quoted at £15 10s. to £15 15s. ex mill. Cotton cakes: Egyptians are not offered on spot, but for October shipments there are sellers at £11 15s. ex ship terms, with only a limited quantity available.

COST OF THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

The following is extracted from a table showing the number of British Consular representatives in various foreign countries prior to the war, the number paid and unpaid, the expenditure, and the cost of the service per million pounds of imports to each country from the United Kingdom, compiled for the Trade Supplement (November) of *The Times* by Mr. R. B. Dunwoody, Secretary of the Association of Chambers of Commerce:—

Country.	Number paid.	Number unpaid.	Total cost.	Imports from U.K. Million £.	Exports from U.K. Million £.	Cost of Service per million pounds.
Bulgaria	3	3	£ 1,780	1½	1	£ 1,424
Egypt	7	5	6,256	8½	16½	736
Greece	2	10	2,355	1½	1½	1,570
Morocco	12	2	9,515	—	—	—
Persia	11	—	7,574	1½	—	5,049
Roumania	5	1	3,682	—	2½	1,052
Serbia	—	2	100	—	—	400
Turkey	26	27	23,161	—	—	—

Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENEMY PROPERTY IN EGYPT.

Amendments to Previous Proclamations.

By proclamation in the *Journal Officiel* of October 19, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt explains and amends, in certain respects, the provisions of the Proclamations of January 25, 1915, and July 31, 1916. Article 5 of the former is amended by substituting payment to the Public Custodian of enemy property in Egypt for the method of payment into a bank. The text of the new order is as follows:—

1. The declaration required by Article 1 of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, shall be made in respect of every debt or other obligation which at the time when it was contracted, or at any subsequent period, was payable to, or to be performed in favour of, an enemy person as defined in the aforesaid article, and all rights or claims in respect thereof shall be deemed to be the property of an enemy person for all the purposes of the said Proclamation, notwithstanding that any bill of exchange or other instrument may have been accepted or given in respect thereof, and notwithstanding that any such enemy person may have purported to transfer or assign his rights and claims in respect thereof, whether by endorsement of any negotiable instrument or in any other manner.

2. Where payment or satisfaction of any debt or obligation falls to be made to or in favour of the Public Custodian of enemy property by virtue of an order made under Article 6 of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, such payment or satisfaction shall not be refused by reason of the fact that the Public Custodian is unable to deliver up any bill of exchange, promissory note or other instrument accepted or given in respect thereof. The receipt of the Public Custodian under such circumstances will constitute, to the extent of the payment made, a discharge of the liability of the debtor in respect of any such instrument.

3. Article 4 of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, shall be read and construed as if the word "article" in the English version thereof had been printed in the plural.

4. From and after the publication of the present Proclamation no payment shall be made into a bank for account of a person or persons resident or carrying on business in enemy territory as provided by the third paragraph of Article 5 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, and no bank shall accept any such payment. In lieu thereof any payment due to an enemy person, as defined in Article 1 of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, may henceforth be made to the Public Custodian of enemy property in Egypt, who will hold the same in accordance with the provisions of the last mentioned Proclamation; and every payment which has been, by any order or permit issued under the authority of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, directed to be made into a bank for account of any enemy person, shall henceforth be made to the Public Custodian accordingly.

SYRIAN SILK CROP.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 18.

With regard to the high prices at which the cocoons were reported to have been sold to German-Swiss agents, the bare quotation of the figures was misleading.* The facts of the case seem to be that the price of about 60 piastres was per oke of steamed and dry cocoons of the previous crop, which is equal to four okes of the freshly gathered cocoons. This, therefore, brings down the actual price of the latter to about 12 piastres, which is half of the normal price.

The last silk crop is said to have been, indeed, a very poor one, for the people, having been unable to dispose, at the time, of their last crop, and to procure also the scientifically tested eggs of the silkworm, which used to be imported chiefly from Corsica for breeding purposes, felt very discouraged and considerably reduced the breeding. The use of home-tested eggs, which give a poor breed, has further contributed to the reduction of the crop of 1916.

* Our Correspondent evidently refers to a previous communication which has failed to reach us.

THE SILK INDUSTRY.

Developments in Russia—The Position of Italy.

In Primorsk, according to the Press, the people are beginning to take up silk culture, and the first efforts in this direction have proved to be successful. China and Japan, that are immediate neighbours of this territory, are considered to be the classical countries for silk, and, as a matter of fact, the exportation of raw silk alone from Shanghai and Canton exceeds half a million pounds, and the exportation from Japan likewise exceeds that figure. In Russia only the Caucasus and Turkestan yield a more or less important quantity of silk—Caucasus 33,000 to 35,000 pounds, and Turkestan 25,000 to 30,000 pounds, which in point of quantity about equals the production of France, where the yield of raw silk in the Valley of the Rhone and in Provence makes about 35,000 pounds. Such figures must be considered very modest in presence of the considerable production by Italy, which amounts to about 275,000 pounds of raw silk, or one-sixth of the total world production, and which puts Italy at the head of the European Powers as a silk producer. At the same time, with a greater attention of the population to this branch of industry, Russia, with its territorial and climatic conditions, might also produce silk in enormous quantities. Every fresh extension of the area of silk production within the boundaries of Russia should be sincerely welcomed as progress in the national wealth and in the economic power of the Empire.

Silk culture, as is known, is closely connected with special botanico-geographical conditions, and particularly is it possible only in places where the mulberry tree grows somewhat easily.

The line from Volhynia to the Lower Volga, in the Caucasus, nearer Asia with Persia, and in Turkestan, all constitute a great area for the production of silk, served by the phito-geographical belt of mulberry. To feed every spring these incalculable armies of silkworms which produce their valuable cocoons is not a simple business. Large quantities of food are wanted, especially selected, and exclusively from the mulberry.

The mulberry tree grows easily in Russia to the south of the line between Volhynia and the Lower Volga, and a great development of the silk-growing industry is to be expected there. Bessarabia, Tiraspol, Kerson, the Lower Don and Volga, some parts of the Ekaterinoslaff, Karkoff, Poltava, and Kieff Governments all yield silk, the quantity of which could be largely increased.—*Financier*.

COTTON IN TURKESTAN.

The prospects of the cotton harvest in Turkestan are considered satisfactory, says the *Financier*. It is believed that the harvest will about equal that of 1915. The Fergana district is expected to yield an average, and rather better in parts, whilst in Syr-Darynsk the appearance is something better than satisfactory. This is the report also on Samarkand, some districts showing better and some showing worse than last year. But some reports indicate that here the record level of 1915 will not be reached. In Transcaspia the prospects are considered about average for quality, but the quantity is expected to be lower than last year's. The reports from Khiva suggest an average harvest, though inferior to last year's record. In Bokara appearances are satisfactory, and an average yield is looked for. It should be remembered in connection with these reports, which have certainly not a progressive aspect, that various factors have contributed to discourage a larger cultivation of cotton, such as labour difficulties and so on. The scarcity of labour has meant much higher wages, and has been particularly observable in Fergana, Syr-Darynsk, and Samarkand, and labour has proved to be particularly scarce just where in previous years it was abundant. The supply of labour from Afghanistan and Persia shows continued scarcity, and the cotton fields could only be maintained by offering local workpeople very high wages.

The provision of advances has not been so abundant this year as before, and has declined by 25 per cent. in Fergana compared with last year. In this respect the position is somewhat irregular in Syr-Darynsk and elsewhere.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The officers of the Roumanian steamship Bistritza, which was torpedoed by German submarines on the coast of Norway, have arrived in London, and visited the Roumanian Legation.

It is reported from British Consular sources that the olive crop for this year in the Regency of Tunis, the harvest of which is close at hand, is particularly good. It is estimated that the yield will amount to more than 54,000 tons, as compared with about 29,500 tons in a good average year.

The Chilean Nitrate Committee announce the nitrate of soda statistics for October as follows:—Europe (including Egypt): Exported from Chile to Europe (including Egypt), October, 174,655 tons; arrivals in Europe (including Egypt), October, 157,379 tons. Owing to the war we are unable to compile the usual figures of deliveries and visible supply (stocks and afloat).

A provisional census has been taken at Busreh by means of a house-to-house visitation. It shows the population to be about 28,000, or, with the suburban villages, about 36,000. The population comprises: Arabs 20,498, Jews 3,347, Christians 1,350, European civilians 116, other nationalities 2,812. The last-named include Indians, Turks, Persians, Kurds, Sudanese, a few Levantines, Greeks and Russians.

Tobacco oil is likely to be put on the market within the next few months. Messrs. Salomas, of Ekaterinodar, Russia, have been experimenting for some time with oil produced from tobacco grain, and have succeeded in extracting a proportion of 34 per cent. of oil. The oil is of a fine colour, and when properly prepared and distilled may be used as olive oil and for preserving tinned fish, sardines, etc.

According to a Cairo message dated November 4, the Alexandria General Produce Association's October cotton report states that the first and second pickings are below the average, and the ginning yields are inferior to last year. The association estimates the 1916 crop at 5,850,000 cantars, which represents little over 3½ cantars per feddan over an area which is less than had been generally anticipated. The Government will publish an estimate shortly.

Mr. V. N. Deloff has been appointed general manager of the Russian Petroleum Company, in succession to the late Mr. T. C. Weskin. Mr. Deloff is a member of the Technical Committee of the Sovyet Siedz (Naphtha Producers' Association). Mr. S. Bagdasarian and Mr. S. N. Kvitashvili have been appointed joint general managers of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company in succession to the late Mr. T. C. Weskin. Mr. Bagdasarian for some time has held the appointment of chief engineer of the company. Mr. Kvitashvili has been for many years in the company's service and latterly has acted as chief commercial assistant to the general manager. The European Oilfields Corporation has received a telegram from Mr. Arthur G. Parker, the London manager, announcing his safe arrival at Baku. Mr. Parker expects to be back in England before Christmas.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Developments on Egyptian State Railways.

Engineering (October 27) describes at great length by illustration and letterpress some third-class all-steel carriages for the Egyptian State Railways which have been designed by the Leeds Forge Co., Limited, in collaboration with Mr. R. G. Peckitt, chief mechanical engineer of the Egyptian State Railways. Thirty of these were built at Leeds under the supervision of Sir Arthur L. Webb, K.C.M.G., inspecting engineer to the Egyptian State Railways. The draw-gear, buffing-gear, breakwork, axle-boxes, wheels and axles, bogies, and general details, such as windows, louvres, seats, lavatory and other fittings, have been arranged to Egyptian State Railway standards. These carriages are in service in Egypt, largely in connection with movements of troops, and are much appreciated. The whole of the panelling and framing is of steel throughout, lined on the inside with asbestos. They can be freely washed out with a hose pipe, without any risk of water lodging so as to cause corrosion, the floor being of Decolite cement, provided with wash-out plugs. They have, after careful tests in Egypt, proved themselves to be quite as cool in hot weather as the wooden stock. They also have the advantage that they cool down more readily than the wooden carriages after sundown, owing to the system of air circulation between the outer and inner linings.

Special Features.

The following special features of the design may be noted:—The under-frame and body are incorporated into one structure. The body side pillars are connected at the bottom through the solebars to the boxed ends of the under-frame cross-bars, except at the bogie bolsters; and at the top direct to the car lines, this construction making several strong girdles completely round the body and frame. These are further stiffened by diagonal braces between the seats fixed to the pillars at the top edge, and to the cross-bar flanges at the bottom edge. A test load of 15 tons distributed along the floor caused practically no deflection. Free air circulation is provided throughout in the body between the outer and inner linings. The asbestos lining is carried inside the body sides and the lower roof with a free air space of 8½ ins. at the roof centre. As stated above, the design is so arranged that there is no place for lodgment of moisture in the panels and frame, and as a further means of preventing corrosion the bodies are arranged in such sections that they can be thoroughly stoved after they are prepared for erection.

Weight Advantages.

The ample proportions of these carriages will be much coveted by English railway engineers. Notwithstanding these sizes we find that the existing timber coaches have tare weights per passenger of from 836 lbs. to 992 lbs. Against these the steel coach has an average of 685 lbs. per passenger. This advantage in weight is due somewhat to the reduced thickness of sides, permitting an extra passenger on the transverse seats. Without thus utilising this extra seating space or by giving each passenger additional room, the tare weight would then show about 810 lbs. per passenger. The following summarises the advantages which have been obtained by the

use of these steel coaches as compared with timber coaches:—They are lighter in structure, with increased capacity. They are stronger and better able to resist wear and tear. They proved to be quieter in running. They are more economical in first cost and maintenance. There is no danger from fire. The strong construction of the ends, which have strong vertical girders with very stout corner pillar pressings, will prevent "tele-scoping."

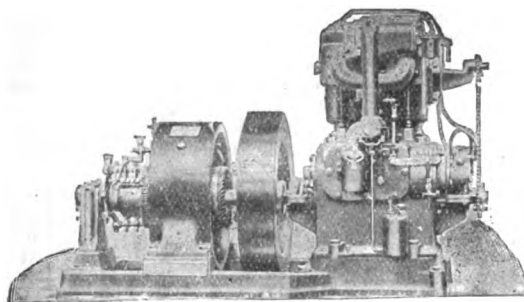
The "Caterpillar" Tractor.

When, in an issue of *THE NEAR EAST*, exactly fifteen months ago, we gave a detailed description of the "caterpillar" tractor, and alluded to its remarkable efficiency in travelling over soft or sandy soils, which ordinary vehicles could not do, we mentioned that among the most important uses to which, it was claimed, it could be applied with success were rooting up trees, pulling stumps, ploughing, harrowing, harvesting, threshing, and running flour or saw mills. The "caterpillar" tractor's usefulness in peaceful landwork is increasing. Its latest achievement is in the excavation of drainage channels. Hitherto drainage channels, of sizes too small to be economically handled by a dredge, were opened by a drainage channel plough of special construction. Horses were attached four abreast, and, according to authentic information, frequently fifty miles of channel 8 ft. wide on top, 3 ft. deep, and 18 in. at bottom width, were let on contract prices at from 5s. 2d. to 8s. 4d. per rod. The machine which is now replacing these outfits consists of an engine supported on two long caterpillars 30 in. wide, which carry a 16 in. diameter cable drum 24 in. long. The drum is driven from the main shaft of the 60-h.p. engine, and is geared to give a rope

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, ENGLAND.

OIL AND GAS ENGINES.

Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.



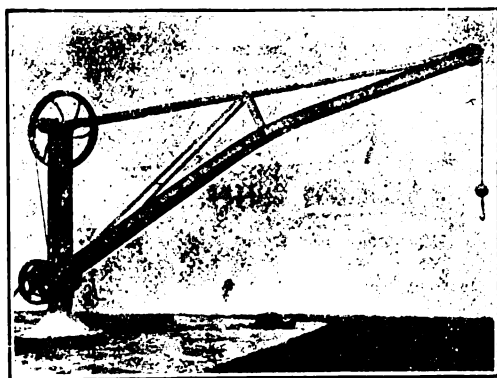
Suitable for
driving:—
Dynamos, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.

Foreign Branches and
Agents:

INDIA.
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dilaiz Zade Han,
Stamboul, Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.,
Cairo.



1½ Ton Independent Whip Crane.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS AND OTHER RAILWAY PLANT

(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers).

SUCH AS

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes, Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements.
Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "BLUICK, LONDON."

speed of 14 to 18 ft. per minute, depending on the amount of cable on the drum. About 1,000 ft. of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wire rope is used. When, on account of difficult ground, or for other reasons, the tractor must be set at greater distance from the plough, removable lengths of 500 or 600 ft. of wire rope are attached between the plough and the end of the cable. In operation, the plough, removed from its four-wheel carriage, is left at the starting-point of the channel, the cable attached to its beam. The tractor moves ahead to the proper point on the line of the channel, paying out the cable as it advances. The traction gear is then released and the drum thrown in. As soon as a strain is taken on the cable, two other anchor flukes drop to the ground and bite in as the tractor moves backward, until the latter is securely anchored. When the plough is drawn to the end of the cut the drum is thrown out of gear and the tractor thrown in. As the tractor advances, the anchors ride up from the ground, and are hooked up in the clear by power. One man and a helper are required to operate the tractor, while another man rides the plough. The plough weighs four tons with its removable truck; and the tractor, although weighing fifteen tons, is able, owing to its large bearing surface, to travel over swamp land too soft to support a team. A plough of increased size, which will cut drains 2 ft. in bottom by 9 ft. in width, and 3 ft. 6 in. deep, is used with the tractor.

Agricultural Machines for Italy.

In a recent American Consular report it was stated that about 200,000 agricultural machines and implements are to be purchased by the Italian Government. These will be used to meet the difficulties caused by the shortage of farm hands. It is hoped, if the American report is correct, that the British market will have a substantial share in the orders.

Gas-Propelled Cars.

The restricted supplies and consequent high price of petrol, together with the official ruling that all petrol substitutes come under the same category as petrol, are evidently acting as a stimulant to the inventive propensities of automobile engineers and manufacturers, for it is evident that recent inventions, such as of liquid fuel, oil-engines, carburetors, and other devices for auto-cars, are more or less contrivances to evade or alleviate the difficulties and restrictions with which, at present, petrol vehicles are encumbered. One of the latest advances in automobile propulsion is the utilisation of gas, and some very interesting experiments are being carried on in that direction by a firm of garage owners. The gas is contained, to the extent of nearly 500 cubic feet, in a canvas and rubber bag, secured to the roof of the vehicle, the bag being filled direct from the gas main. From the reservoir the gas is conveyed to a point above the throttle of the engine, the supply being controlled by a lever coupled to the throttle valve lever. It is said that with an efficient driver about thirty miles can be obtained per 1,000 cubic feet of gas consumed, and as at the place where the experiments are carried on the gas costs only 1s. 4d. per 1,000 cubic feet, the motive power is very cheap when compared with the present price of petrol. In large cars of the char-à-banc type, with which the experiments are being made, there is said to be a saving, in the use of gas, of about 85 per cent.

THE DANUBE BRIDGE AT CERNAVODA.

A German Description of Roumania's Great Work.

The following description of the great bridge across the Danube at Cernavoda, known as the "Podul Regale Carol I.," which carries the Bucharest-Constanza railway, and has great military, political, and economic importance, appeared in the *Kölnische Zeitung* twenty years ago:—In its lower reaches the artery of the Danube acquires an imposing breadth. On the map you see a wide space coloured blue, where stand out a series of branches or channels. The whole of this tract, which in many places extends to over twenty miles, is flooded at high-water, and at many points has had here to be spanned by large bridges and viaducts, and elsewhere by a high stone barrage for a total length of fourteen miles. First comes a three-arched bridge 420 yards long, thrown from the left bank across the so-called Borcea channel or arm of the Danube. The bridge proper is continued by a viaduct with thirty spans, and 650 yards long, which carries the rails over the strong stone causeway. Then this causeway traverses for a great distance the space subject to inundations, which at low water forms a marshy island and, gradually rising, leads at last to a viaduct 900 yards long, which is disposed in fifteen 60 yard spans, and gives direct access to the Danubian bridge proper. This slender iron structure, spanning the main stream with a length of 750 yards, is disposed in five arches, of which the central is 150 and the others 140 yards wide. It has a weight of 4,000 tons, and rests on two mighty abutments on either bank and six stone pillars with ice-breakers. Of these, four are built in the stream and carried 30 yards above extreme high-water level, so that the tallest vessels ply freely under the bridge. The works were carried out by the French Fives Company, of Lille, and this bridging of the Danube has cost Roumania £1,360,000. But a work has thus been created such as had not been seen in this part of the world since the days of Trajan—a work to which King and people, and especially their engineer, may point with just pride in proof of a high creative faculty.

Many a traveller grows dizzy as he glides over the bridge and looks down more than 100 feet on the surface of the stream. Below, on its margin, lies Tchernavoda, a little riverside town of some 2,000 inhabitants, which presents a far from inviting aspect. It is an Eastern settlement, whose dreary surroundings remind one of some American and Australian diggings. Here in Dobrudja the country has the character of an elevated plain, without however attaining any great altitude. The railway track takes the direction pointed out by nature, through a long, very wide, and flat gully, which is at once recognised as the old, or an old, bed of the Danube. The supposition is that during long ages here in the East the Black Sea coastlands have been rising and alluvium deposited, just as on the German Ocean the seaboard is subsiding and the ground washing away. But it must be left to others to decide to what extent the gradual upheaval is progressing, or whether in Dobrudja other natural forces may not have shared in the

work in prehistoric times. In any case, the Danube may have once, perhaps many thousand years ago, here found no obstructions, and was thus able to take the nearest way to the sea. In this broad, flat, fluvial bed now graze numerous herds, partly owned by the descendants of those Tartars who, after the Crimean War, migrated thence into Turkey. Since the annexation of Dobrudja to Roumania many have again wandered into Asia in the wake of the Sultan's waning star. Their withdrawal is reluctantly witnessed, for they are esteemed doubtless not as a fine but as a stout and vigorous race and as a valuable section of a motley people now declining and difficult to replace. At present the population has fallen from over 250,000 to less than 200,000, of which the Roumanian element forms one-third, Turks and Bulgarians each a twelfth, and Tartars a sixth.

EGYPTIAN TARIFF CHANGES.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of October 5 contains certain tariff valuations for hides, skins, sesame, flax, wool, ivory, wax, onions, eggs, cotton seed oil, caustic soda, and various other products exported from Egypt, which are to remain in operation from October 1 to December 31, 1916. The same issue of the *Journal* contains the following revised Tariff Valuations (No. 32) for use in assessing the duties on cotton yarns imported into Egypt from October 5, 1916, to December 4, 1916, or until denunciation, as follows:—

Articles.	Import Valuations per Kilogramme (2½ C46 lbs.).
Cotton single yarns, grey & bleached—	Millièmes.*
From India—	
Nos. 4 to 12.....	75
Nos. 14 to 20.....	98
From other countries—	
Nos. 4 to 12.....	120
Nos. 14 to 20.....	127
Knittings—	
From India—	
Nos. 3 to 12.....	105
From other countries—	
Nos. 3 to 12.....	136
Cotton sewings, grey or bleached—	
From India.....	127
From other countries.....	135
Cotton double yarns, grey and bleached, Nos. 40/2.....	170
Cotton cable yarns, No. 20.....	170
Turkey red cotton single yarns.....	135
Other coloured cotton single yarns.....	157
Gassed or mercerised or prepared yarns, grey, bleached, or dyed—	
From India.....	ad valorem
From other countries.....	ad valorem

* Dnty is leviable on the valuations shown at the rate of 8 per cent. The tare allowance for bales is fixed at 3 per cent.

It is also notified that in addition to the prohibition of the exportation of wheat and maize under a Ministerial decision of September 12, 1916, the exportation is prohibited of millet, and of all alimentary products, with the exception of bran, manufactured from wheat, maize, or millet.

A further black-list of enemy firms not resident in enemy territory with which trading is prohibited is given in a proclamation issued on October 5, and published in the Egyptian *Official Journal* of October 16.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skopje (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Pleshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000.

Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298-05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU,
C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY,
GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Our market has continued firm this week, but there has not been very much business as sellers are scarce and buyers have not been generally inclined to pay the increased prices asked. The feature has been the rise in Khedivial Mail shares, which have spurted about 3s. to 30s. 6d. on a persistent local demand, evidently connected with favourable rumours as to the amount of the final dividend which is expected to be declared in a few days' time; but Khedivial Preference remains unexpectedly dull round 3½ to 3¾.

National Banks have firmed up ¼ to 12½, all the shares on offer having been absorbed between 12½ and 12 7/16, with further buyers at about these prices. Agriculturals are firm, but without business at 4½ to 4¾. Salt and Sodas are 3d. better at 20s. 9d.; but inactive, as buyers are not wanting to pay more than 20s. 6d. and sellers are more inclined to raise their prices than to lower them, a very satisfactory dividend being expected for the year ending August 31 last. A few Delta Lights were done at 5 3/16.

The news from Egypt regarding the financial position of the natives this year is very favourable, so that the mortgage companies expect very good encashments, and at the same time land companies are anticipating a revival in their sales of land. It is quite on the cards, therefore, that there will be a good amount of activity and higher prices in Egyptian shares in the near future.

As regards Greek stocks, the revival of demand reported last week has continued, but the absence of sellers has made business very difficult.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, etc.

The coupons due on the 15th inst. on the Imperial Government of Persia Five per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911 will be paid on and after that date at the offices of the Imperial Bank of Persia, or at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

At the general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to be held on December 13, the directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, less income-tax, will recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. for the six months, together with a bonus at the rate of 6 per cent., both free of tax, making, with the interim dividend of 6 per cent., a total distribution on the deferred stock of 18 per cent. for the year. Warrants will be posted on December 16.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian. — Gemsah production, week, 26 tons (previous week, 22 tons); Hurgada, 3,534 tons, against 829 tons. The large increase in Hurgada production is owing to well No. 8 having come in on the 1st inst. and giving a steady production of about 600 tons a day.

Baku Russian. — Week ended November 4, 80,500 poods.

Cheleken. — Fortnight ended November, 4,538 tons.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport. — Week ended October 28, 61,864 poods (998 tons).

North Caucasian. — Week ended October 18 (31), 580,287 poods (9,359 tons).

Russian Petroleum. — Week ended November 4, 59,700 poods.

Spies. — Week ended November 5, including 4,310 poods from ambars, 170,935 poods (2,757 tons); total, 7,097,335 poods (114,473 tons), against 11,555,535 poods (186,380 tons).

Ural Caspian. — Week ended October 26, 167,391 poods (2,700 tons).

Meeting.

Land Bank of Egypt. — The general meeting will be held at the head office at Alexandria on December 5 at 4 p.m. Holders desiring to vote at the meeting must deposit their shares not later than 30th inst. at (among other places) the London branch of the Comptoir National d'Escompte.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price.	Price Nov. 3.	Present Price.
	July 27, 1915.		
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ do. Bonds, 1907 ..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ do. Bonds, 1909 ..	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4½, 1909 ..	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5½ Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt Gov. 3½ Guar. Loan ..	93½	71½	71½
Egyptian 4½ Unified Debt ..	98	78½	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	66½	67
Do. Ins. 8½, 1890	82½	65½	63
Do. 4½ State Domain, 1878 ..	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	50	50
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	42	42
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	52½
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	64	49	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	65	65
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	74	75
Montenegro 5% Loan (1911) ..	82½	55	55
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½ Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc.,	—	—	—
£60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	44	44
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855 ..	103	85	85
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	78	76
Do. 3½ Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 ..	84	70	65½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	54	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	37	37
Do. 4%, 1909	69	37	37
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	4½	4½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	64½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12½	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	—	—
Bank of Athens	42	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	—	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	3½	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	12½	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½ C.P. ..	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer ..	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ Debs.,	—	—	—
Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	10	10
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	59½	59½
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba	—	—	—
and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10½	10½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	55½	55½
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	15/-	15/-
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt ..	—	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	—	—
Do. do. Def.	—	—	—
Béhéra Co.	—	—	—
Do. Pref.	—	—	—
Daira Sanieh	—	—	—
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/-	9/-
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	86½	86½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	—	—	—
Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum.	—	—	—
Pref.	98	7½	7½
Do. 4½ 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	76	76
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/3	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.	—	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1	1
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	—	—	—
Do. 4½ 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	26/6	26/6
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	95	95
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	20/9	20/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	—	—	—
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96½	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	27/3	32/-
Do. do. Pref.	—	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Oct. 31.	Nov. 8.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8/9	12/3
Anglo-Persian	20/6	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6
Roumanian	14/9	14/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Oct. 31.	Nov. 3.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	458	456
Canal de Suez	4490	4450
Credit Foncier Egyptien	642	643
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	61
Egyptian Unified 4%	88.50	87
Serbian, 1895	63	63

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON OCTOBER 21.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.	
National Bank of Egypt	£ 12½ to
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 86
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	Fr. 11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5½
priv.	L.E. 3½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Fr. 126
Bons de Panama	Fr. 104
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Fr. 61½
Privilegiée	Fr. 95
Cheikh Fadl	Fr. 75½
Urbaines et Rurales	Fr. 2½
Comptoir Financier et Commercial ..	Fr. 8
Building Lands of Egypt	Fr. 4
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 4½
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 80
Unifiée	60 ex coup.
Privilegiée	Fr. 4½
Land Bank of Egypt	Fr. 4½
Fondateur	Fr. 25/-
Pressage et dépôts	Fr. 145
Nungovitch Hotels	Fr. 143
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	Fr. 199
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	Fr. 600
Ord.	Fr. 310
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	Fr. 248
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Fr. 254
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 254
Jouissance	Fr. 254
Egyptian Markets	Fr. 254
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 254
Div.	Fr. 254
Brasseries d'Egypte	Fr. 254
Egyptian Salt and Soda	Fr. 254
Cotton Ginners	Fr. 254
New Egyptian Co.	Fr. 254
United Lands	Fr. 254
Levant S.S. Co.	Fr. 254
Fond.	Fr. 254

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation on September 30, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
Prêts Existants:	£E.	£E.
Prêts à court terme	7,925	6,263
Catégorie "B"	5,405,856	4,915,105
Total	5,413,781	4,921,368
Echéances:		
Dues	122,221	92,065
A échoir	879,083	728,205
Total	1,001,304	820,270
Perceptions:	1915.	1916.
	£E.	£E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	1,209,167
Restant	1,189,808	1,021,992
Perçu	204,738	187,195
Echéances:		
Perçu	54,447	59,681
Total perçu sur annuités	259,385	246,876

EGYPTIAN DELTA, LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended October 10, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
	£E.	£E.
Sept. 30-Oct. 10	6,117	6,717
April 1-Oct. 10	79,253	95,473

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.	1916.
	Week ended	Week ended
	Nov. 4.	Nov. 2.
Cattle markets	759	925
General markets	379	400
Cattle markets closed	1	2
Receipts (£)	1,138	1,325
Total from commencement		
of year (£)	42,650	44,564

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.
ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc. Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE"

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 289.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	49	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	56	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	65
Cairo	52	A Woman Doctor in Serbia ..	57	The Prosperity of Egypt ..	66
Athens	53	Prisoners of the Senussi ..	57	Persian Trade	66
Cyprus	54	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	58	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	67
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST ..	62	Trade Notes	67
The Arab Movement	55	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	64	New Cereal for Cyprus ..	67
A Hundred Years Ago	61			Produce Report	68
Problems of the Sudan—IV. ..	61			Engineering Notes	70
LEADING ARTICLE—				Company Reports	71
Mr. Asquith on the Ottoman				On 'Change	72
Empire	60			Company Notes	72
				Stock and Share List	72

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Roumania, of all the countries that come under review in these pages, continues to claim chief attention. But as the tense anxiety felt on her behalf a short while ago diminishes it becomes more possible to fit both spheres of the Roumanian campaign into the war picture as a whole. For all the immediate significance that the enemy's thrusts in the Dobruja and the Carpathians have for the Allies as a whole and for the Roumanians in particular, they remain very closely connected with events in other theatres. Without attempting to apportion cause and effect we may note among other current features of the war at this time the slowing-down of the Austro-German advance in the central passes of the Lower Carpathians, the falling back of von Mackensen's forces in the Dobruja, the French gains at Verdun, and the further successes in the region of the Somme and Ancre. Taken collectively these separate episodes emphasize the condition of siege in which the Central Powers find themselves, and serve to remind us of the steady progress made by the investing armies, inasmuch as the situation at any one point responds far more readily than it did before to changing conditions at other points.

One effect of this development in the military situation is to engender an over-eagerness amounting to impatience in regard to the ordered course of events. The knowledge that a thrust in one place is likely to react on pressure which is being exerted by the enemy in another makes public opinion the more anxious for thrusts everywhere and all the time. Unfortunately, this ideal state of affairs cannot be realized. But the recent frequency of these thrusts has gone far to engender confidence that the co-ordination of the Allies' efforts is slowly bearing fruit in all the theatres of war. For the moment the outlook has particularly reassuring aspects. There is activity in Macedonia, there are signs of activity in the Sinai Peninsula and beyond the Egyptian frontier, while even from Mesopotamia comes in Sir Percy Lake's final despatch a specific reference to "more active measures during the coming cold weather."

Although the Austro-German advance in the Carpathians has been retarded, it has by no means been brought to a standstill. On the contrary, it would seem as if the menace at the Central Passes had caused a check to the Roumanian attack on the Moldavian front. Further withdrawals have taken place during the past

week at the Törzburg, Roter Turm, and Vulcan Passes. Fortunately, in the Predeal or Prahova Valley the enemy has gained little or no ground. At the three other points he is now from thirteen to twenty miles within Roumanian territory. The hilly country to which the fighting is still confined favours the defence; but with the offensive still in the hands of the Austro-German forces, they are able to change their point of attack more readily than the Roumanians can transfer reinforcements to the particular pass threatened at the moment. As far as is known, Roumanian public opinion remains confident that the measure of the enemy's strength has been taken and that he cannot hope to advance much further. It is not without significance that the present time should have been chosen by M. Marghiloman, the former leader of the Conservative Party, who was resolutely opposed to Roumanian participation in the war, to announce his conversion from a partisan of peace to a partisan of war, and his resolve to do everything for national unity.

In the Dobruja the Russo-Roumanian recovery has brought the fighting once more to the neighbourhood of the Cernavoda Bridge. Harsova, twenty-five miles to the north, was occupied a little over a week ago, and an official Russian statement issued on November 10 announced the occupation of Danube Station, two miles west of Cernavoda. More than 200 bodies, it was added, had been counted on the captured ground, a number of prisoners and a machine gun being also taken. This is the first intimation we have had of the enemy having crossed the Danube. The bulk of the Russo-Roumanian force retired to the north, and it is unlikely that any strong body of troops, after the cutting of the Cernavoda Bridge, would have remained in the marshy ground between the main channel of the Danube and Fiteshti. Accordingly, von Mackensen would have been able to throw across without much difficulty a few parties to reconnoitre. It is these who will have been surprised by the sudden Russo-Roumanian offensive. Von Mackensen, it is stated in the German Press, has been considerably assisted by his aircraft. These are not likely to have been very numerous, and will have probably followed the pursuit northwards. Profiting by the absence of the enemy airmen and by special knowledge of the ground, the Roumanians seem to have made good use of their opportunity. Their appearance at this point, even if they are in no great force, will have helped to keep the battle line in the Dobruja mobile. The fact that the Bulgarians are burning the villages they evacuate indicates that they regard their retreat as final.

The respite from air-raids which the Roumanians enjoyed after the arrival of a large number of Allied airmen with their machines has not lasted long. Bucharest has again been visited by hostile aircraft, and a number of bombs were dropped on the Palace, in the absence, fortunately, of the Royal Family. Other aeroplanes appear to have flown over a large part of the kingdom, dropping bombs indiscriminately or swooping down to fire with machine-guns at civilians in the streets or in the fields. No military purpose is served by these acts, but we can well believe that the methods of warfare practised by the Germans will make Germany, her people, and goods anathema to the Roumanians after the war.

The Monastir nut is proving a hard one to crack, but the pincers are steadily tightening their grip upon it. The heaviest fighting falls at present upon the Serbians, who are working their way towards the town from the east. Here beyond the Cerna River, that skirts the eastern edge of the narrow plain on the extreme west of which Monastir is situated, is a tangled mass of mountains, and it is across this that our Allies have to force their way. Since the capture of Kaymakalan they have progressed twelve or more miles westward, gradually spreading out to the north, until with the capture of the village of Iven they are at last due east of Monastir. At the same time they are nearing the end of the hill country, where it flanks the Cerna at a distance of less than ten miles from their immediate objective. The French, operating to the south and south-west, have equally difficult country to contend with, except on the actual road and railway running north from Florina, but are within eight or nine miles of Monastir at the nearest point. In the course of three days' fighting over 1,400 prisoners were taken by the Franco-Serbian troops, and to these have to be added, if we read the Serbian *communiqué* aright, another thousand captured on November 13. The majority of the latter were Germans, whose presence at this point may be taken as a sign that the Serbians are reaching the climax of their long struggle. In view of the fact that Monastir has been to a great extent evacuated by the enemy, it may be expected that when once the hill country is lost the Bulgarians will abandon the defence and take up fresh positions north of the town.

Any hopes entertained that Mr. Asquith would take the opportunity of the Guildhall Banquet to throw light on the situation in Greece were doomed to disappointment. It is true that he spoke at some length on Greek affairs, but for the most part his remarks were in the nature of a homily—very necessary, no doubt, but not calculated to explain how it came about that the Allied Governments are according their recognition to two mutually incompatible authorities in Greece. Mr. Asquith repeated the well-known fact that the Allies went to Salonika not as invaders and trespassers, but with the assent of the Greek Government and as the friends of both Serbia and Greece. Great Britain has a sincere and traditional friendship with Greece as one of the Guaranteeing Powers of her independence and freedom. "We desire," the Prime Minister went on to say, "at one and the same time to prevent her being enmeshed in the German net and to save her from the calamities of intestine strife. Whatever the measures, apparently of a drastic character, the Allies have taken they have been dictated solely by the necessity of preventing Athens from becoming, or rather I ought to say from continuing to be, the focus and centre of German propaganda and intrigue."

At one time the fear was expressed that in making their peace with King Constantine the Allies were virtually throwing over M. Venizelos and his Provisional Government. The British Government repudiated the suggestion, and Mr. Asquith returned to the charge. "I say quite frankly," he declared, "—it is no good mincing words about this—I say quite frankly, on behalf of his Majesty's Government, we are in hearty

sympathy with that great Greek patriot, M. Venizelos. He has assured us, and we fully accept his assurance, that his efforts and his organisation have no anti-dynastic purpose." But the fact remains that M. Venizelos does not recognise the Athens Government, King Constantine does not recognise M. Venizelos's Provisional Government, and the Allied Powers recognise all three. Questions in Parliament have elicited the information that the two Greek Governments are recognised in the territories over which they claim to exercise jurisdiction—an arrangement that simplifies an anomalous procedure without in any way justifying it. An attempt is now to be made to perpetuate the system by introducing in Northern Greece a neutral zone between the two unfriendly Governments.

The question exercising public opinion in Great Britain is why the Allied Governments have seemingly taken such elaborate pains to hamper their own movements and to give themselves additional trouble in Greece. That they have been exceedingly long-suffering with King Constantine cannot be denied; but whether this policy is the result of special considerations which it is not desirable should be revealed, or whether it is the outcome of a *laissez faire* attitude based on a failure to appreciate the situation in any of the many phases through which it has passed, there is no means of knowing. Whatever the answer to the question, King Constantine has played his game with wonderful confidence. Public opinion need not grudge him his security on the throne, but it does resent his easy victory over Allied diplomacy. It has watched a tedious struggle, in the course of which King Constantine has had taken from him a number of pawns to which he attached no importance, but in the end has been left in a commanding position. This at least would appear to be the present situation in Athens, if it be true that the King was the guest of the Russian Legation at a dinner last Monday.

It would have been a great relief to the British public if Mr. Asquith, when speaking at the Guildhall, had dealt less with the "immortal past" of Hellas, and, coming down to present time, had offered some explanation of Allied diplomacy. That this diplomacy should have been as ineffective as the published record of events represents it to be is almost incredible. We refuse to believe, until more conclusive evidence is forthcoming, that diplomatic acumen is confined in Europe to Greece. Outwardly, as far as the negotiations between King Constantine and the Allies are concerned, the latter would rarely seem to have gained a single point without accepting a compromise on their original demand. Perhaps the most glaring instance of their weakness is associated with the treatment of Greek officers and men who have elected to join the National Movement. After the earliest secessions from the Army and Navy had taken place the Athens Government arrested all those suspected of entertaining leanings towards the Provisional Government. The Allies protested and secured an undertaking from King Constantine that these men should be accorded complete liberty of action. The pact was not honoured; those who had been already arrested remained in prison, others continued to be rounded up in various parts of Greece. Again the Allies made representations; but instead of securing the immediate and unconditional release of the victims of the Athens Government's persecution, they agree to a compromise that the supporters of the Provisional Government who are officers must first resign their commissions in the Army or Navy. Not content with this abatement of their original demands, the representatives of the Entente in Athens are reported to have carried out the task imposed upon them by the Greek Government of visiting the officers in prison in order to secure their assent to the arrangement the Allies had so meekly accepted on their behalf. A more humiliating rôle for the Ministers of foreign Powers to take up must be unknown in the annals of modern European diplomacy.

While Greece is thus officially flouting the Allies, they are faring no better at the hands of the unofficial

Greek Germanophil. Reference has been made in a previous issue to the activities of a Gounarist deputy, living on the shores of the Bay of Phaleron, who carried out the duties of a purveyor of German submarines. This man is now stated to have supplied the Goeben and Breslau with coal off the Piræus, thus enabling them to reach the Dardanelles. In an interview with a newspaper correspondent, it will be remembered, King Constantine denied that the two ships had received coal from Greece. At Florina, near the Serbian frontier, a former Prefect is reported to have been the medium of regular communication between Greek Germanophiles and the Bulgarians and to have conveyed large supplies of foodstuffs over the border. Numerous other disclosures, even more sensational in character, are being allowed to be transmitted from Greece. One report declares that Greece is bound by a secret treaty not only with Germany but also with Bulgaria and Turkey; another that the Allies hold a copy of instructions given by a former Greek Minister of War to the officer commanding at Salonika ordering him so to locate the Allied troops that they would always be surrounded and dominated by Greek guns. The lay, undiplomatic mind argues that, if friendly relations exist between the Allies and King Constantine, these reports should not be allowed to be circulated in these days of censorship; if, on the other hand, it is held desirable that they should be circulated, then friendly relations ought not to exist between the Allies and King Constantine.

That the strange game between the King and the Allied Governments is still in progress is shown by the latest telegram from Greece, which states that the French Minister of War, General Roques, who is on a visit to Athens, had an audience of King Constantine on Tuesday, and requested him to furnish pledges of friendship to the Allies. Specific demands are said to have been made for delivery of the Greek artillery, the expulsion of a number of persons suspected of acting as agents for Germany, and the cessation of all action against the Provisional Government. King Constantine, it is said, referred General Roques to the Prime Minister, and accordingly a memorandum of the demands was submitted to the latter. We have it on the authority of M. Politis, formerly of the Greek Foreign Office, that no recent Cabinet in Greece has had any authority of its own, but has invariably taken all its instructions from the King. The fact must be sufficiently well known to the Entente Powers, and it would seem as if the wiser course to have adopted would have been either to present the demands in the first instance to Professor Lambros or, when they were submitted to King Constantine, to have insisted upon the pledges being given personally by him.

British aircraft activity in the Sinai Peninsula and beyond has been followed by a revival of the enemy's air raids on Egypt. This time Cairo was visited, and nine bombs were dropped on the business and residential quarters. The Egyptian public, we may hope, will not fail to note that the Turco-German idea of reprisals is to take vengeance on the civil population of the enemy's country, no matter what the nationality may be. The incident will cause the authorities to pay special attention to the protection of Egypt from these air raids, as they cannot be allowed to be repeated with impunity. No doubt the best precaution is to be found in the tactics which in this instance provoked the attack—the raiding of the enemy's air sheds and camps. A day or two previously two successful air attacks had been carried out on Maghdaba and Beersheba. At the former place the enemy's camp and store sheds were bombed; at the latter a 100-lb. bomb hit the aerodrome, others were dropped on the railway station, sidings, and rolling-stock. An aviatik whilst being brought from the hangar was directly hit, and two Fokkers were driven down in a damaged condition. The hangar was also damaged. The immediate reprisal on Cairo was a daring stroke, and it is a matter for regret that the hostile aeroplane was able to make good its escape. So far, however, the last word is with our

own Flying Corps, as a fresh air attack was made on Maghdaba during Tuesday night.

The final chapter in the record of one of Germany's dupes can now be written. Ali Dinar, the ex-Sultan of Darfur, who escaped when his capital, El Fasher, was occupied last May, has since been a fugitive at the head of a small band of rebels near the frontier of Wadai. A small force of the Egyptian Army, three hundred strong, was despatched during October to round up this band. From Dibis, 118 miles south-west of El Fasher, runs the official report, a sudden move was made to Kulme, forty-five miles west of Dibis, which was reached on November 3; but on the arrival of our troops it was found that the main body of the rebels had retired in a south-westerly direction. Our mounted troops went on, and caught up Ali Dinar's force after a night march on November 6. The attack was a complete surprise, our forces getting within 500 yards of the enemy's camp before they were discovered. In the pursuit which followed Ali Dinar's body, with those of some of his principal adherents, was found a mile away. These operations complete the conquest of Darfur, which has now been incorporated within the Sudan.

Sir Percy Lake's despatch covering operations in Mesopotamia from the fall of Kut until August, when he relinquished the command to General Maude, is the most informative communication on the situation in that region that has been made to the public for many months. As is known, there was practically nothing in the way of military operations during the period under review. The Turks were content to leave things as they were after the fall of Kut, and the British forces were only too glad of the opportunity of strengthening their position. It may be that the enemy suffered as much as we did from sickness; it is, we trust, quite unlikely that he should have been able to carry out preparations for a renewal of the conflict on the scale inaugurated by General Lake. Among the works undertaken by the Mesopotamian Expedition may be mentioned two railways; a series of bunds or embankments, some twenty miles in length from the Tigris at Magil to the higher ground at Shaiba, safeguarding an area of forty-eight square miles previously liable to floods; the construction of wharves, enabling ocean-going steamers to come alongside and unload, and the erection of a large amount of hutting for hospitals and troops. An interesting reference to aviation admits the superiority at one time of certain of the hostile aeroplanes over any of the British machines in the matter of speed. This superiority, combined with a large reduction in the number of our pilots due to sickness, "enabled the enemy in May and June to establish what was very nearly a mastery of the air." Finally, as already indicated, there is in the despatch the welcome and significant sentence announcing that "the work of preparation for more active measures during the coming cold weather assumed relatively great importance."



Incorporated
A.D.
1720.

Head Office
ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON, E.C.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for
liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued
to cover loss
incidental to

FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE
GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUAR-
ANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK,
— THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —

at least
possible
premiums.

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. H. L. Bell, Manager.
EGYPT—CAIRO: Everard Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.
Count Michel A. de Zoghbi, Cairo Manager.
ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABBARI STORAGE COMPY.
CYPRUS: NAJEM HOUURY.

Digitized by Google

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 2.

The Return of the Mahmal.

We have had two public holidays this week, the Moslem New Year, which fell on Saturday, October 28, and the return of the Mahmal, which was celebrated to-day. No reception was, again, held on the former occasion at Abdin, where, however, the usual book was signed by everyone admitted to Palace ceremonies. H.H. the Sultan has sufficiently recovered from his indisposition to return to Cairo. He came up from Gabbaris by special train this morning, but was not present at the ceremony of receiving back the Mahmal from the Emir-el-Hajj, Lewa Ahmed Fathy Pasha, on its return from Mecca, being represented thereat by H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister.

The Western Desert Oases.

The reoccupation of the oases of Baharia and Dakhla settles for all practical purposes the question of the western front. With these points in our possession the Senussi can no longer menace the Mudiria towns of Upper Egypt with sudden raids, and incidentally our occupation of Dakhla seriously interferes with the communications of the enemy in the south. The force operating on the western front seems to have carried out its work exceedingly well; in fact, the whole of the campaign in both the northern and southern zones has been conducted in an admirable manner.

A Police Sensation.

Somewhat of a sensation has been created by the news of the suspension of a high Egyptian official in the Police. It is as yet not known what the exact accusation is. An inquiry is proceeding, and it is said that there may be some interesting developments.

The Kitchener Memorial.

The Egyptians have made up their minds to create some worthy memorial to the late Lord Kitchener, and a very influential committee has now been formed for the purpose of collecting the necessary funds. The committee consists of the most notable Egyptians in Cairo, Alexandria, and each of the Mudirias, and H.H. Prince Kemal Eddine, the son of the Sultan, has consented to act as president, with H.E. Ibrahim Fathy Pasha, Minister of Wakfs, as vice-president. H.H. the Sultan, who has accepted the patronage of the committee, offered some time ago to open the subscription list with £E500, and he has now been followed by H.H. the Sultana and H.H. Prince Kemal Eddine, who have given £E400 and £E250 respectively. It may be recollected that when the project was first mooted, H.H. the Sultan, who was supported in the matter by H.E. the High Commissioner, suggested that the best form which the memorial could take would be a maternity home and school for medicine for women, and it has been decided to adopt his suggestion. The amount of the appeal has been tentatively fixed on the basis of a percentage of the land tax paid by each district. It is expected that the sum asked for will be £E250,000, which is roughly 5 per cent. of the present land tax, and which, considering the present prosperity of the country and the fact that it represents but PT1 per head of the purely Egyptian population, should be raised without any difficulty whatsoever.

The Pink Boll-Worm.

Following on the recent legislation with regard to the destruction of immature cotton bolls and the pulling up and storage of cotton sticks, and as a result of the demonstration carried out at Kafr-el-Zayat with cotton-seed fumigation machinery in September last, a law has now been promulgated ordering all ginning factories to instal special apparatus, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, for the fumigation of cotton-seed and to pass all seed handled by them through this apparatus; and forbidding the storage, between May 1 and August 1 in any year, of cotton-seed and unginned cotton in any warehouses, excepting those fulfilling the

requirements of the Ministry. The object of this law is the extermination of the pink (or seed) worm, which has committed such ravages in the past. This pest takes refuge in the seed, and its propagation has hitherto been favoured by the indiscriminate storing in the provinces of unginned cotton, from which the moth was able to escape into the cotton fields in the early summer months, and by the reintroduction of the worm into those fields by means of the sowing seed. It is hoped that the measures now taken will definitely stamp it out in a short time. The new law will not come into force until next year, firstly, because it must receive the sanction of the Mixed Court of Appeal to enable it to be made applicable to Europeans, and, secondly, because it is only reasonable to allow the gineries time to procure the requisite fumigation apparatus, which must be installed at the latest by September 1, 1917.

The Command in Egypt.

There has been another reorganisation of the command in Egypt. "Lines of Communication" has disappeared as a separate command under Lieut.-General Sir E. Altham. The change will in time mean a considerable reduction in staff, and it is undoubtedly from every point of view a step in the right direction.

The New Coinage.

Whilst the new coins have met with a ready reception from the general public, it must be admitted that they are encountering a good deal of criticism from the æsthetic point of view. On paper the new designs passed muster, but the actual coins leave very much to be desired. The old design was artistic in the extreme; the new one is more in the style of what is so often in Egypt called "nouveau art," i.e., gaudy and vulgar. A comparison of the ten-piastre pieces alone shows this difference in an unmistakable manner. It may have been found necessary to change the design, firstly, in order to permit of the insertion of the denomination and minting year in European characters, and secondly, so as to sever all connection with the former régime; but at the same time it should surely have been possible to produce a more elegant and worthy design than the one chosen for this new issue.

EGYPT AND THE RED CROSS.

The first instalment of Egypt's contribution to the British Red Cross for "Our Day" amounts to £60,000, and a cablegram received on Tuesday at the Red Cross Headquarters (83, Pall Mall) from Alexandria states that money is still being received. The sum of £60,000 does not include the gift of £8,400 from the Sudan, and the two contributions together bring the total collected in Egypt and the Sudan for the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John this year and last to close on a quarter of a million pounds. Such has been the response among the native population to the appeal of the Red Cross that, we understand, special steps had to be taken to acknowledge their receipt. Four volumes have been prepared, containing the names of 150,000 native subscribers, together with the amount given by each of them. These volumes, which were printed under the direction of Sir Ronald Graham, are circulated in all the villages, so that the native subscriber, who is difficult to reach through ordinary channels of acknowledgment, knows that his gift has been duly received.

The Post Office announces that the lost P. and O. s.s. "Arabia" would have had the following (amongst other) mails on board, all of which, so far as is known, have been lost:—Letter mails (containing, so far as is known, all correspondence posted at the various ports of departure between the dates mentioned) from:—Ceylon, October 13-21; India (Bombay October 16-24, Calcutta October 14-22); Aden, October 22-29; British Somaliland; Egypt (Port Said October 27-November 3, Cyprus October 19-25).



**THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT**

may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locoums, Halwa,
Bamias, &c.

Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

ATHENS LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, October 3.

The Allies' Precautions.

The strict measures taken by Admiral du Fournet are but the natural consequences of the sordid intrigues of the Germanophile clique, which I have described in earlier letters, and which seriously menaced the security of the Allied forces in the Balkans. It was in similar conditions that France and England in 1854 occupied Athens and Piræus. At that time also the Government of the young King Otho, disregarding the strength of the two Powers who held the mastery of the Mediterranean, committed the blunder of defying them and favouring their enemies.

Two French detachments, landed immediately after the review of the crews disembarked from the Greek warships taken over by the Allies and the provocative incidents connected therewith, occupied the Piræus-Larissa railway, which was their principal objective. For, as is quite well known, the powers that be in Athens, while making a show of considering the abandonment of neutrality, in order to gain time, had been since the middle of September constantly sending war material into Thessaly. These movements, taken in conjunction with the calling to the colours of *exemptés* and untrained men and contingents of the 1913 and 1914 classes, could not fail to inspire the French and British Governments with uneasiness. After the order for demobilization, these steps were naturally strongly suspect in the eyes of the Entente, especially after the surrender of Fort-Rupel and in view of the Germanophile leaning of the majority of the Army officers. The concentration of troops in rear of their own forces constituted a military fact that the Allies could not ignore; neither could they accept the reassuring explanations offered them. Moreover, after the unacceptable propositions regarding the abandonment of neutrality put forward by the Kalogeropoulos Cabinet, and especially after the reception accorded to M. Briand's suggestion, the Entente must have become convinced that Greek neutrality will never be abandoned, at any rate in favour of the Allies, and that the only object of all the tergiversations and twistings is to gain time.

The Work of Mischief-Makers.

On the other hand, the Salonika movement called for a decision on the part of the Entente regarding its attitude *vis-à-vis* the Provisional Government and its relations with that of Athens. Face to face with all these considerations, the Entente Governments recognised the hopelessness of treating the Athens Government with too much consideration, and of tolerating a situation which they had unwisely allowed to arise, to develop, and to become consolidated by the long work of German propaganda which went on under the auspices of the authorities. The Entente, it must be added, has seconded this work to some extent by half-measures, as ill-advised as they have been ineffective, against Greek shipping, imports, and so forth—measures which have helped largely to lose the Entente that sympathy which it formerly commanded in the country. And yet the Entente decided to take more energetic action only when it saw that the security of its Eastern army was threatened. It then had to take severe measures, not to secure Greece's help, but to assure itself against action by her. Yet, however arbitrary these measures may seem at first sight, they are perfectly justified. They are the well-deserved punishment of those who have sown discord between the Greek people and its traditional supporters, and who have sought to separate them, lulling them into their present state of insensibility, which is so unworthy of their past.

For it must not be forgotten what the situation was on the outbreak of the war. Then, although Greek participation would have been much more dangerous than it would be at present, the Greek people twice gave M. Venizelos *carte blanche*, and the Chamber, by a large majority, approved his policy of intervention. It is only thanks to the injudicious tolerance and

magnanimity of the Entente in allowing German intrigue to work against it here in such a scandalous fashion that the change in public opinion has been brought about. Germanophile circles now naturally invoke the present indifference in support of their anti-intervention policy, and as evidence of the disapproval of the revolutionary movement. In these circumstances the stern measures that the Entente has at last been compelled to take are merely legitimate measures of defence against the scandalous intrigues aimed at its undoing and the persecution of the Venizelist party.

Such are the circumstances in which Admiral du Fournet has been charged with the execution of the measures deemed necessary by the Entente. After having sequestered the Greek Fleet and assumed control of the posts and telegraphs, in order to put an end to the espionage upon the Allies, he demanded the dissolution of the reservists' leagues, established to terrorise the Venizelists, and instituted a control of the police in order to assure the political liberty of the people, which had been quite destroyed, so that nobody dared to show any Venizelist sympathies.

The New Period of Neutrality.

The situation thus brought about, and especially the occupation of the Piræus-Larissa line by Allied detachments, which paralysed all action, led to the declaration made by the King to the British Minister. His Majesty assured Sir Francis Elliot of his willingness to withdraw the troops concentrated at Larissa, which was the principal reason for the adoption of the measures taken. He also consented to the disbandment of the contingents in excess of the ordinary effectives on a peace footing.

The Two Greek Governments.

On the conclusion of the Boulogne Conference, which decided the attitude of the Powers towards Official Greece on the one hand and the Provisional Government on the other hand, M. Guillemin communicated the decisions taken to King Constantine. As they announced so long ago as November, 1915, and again in their Note of June 23, the Allied Powers do not desire to force Greece to enter the war on their side. She is free to remain neutral. But she will not be allowed to hinder the anti-Bulgarian movement at Salonika, which is destined to benefit the Allies also; and this the more decidedly because Greece promised the Entente to preserve a benevolent neutrality towards them—even "a very benevolent neutrality," as M. Skouloudis phrased it. The Salonika Government being regarded by the Entente as an Allied factor, any reactionary move against the movement that it represents on the part of Official Greece will be regarded as if it were directed against one of the Entente's Allies. This is what has been explained to the King, with a formal assurance that neither M. Venizelos nor the Powers have any hostile intention against the dynasty, and that the movement is purely anti-Bulgarian. In these circumstances, any attempt against the movement, made on the pretext of defending the Throne or the country, will be severely dealt with.

It is reported that the King gave a formal promise that he would guarantee personally that the political liberty of the citizens should be respected henceforth, and that he offered an assurance of his personal friendship for the Entente. In this connection it may be noted that it is generally believed here that during their visits to Paris, London, and Petrograd, when they endeavoured to get the Salonika movement disowned by the Powers, Prince Nicholas and Prince Andrew received reassuring declarations concerning the intentions of the three Powers regarding the dynasty; but that they were at the same time given to understand that King Constantine must abandon certain anti-constitutional practices which rendered the situation very precarious.

The Germanophile Party.

Although the King's good faith cannot be called in question, there is nevertheless a good deal of scepticism regarding the observance of the undertakings given. It is felt that the clique which governs the country under cover of the Government of straw, assisted by M. Mercouris, a former mayor of Athens and now a fanati-

cal opponent of M. Venizelos, will not readily cease from their sordid intrigues. It is especially the leader of the Nationalists, who conceived the diabolical plan against the Entente's army which I have already reported, who has every incentive to stir up disorder so that he may fish in troubled waters. It was his party which, being in power, converted the guardians of public safety into spies upon the Venizelists and the Ministers of the Entente. For the moment the Germanophiles must, in appearance at least, conform to the decisions of the King; but it is felt that they will not very long conceal their true sentiments. Thus, the day before yesterday, they did their best to prevent any manifestation of the popular indignation at the torpedoing of steamers by German submarines; and they have endeavoured by their journals to make it believe that the two steamers torpedoed near the Piræus actually struck floating mines which had got adrift from the Allied Fleet. And it is through these despicable creatures that Greece has been subjected to so many humiliations! Had she maintained a sincere and loyal neutrality, and not become suspect in the sight of the Entente, none of these ills would have befallen her.

The Only Hope of Salvation.

In these circumstances it is to be hoped that the movement at Salonika will succeed in time. If, as is hoped, an army of 100,000 men—or even of 50,000 or 60,000 men—is raised, and if the operations on the Roumanian front take a more favourable turn, it may be regarded as certain that Greece would range herself on the side of the Entente. On the other hand, if the powers that be should persist in their Germanophilism, in order not to fall in with the policy of M. Venizelos, one can see no hope for the country. The Entente Powers will finish up by treating it as a hostile country, or at any rate with indifference, and will abandon it to its fate, lending their moral and material support only to the Salonika Government. The Protecting Powers would have every right to take up such an attitude if the people of Ancient Greece should abandon their aspirations in the Orient, and thus prove that they have degenerated.

A ROUMANIAN "GOD'S ACRE."

The following touching picture of a Roumanian burial ground is taken from an article (the second of a series entitled "Roumanian Pictures") written by the Queen of Roumania, and published in *The Times* :—

Nothing is more touching than the village cemeteries; the humbler they are the more do they delight the artist's eye. Often they are placed round the village church, but sometimes they lie quite apart. They are not tended and cared for as in tidier lands.

On a Good Friday morning I was roaming through one of these village churchyards. Each grave was lighted with a tiny, thin taper. The living had come to do honour to the dead. An old woman stood quite still beside one of those tapers, but I could perceive no grave at all. All that once had been a tomb had long since been trodden into the ground. "Who is buried there?" I asked. "One of my own," was her answer; "she was my daughter's little daughter; now she is at rest." "Why is the grave no more to be seen?" was my next inquiry. "What," was the resigned reply, "is the use of keeping a grave tidy if the priest of the village allows his oxen to graze about amidst the tombs?"

NATIONAL ROUMANIAN RELIEF FUND.

We understand that the Bank of Roumania, Limited, 27, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C., has been authorised to receive donations on behalf of the above Fund.

At Kingston on Saturday M. Mitzotakis, a nephew of M. Venizelos, applied as managing director of the Vine Products Company for the exemption from military service of his sales and business manager, who had been classified C3. The Mayor suggested that M. Mitzotakis should take control for the time being, but M. Mitzotakis explained that he expected to be called to Salonika to assist his uncle. The tribunal adjourned the case until the manager should be called up, when it would be reconsidered if in the meantime M. Mitzotakis had been called up for M. Venizelos's army.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA :
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO :
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

THE SHEREEF'S COMMANDER.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 17.

It is no longer a secret that Aziz Ali Bey, the hero of Cyrenaica, is now the Generalissimo of the Grand Shereef's forces, and is destined to assume, in the forthcoming reorganization of the Shereef's Government, the portfolio of Minister of War. His record and experience qualify him to render invaluable service to the Arabian movement. As mentioned in former notes, his friendship with the Imam Yehya—who, indeed, owes to him the treaty whereby Turkish authority in the Yemen was reduced to a mere name—is likely to prove a valuable link binding more closely still the two great chiefs of the Hejaz and the Yemen; while his modern military education and the rare experience he gained in his campaigns against the *komitajis* in Macedonia, and later in the war in Tripolitania, are calculated to be of inestimable value to the Shereef, whose forces are still in a rather primitive state.

It is said that it was soon after his arrival that the decision to take the remaining forts of Taieff by storm was carried out. In Medina, where a large reinforcement of over a division is said to have arrived with the Mahmal from Damascus, Aziz Bey is said to have prudently brought together the scattered Arab forces that invested the town on three sides. Meantime, as the enemy is in considerable strength at Medina—about 24,000—and has again the advantage of the use of the railway, which, thanks to German activity, has been repaired—no attack is contemplated by the Shereef's Commander until the Arab troops have been well trained and the fullest preparations have been made.

Aziz Bey was one of the pioneers of the Committee of Union and Progress, but he dissociated himself from it as soon as he saw corruption creeping in and the high principles with which it started being flagrantly betrayed by the Turkish Chauvinists. Knowing, therefore, as few men do, the mind and tactics of the few Unionists now in power, he is best fitted to foil their sinister designs against the Arab world. He has a considerable following of Arab officers who left the Turkish Army, either as deserters or prisoners.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN CYPRUS.

(FROM OUR CYPRUS CORRESPONDENT.)

It is satisfactory to know that the Castle of Kolossi has been added to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. This building, about eight miles from Limassol, was the Grand Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers in Cyprus (their name is, by the way, preserved in a neighbouring village of Spitáli). It was generally regarded as belonging to the early part of the fourteenth century, but is assigned by M. Eulart to the fifteenth. It is well that the building should be protected from injury or defacement under the Antiquities Law. Indeed, some years ago attempts were made to remove one of the marble scutcheons, of the Lusignan period, fixed in the north wall of the keep, which are one of the most interesting features of the building. The Curator of Ancient Monuments is Mr. G. E. Jeffery, well known for his architectural work in Palestine. He has done much useful work in Cyprus, though little of it is known to the general public; and it is to be hoped that he will in due time publish some record of it, which would be of great interest.

It was from this Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers that the well-known Commanderiá wine of the island took its name.

BRITISH ARMENIA COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the British Armenia Committee was held on Tuesday evening at the House of Commons, Viscount Bryce being present. The following resolution was proposed by the chairman, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., seconded by Sir George G. Greenwood, M.P., and unanimously passed: "That the British Armenia Committee desire to place on record their warm gratitude to Mr. Asquith for the words of sympathy and hope which he uttered in his speech at the Mansion House to the Armenian people, and regard these declarations as full of promise (to use Mr. Asquith's own words) for 'an era of liberty and redemption for this ancient people.'"

It is announced from Cairo that the Shereef of Mecca has issued a decree providing for the establishment of an Arab Senate for the Hejaz under the presidency of Sheikh Mohammed Sheibi.

THE ARAB MOVEMENT.

ANOTHER MANIFESTO BY THE GRAND SHEREEF.

(FROM A CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

The Grand Shereef of Mecca has just published another manifesto in vindication of his action against the Unionist Government of Turkey. It is, in a way, a continuation of the line of reasoning traced in the first manifesto, from the purely Islamic standpoint, and embodies a political argument wherein his Highness exposes the folly of the Unionists in having departed from the traditional, and indeed, only wise policy, of friendship with the two leading European Powers that rule by far the largest number of Moslems in the world, and hold the supremacy of the seas—a fact of vital importance to a country like Turkey, with an extensive coast line. The following is a faithful translation:—

In order to dispel any lingering doubt or misgiving as to the real character of the rising that we men of the Hejaz have undertaken, and of which the principal motives are set forth in our first manifesto, we have deemed it advisable to publish these further explanatory lines, so that the worthy in the world, and especially the Muslimeen, may be further enlightened on our intentions and aims as regards our national existence. To that end we shall make use of the most recent data and advance the simplest proofs.

It is well known that all wise Moslems and intelligent persons in the Ottoman Empire, and, indeed, in the rest of the world, do not approve the entry of the Ottoman Government in the present war, and this for essential reasons, of which the chief is that the Ottoman Government had only just come out of the Italian and Balkan wars. This, of course, has led to weakness and waste in her army and finance, and, indeed, in every other department of public life, and has affected similarly the population; for hardly had the soldier returned to his village or work to provide for the sustenance of his family when he was called again to the colours. The nation, therefore, whose constituent members have thus been sorely tried can easily realise what the end would be of its government if it were to throw itself into the abyss of another war, so unlike all other wars, more especially as the Government's revenue consists of taxes and imposts which this already exhausted population has to provide. This is one of the main reasons that made all wise Moslems condemn the entry of the Ottoman Government into the present war. But there are also other reasons of an external order which have reference to the group of belligerents with which it sided. The Ottoman Empire is a Moslem Empire of vast limits and an extensive coastline, and the traditional policy which the Sultans of the great House of Othman pursued has therefore always been based on the maintenance and improvement of friendly relations with those Powers in whose colonial empires the largest portion of the Moslems of the world live, and who hold the supremacy of the seas. When, therefore, the Unionist Government entered this war against these Powers, siding with the other group, whose inordinate ambitions of expansion are determined by over-population in their own countries, all far-seeing Moslems could easily realise the evil consequences that were bound to follow. I was one of those, when I was asked by telegram about my opinion on this war, and I replied, giving the advice that I could only in all conscience give. This, indeed, is one of the proofs of my sincere and loyal friendship to the Ottoman Government, and of my solicitude for its welfare and for the protection of the stronghold of Islam. But what we feared has come to pass, and the limits of the Ottoman Empire have to-day receded almost to the very walls of Constantinople. . . . Whoever contemplates this state of things and watches the progress of this war cannot but see clearly the final result. We had either to give ourselves up to this threatening danger until we disappeared from the map of the world, or seek some means of escape. We leave it to the world at large to examine this question and reply thereto, and we have not the least doubt but that they will fully justify our rising, which came just in time, before ruin overtook by surprise the remnant of this empire. Aye, we have no misgiving whatever about the legitimacy of our movement, which, indeed, was incumbent on us as a duty. Did we at all believe that our continued attachment to this Government—which has become a toy in the hands of a few dictators—would be of any use to it and save its possessions we would have refrained from the steps we have taken and would have possessed our souls in patience and borne our share of the sacrifice. But how was this possible when it became evident that, if we were to allow ourselves to be led in the path they were treading, we should have both been hurled into the abyss of destruction, as was the case with the other vilayets?

Aye, we say this, and leave the judgment to the sense of justice of the world. But we cannot but openly declare that the sole reason of the eventual disappearance of this empire and loss of what remains to it of its subjects—viz., the population of Anadolia and neighbouring vilayets—is the action of the few usurpers of power of the leading Unionists—viz., Enver, Talaat, and Jemal; and their departure from the fundamental policy laid down by the great Ottoman statesmen, which is the policy of friendship with the great nations, Great Britain and France,

whose benefits can be denied only by those who deny the truths of history.

To illustrate the character of the Unionist leaders and judge the measure of their loyalty and good faith it suffices to mention that soon after the payment of the loan with which France helped them at the moment of their dire need they went over to the side of its enemies and declared war on it. But this is not the only test of their moral worth; the fact has been cited because of its being so notorious and of recent date. One has but to recall the acts of cruelty and injustice to which the people, Christians and Moslems alike, are subjected, and especially the inhuman treatment which those holding the power have meted out during this war to the Greeks and Armenians, contrary to the dictates of our holy Sheriat. They were, indeed, not long in following the same barbarous course against the Arabs of Syria and Irak, and even of Arabia, such as the people of Al Awali (one of the suburbs of Medina), whose women they have kidnapped and led to the barracks—an act that not only the Sheriat, but also Arab honour, reproves.

Aye, we have risen, and we do not cease proclaiming that our declaration of hostility and hatred is directed against Enver, Jemal, and Talaat, and their followers. All right-minded Moslems, even members of the House of Othman, are at one with us in this. As a proof of this noble house sharing with us this attitude there is the assassination, by these dictators of its pillar, the happy martyr, the Heir Apparent of the Sultanate, the late Prince Yussuf Izz-ed Din, of blessed memory. We not only dissociate ourselves from them, but openly declare our hostility to, and hatred of, them and their ways; and every pious and right-minded Moslem in the Ottoman Empire, as well as in all Moslem lands, cannot but associate himself with us in this, in view of the actual ruin that they have brought upon the land and the incalculable harm that they have caused to the great power of Islam, which has fallen a victim to their selfish aims and ambitions.

We disavow these folks before Allah, and know that this is the word of truth, on which we live and die. How can we act otherwise, when we have before us instances and examples, which we cite for our Moslem brethren to ponder over? Thus, Jemal Pasha, the autocrat of Syria, ordered the inhabitants of that Moslem country to form from amongst their womenfolk a women's society; then intimated that this society should get up a fête in his honour in their club. This was actually done, and he and some of the military and civil officials, together with others of his clique, whom he invited, attended the fête. The Moslem women, members of this society, actually received and honoured these guests; and at the end some of them made speeches, declaimed poems, and sang songs before this crowd of men, as was reported at the time by the different newspapers of Syria with expressions of pride and admiration, to win the favour of the autocrat.

Praise be to Allah, who saith in his Honoured Book: "And speak to the believing women that they refrain their looks and observe continence, and that they display not their ornaments, except those which are external; and that they draw their veils over their bosoms, and display not their ornaments, except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husbands' fathers, or their sons, or their husbands' sons, or their brothers, or their brothers' sons, or their sisters' sons, or their women, or their slaves, or male domestics who have no natural force, or to children, who note not woman's nakedness. And let them not strike their feet together so as to discover their hidden ornaments."

It will thus be clearly seen what are the designs of these usurpers on the Moslem law and Moslem customs; and this should serve as a warning to our Moslem brethren in Turkey, as well as in other parts of the world, so that they may not lend in any way encouragement to these autocrats in their impious infringement of the laws of Allah and their insolent disregard of his commands, either for worldly fame or for material benefit, because it is idle for a creature to disobey his Creator. And he who is granted a power to put a stop to these sinful acts, either by his hand or tongue or his heart, it is his duty to use this power to that end. And whoever thinks he can defend the audacity of these usurpers, let him come forward with his argument; for, by the will of Allah, we are of those who are always willing to listen to what others have to say, and to follow the best in it; and we may then both be either in the right or in the wrong.

LETTERS FOR MESOPOTAMIA.

The Secretary of the Post Office points out that delay in the transmission of correspondence for members of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force will be avoided if particular care is taken in addressing officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who are detached from their units and employed in other appointments. The address should include particulars of the addressee's unit as well as of the unit to which he is temporarily attached, or appointment in which he is employed.

Correspondence for officers and men of the Force invalided to India should be addressed with the addition "care of Casualties, Bombay," and not to a particular hospital.

Mr. Forster, in a Parliamentary answer, states that there has been scurvy in the Mesopotamia Force, but adds that it has been confined to the Indian troops. The medical authorities in Mesopotamia have taken the necessary measures to deal with it.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A copy of the *Busreh Times* recently received gives some particulars of a census taken last August in Busreh and its suburbs. The most important figures resulting from this census were published in last week's *NEAR EAST*, on page 45. I need not, therefore, repeat them here. But I have been interested in some of the comments of the *B. T.* upon the facts revealed by the census. For instance, it is observed that "it is clear that there is no overcrowding either in Busreh or in Ashar in the technical sense of an excessive number of persons per hundred square yards." This is satisfactory, and I hope that with the spread of civilisation—which, says the *B. T.*, "has come to stay"—overcrowding will not be suffered to creep in. It seems absurd to consider the possibility of such a thing, no doubt; but the danger is there, and unless the necessary building laws and by-laws are introduced, and strictly enforced, the evil is sure to make its appearance sooner or later. The value of land is bound to go up with a bound ere long; and that is nearly always the signal for overcrowding.

As the *B. T.* remarks, Busreh "is full of waste places, sparsely covered, with half-ruined houses and mat huts." The owners of these properties will want careful watching in the near future. Then, I read: "The streets are narrow, but the system of courtyards round which each house is constructed makes for light and air and reduces overcrowding. Even when houses are built with an upper storey it is comparatively seldom that both upper and lower storeys are used for sleeping in." All this is, of course, perfectly true. But, again, it will be necessary to see that, with the spread of the city and the rise in value of property, these conditions do not change for the worse. Overcrowding is bad enough anywhere; in a climate like that of Busreh it would be terribly risky to the health of the entire community.

This reminds me of a fact that often puzzled me when I was living in Baghdad. Most of the houses there are built round courtyards and two-storeyed. The courtyard system is, in my humble opinion, quite the best to employ in such a climate; but why only two storeys? A third would not be very difficult or very expensive to build, though the question of foundations is a difficult one on such soft soil, and it would add enormously to the comfort of a house. The third storey could be a very light affair—a kind of roof-garden for the greater part of the area, with rooms practically open on two, or even three, sides. These would be useful in the 'tween-weather periods. But their chief value would lie in securing greater coolness for the second storey, on which one passes the greater part of one's time in that region. The value in this respect of high houses seems to be well understood in Arabia proper. It is strange that Baghdad and Busreh still cling to the two-storeyed building so persistently.

It is perhaps not surprising that the Bulgarians should feel strong contempt for King Constantine—they were bound to feel either contempt or gratitude, and gratitude does not appear to be one of their strongly developed characteristics—yet if they had any tact at all they would surely have feigned some gratitude at the time they entered Kavalla, if only to avoid playing into the hands of his Majesty's opponents. But they seem to be as lacking in tact as in the other quality. A Cyprus correspondent sends me an extract from the *Phonetes Kyprou*, describing the Bulgar's conduct on their entry into Kavalla the coveted. From this account it appears that "they at once proceeded to hunt for portraits of King Constantine. Wherever they found one they threw it on the floor, trampled on and insulted it." In behaving in this childish way they were possibly imitating the example of their monarch, who, during the first Balkan War, had himself photographed in the act of stamping on a Turkish rifle! But there was some method in their madness. In place of the portraits of King 'Tino, "they hung lithographed portraits of 'Tsar' Ferdinand, who is represented as advancing on horseback. Underneath the portraits are the words: 'To Thessalonika' (Salonika)." Fort Rupel, Kavalla—and next Salonika! If the Bulgar has no overpowering "sense of favours to come," he has at least no small idea of his own power of getting what he wants.

Alexandria clearly has reason to be proud of its Fire Brigade. A correspondent writes from that city:—"It has been generally acknowledged by residents who have in past years been present at the exhibition drills of the Alexandria Fire Brigade that the men are particularly smart at their work. On one or two very recent occasions upon which they have been called out the comments of some of the officers who are temporarily with us, and who have frequently

watched the London Metropolitan Brigade operating at fires in the City, were most interesting. One of these witnesses remarked that in the rapidity in which they obeyed a call, the smartness, precision, and sangfroid with which they got to work on arrival at the spot, and, finally, the admirable training reflected by the horses, the brigade bears comparison with any he had ever seen. This testimony was confirmed by others present who were also strangers, and it seems only fair that their opinions should be recorded in print."

"Hymenæ rumours," wrote George Meredith, in "Diana of the Crossways," "... might be backed to run a race with the tale of evil fortune; and clearly for the reason that man's livelier half is ever alert to speed them." The saying was a true one, and it remains a true one still in these times of war and of tales "of evil fortune." A little while ago some ladies over dessert were discussing one of the latest of these rumours regarding H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. They were very loyal and—if I may so express it—very anxious that H.R.H. should make not only a "suitable" match, but also a thoroughly happy one; and for one reason or another they found difficulty in fixing on a future Queen of England. Then, in all humility, I ventured to suggest that Roumania has two most charming princesses—Princess Elisabeth, who was born in 1894, and is therefore the same age as the Prince of Wales, and Princess Marie, who is five years younger. Some time ago, it will be remembered, Rumour coupled the names of Princess Elisabeth and the Prince of Wales, and one then heard expressions of approval and of pleasure on all hands. Previously there had been another rumour—to the effect that the Princess might possibly be betrothed to the Crown Prince of Bulgaria. Happily, that would now seem to be quite out of the bounds of the probable; and the alliance between this country and Roumania would certainly make such a match as I suggested extremely popular. At any rate, the suggestion was on this occasion hailed with great enthusiasm by the company. It is early days to think of such things yet, perhaps, but—*qui vivra verra*.

A recent article in *The Times* showed that, although we have heard little or nothing of military operations in the Aden region, our troops there, as elsewhere, are at least being kept upon the *qui vive*. In the intervals of keeping stray Turkish forces and bodies of pro-Turkish Arabs on the run, they appear to be engaged in giving a warm reception to adventurous Teutons who have voyaged from the Far East for the express purpose of making themselves offensive to us in Arabia. How the said Teutons sneaked into the Red Sea is a puzzle to me. But that is by the way. What I am concerned about at the present time is the lot of our soldiers in Aden. Those of us who know the place from personal experience are unlikely to regard it as an entirely desirable residential area even in peacetime, and we shall not be tempted to envy the lot of the fighting men now quartered there. In fact, their existence must be distinctly monotonous, save when they are engaged in the pastimes mentioned above. But apparently they, like the Mesopotamia Force, have been somewhat unfortunate in the matter of being forgotten by the generous public. An appeal, issued in September, for funds to provide a good institute for British troops has met with a most disappointing response. A sum of £2,000 is required, and less than £350 has been subscribed by the public. Surely this fact has only to be made more widely known for more help to be forthcoming at once. Colonel Hughes, Secretary to the C.E.S.S.I. Association, Church House, Westminster, begs that donations may be sent to him "for the good of the men—soldiers and sailors—who are guarding the interests of the Empire in this lonely but most important outpost." I hope he will not beg in vain.

CORSAIR.

The work of the Wounded and Missing Inquiry Department, British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, is still carried on at 18, Carlton House Terrace, London, to which address inquiries for wounded and missing soldiers should be sent. The soldier's number, rank, regiment, battalion, and company should be given in every case, together with the date and nature of the casualty.

"An Old Nurse in Mesopotamia" writes to *The Times*:—"I have seen in your paper the letters of parents whose daughters are nursing in Mesopotamia, and who complain that their letters never arrive. I wish to point out how this trouble can be entirely prevented. If 'A Father' will write to his daughter when she first leaves England, 'care of Messrs. King, King, and Co., Bombay,' to await arrival, his daughter will find her letters with Messrs. King on arrival. Let her then direct Messrs. King to forward her letters to 'Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie and Co., Basra,' when she receives orders to proceed there. If she remains in Basra, her letters will always be with Messrs. Gray. If she is ordered elsewhere, she can arrange to have letters forwarded to any hospital in Mesopotamia by Messrs. Gray."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A WOMAN DOCTOR IN SERBIA.*

"No woman should go out (to the war zone) as a free lance. . . . Let her be one of many and a worker with some unit." In making this assertion, the "Woman Doctor in Serbia" would have us except herself and others like her. The whole of this book is a commentary on the above text. Ably and interestingly written, the narrative of Dr. Matthews's doings in Serbia will convince most people that the spirit of adventure rather than the more tame desire of making the fullest use of her professional training prompted this lady in her career. It can be no matter of surprise that she on more than one occasion learned the disabilities of her sex in a warfare where all chivalry is forgotten by the enemy. Nor is it astonishing that the German military authorities, egged on apparently by a vengeful coward of a doctor, supposed her for a time to be a British spy. We might easily have thought the same of a German woman in a similar situation. As it was, the Red Cross alone, one would imagine, ensured her ultimate return to England.

It is decidedly a book to read, even if marred somewhat by inevitable egoism. Dr. Matthews came to Serbia via Malta and Salonika, clad in a becoming costume of khaki, with the idea that she would be allowed in the Balkans a status as Army surgeon such as she certainly could not have had on the Western front. At Nish she was told that no woman could be accepted for Red Cross work with a Serbian field army unit. She worked for a time at Skoplje in a large military hospital. We next find her as a guest of the Scottish Women's Unit at Valjevo. Again she tried at Mladinovat to get a kindly Serbian colonel to grant her permission; she was referred to Kragujevat, where she "knocked at a stone wall." When told to return she betook herself to Uzitsi, the head waters of the River Morava, not far from the Austrian frontier, where as a free lance she commenced her real adventures. Soon after her arrival a veritable stampede occurred, the Serbians in their haste to escape the approaching enemy leaving bridges undestroyed, depôts of ammunition intact, and engines and trucks of coal ready for immediate use. She alone remained in charge of the hospital. "Life was worth living in those days"! After some chapters well filled with the description of her adventures, insults and privations amidst vermin and filth, she narrates how she was conveyed to Belgrade, and finally joined the members of the Scottish Women's Unit in Austria, whence, after much improved treatment, she was conveyed to Switzerland, and thence came to England.

The narrative throws many sidelights on the war as waged in the Balkans. She describes the real sympathies of the Greeks towards the Entente, the varied sides of the Serbian character, and in strong colours the brutality engendered by the Prussian military machine.

I had never met before such peculiarly fiendish expressions of absolute hatred as were directed towards me by those Teutonic officers . . . never once have I seen such souls look out from human countenance! I was face to face, for the first time in my life, with the undisguised, unbalanced German *hatred* of my race. Far different in many instances was the chivalrous conduct of the un-Prussianised Austrians, all unwillingly our enemy at the first. She pictures the unmitigated horrors of war as it occurs in the Balkans, the awful ravages of typhus and the tragedy of the women. There are deeds of real heroism, as that of the Austrian Dr. Bubel, who laid down his life at Nish attending his *enemies* stricken with typhus. "Flowers lay upon his grave picked by some loving heart." "One of the most beautiful things of which I have ever heard" was the conduct of a prisoner, "a Russian soldier, in a torn, frayed uniform, looking dirty and ill-kept, wretchedly ill-fed and tired," who with much difficulty and at great risk conveyed to the starving lady "spy" his gift of precious chocolate.

Despite all, the author's confidence in Serbia is unbroken.

Now, for the moment, Serbia is crushed beneath the heel of Europe's enemy. Crushed, but not dead! She has a vitality all her own. She was not submerged in the past, not with all the pressure brought to bear upon her by alien masters—alien in religion, in thought, and in deed—and she will rise again in the future to a glorious destiny of wonderful life.

PRISONERS OF THE SENUSSI.†

In a shilling paper-covered book of 162 pages. Mrs. Gwatkin-Williams, the wife of Capt. Gwatkin-Williams, R.N., gives some extracts which she has compiled from the diary fortunately written by her husband when, with his shipmates of the torpedoed *Tara*, he was in the hands of the Senussi. The period of captivity was nineteen weeks, and its scene was the Lybian Desert.

* "Experiences of a Woman Doctor in Serbia." By Dr. Caroline Matthews. (Mills and Boon. 5s. net.)

† "In the Hands of the Senussi." Mrs. Gwatkin-Williams. (London: C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd. 1s. net.)

Capt. Gwatkin-Williams's record is a book of adventure and suffering and privation the like of which has rarely been excelled by the best-known writers who have captured the affections of British boyhood. There is not a dull line; there is much pathos, some very complete studies in patience in adversity, and, certainly, some humour which will not fail to raise a laugh, because it is of the pathetic rather than of the robust order.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. E. Y. Priestman has written, and Messrs. Routledge have published (6s. net), "With a B.-P. Scout in Gallipoli." General Sir Robert Baden-Powell contributes an introduction.

Mr. Drane has published (at 3s. 6d.) "Serbian Folk Songs, Fairy Tales, and Proverbs," by Maximilian A. Muge.

Messrs. Howes have published this week, at the price of 6d., "Austro-Magyar Judicial Crimes: Persecutions of the Yugoslavs. Political Trials, 1908-1916." Mr. W. Joynson-Hicks, M.P., contributes a preface to the pamphlet.

Messrs. Longmans, Green, and Co. have in the press "A Guide to Diplomatic Practice," by the Rt. Hon. Sir Ernest Satow, G.C.M.G. The work will be issued in two volumes, but the price is not yet announced.

"Soldier Songs from Anzac" (Unwin, 1s. net) is a book of verse, "written in the firing line," by Signaller Tom Skehill. Major-General J. W. McCay provides an introduction.

"Shumer and Shem," by C. J. Ball, is reprinted from the proceedings of the British Academy, and is published by Mr. Milford. Its sub-title is "Some Philological Coincidences and Sequences."

"Maxims and Reflections (Translated from the Persian)" is published by Messrs. Dent at 3s. 6d. net. The translator and editor is Professor S. Khuda Bukhsh, of the University Law College, Calcutta.

Messrs. Constable are issuing "Seven Years in Vienna, 1907-1914." Amongst other characters sketched or described by the author are the "Tsar" of Bulgaria and the ex-Mpret of Albania.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have published the Queen of Roumania's "Dreamer of Dreams." Mr. Edmund Dulac illustrates the dainty fancy with some charming sketches in colour. The book is published at 6s. net.

The same publishers have issued "The Story of Lord Kitchener," by Arthur Cooke, as a volume in the Little Stories of Great Lives series.

WORD-FOR-WORD RUSSIAN STORY-BOOK.

WITH INTERLINEAR TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION * * ACCENTED AND ANNOTATED.

By NEVILL FORBES.

NOW READY. * * 1s. 6d. net.

THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR LANGUAGE.

By Mme. JARINTZOV.

WITH INTRODUCTION DISCUSSING PRO-NUNCIATION AND TRANSLITERATION.

6s. net.

"The right guide at last . . . an invaluable book."—*The Morning Post*.

"The merits of the book are great."—*The Times*.

"The intelligent student of Russian will be fascinated by this clever book."—*The Spectator*.

TWO MONTHS IN RUSSIA, JULY-SEPT., 1914.

By W. MANSELL MERRY.

2s. 6d. net.

"A really capital book of Travel, pleasantly informing and refreshing in its candour."—*The Aberdeen Journal*.

MORE TALES BY POLISH AUTHORS.

Translated by ELSE BENECKE and MARIE BUSCH.

NOW READY. * * 5s. net.

Sequel to "Tales by Polish Authors."

"A book to be bought and read . . . it cannot fail to be remembered."—*The Contemporary Review*.

B. H. BLACKWELL, OXFORD.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Nov. 17	1916. Nov. 6		1335 Moharrem	5677. Hesvan
18	7	Friday	21	21
19	8	Saturday	22	22
20	9	Sunday	23	23
21	10	Monday	24	24
22		Tuesday	25	25
23		Wednesday ..	26	26
		Thursday	27	27

Monday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen Dowager of Italy.

On Saturday, according to a telegram from Athens, King Peter of Serbia arrived there unexpectedly from Chalcis in a motor-car. He lunched with the Serbian Minister and afterwards left again.

General Georgescu, of the Roumanian Military Headquarters Staff, specially attached to British Headquarters, returned to London from France last week.

Viscount Milner left London on Saturday and expects to be absent for 10 days. No letters will be forwarded.

Colonel the Earl of Stradbroke, C.B., C.V.O., who was on board the "Arabia" when she was sunk, has landed safely at Port Said.

Under date of November 11, Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports: The Sirdar's appointment as High Commissioner in Egypt will not involve any severance of his connection with the Sudan and its administration. Colonel Stack, the Civil Secretary at Khartoum, will be appointed Acting Governor-General and Acting Sirdar for the period of the war, carrying out his functions under Sir Reginald Wingate's direction. Close and constant intercommunication will be maintained between Sir Reginald Wingate in Cairo and the Acting Sirdar at Khartoum.

A correspondent writes:—Colonel L. O. Stack, the newly-appointed Governor-General of the Sudan, is one of the most typical Englishmen in the Egyptian Army. Extremely quiet and reserved, he owes his promotion to nothing but his own capabilities and his enormous capacity for hard work. The writer first met him when he was serving in the Sudan, prior to his appointment as Sudan Agent in Cairo. In those days all Englishmen were to a certain extent, as it were, on trial: the Sudanese were satisfied so far; it was in the hands of such men as Stack Bey and other officials of the same period to complete their satisfaction. He was then one of the most popular men in the Sudan, and father-confessor to many a young officer, British or Egyptian. He gained the confidence of the natives, not by his official position, but by his evident interest in them and their affairs, and the same thing applies to the whole term of his service both in the Sudan and in Egypt. He is possessed of more than ordinary powers of organisation, and—an essential point in dealing with peoples of the East—he never changes his mind when once his decision has been taken. In Cairo he was well known on the cricket

fields at Gezira, and cricket was his favourite sport. He is, however, also a good shot, although the circumstances of his service have prevented him from indulging his taste for big game shooting on a large scale.

The Rev. H. C. Robins, M.A., who has been in Khartoum for the past five years, has now severed his connection with the Sudan on appointment to the parish of Fleet, near Farnborough.

The King has been pleased to grant authority to Lady Graham, wife of Sir Ronald William Graham, K.C.M.G., C.B., Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of El Kemal, conferred upon her by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by her.

The *London Gazette* announces:—The King has been graciously pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George:—To be an Ordinary Member of the First Class, or Knights Grand Cross, of the said Most Distinguished Order: Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arthur Henry McMahon, G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.S.I., on his approaching retirement from the post of his Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt.

In a message dated November 7, the *Times*' Cairo correspondent says: Sir A. H. McMahon's departure is regretted in many circles. He faithfully served the policy, which the peculiar political situation demanded, of hampering as little as possible the military authorities. The success of this policy is proved by the facts that his two years of office have not been marked by any untoward incidents, the Sultan has gained popularity, and all elements of the population are happy and contented.

On Wednesday of last week M. Venizelos and his chief supporters were present at a special Te Deum, which was celebrated in the Church of St. Dimitrius at Salonika, in commemoration of the capture of that city by the Greeks in 1912. Prince Alexander of Serbia and representatives of the Allies also attended the service.

General Sir John Maxwell has left Ireland in order to take up his duties as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Northern Command. General Sir Bryan Mahon, his successor, has arrived in Ireland.

Dr. Nintchitch, of the Serbian diplomatic service, arrived last Friday from Petrograd.

M. Michel Boerescu, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, spent the week-end in the country.

H.E. the Greek Minister visited the Foreign Office on Monday.

We regret to learn that Trooper Isaac Colley and Trooper G. Parker, both of the Royal Horse Guards, have been reported "missing." They were among the eighteen Englishmen, residents of Constantinople, who were the first to leave that city as volunteers in September, 1914.

Second Lieutenant Crawford, formerly of the London Regiment, is at present engaged on censor's work with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

By the direction of the Queen 6,100 garments and hospital dressings have been sent from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild to Mrs. Carrington Wilde for the Serbian Relief Fund Hospital on the Macedonian front.

Some interesting mementoes of Lord Kitchener are now on view at the headquarters of the League of Empire, 28, Buckingham Gate. The exhibition is open after eleven o'clock, and a charge of one shilling is made for admission, the proceeds going to the benefit of the League's funds. One of the principal exhibits consists of four groups of youths designed by Mr. John Haughton Bonnor for the corners of a fountain which was to be erected in the garden at Broome Park, and the general features of which were designed by Lord Kitchener himself. The

sketches for them, and even the sketch models, were to some extent contributed, or alterations indicated, by him, and he took the delight of a boy in the project for the provision of the fountain, often going down to Mr. Bonnor's studio at Chiswick or meeting him in town to talk over the matter. Finally, when the sketch model was made from Lord Kitchener's drawings, he expressed his delight with the whole idea, and asked the cost of carrying out the work. Mr. Bonnor told him that to carry out the project in its entirety would involve an expense of several thousand pounds, and thereupon he said the matter must wait for the present. "Perhaps, however," he added, "at the end of the war someone may present me with some money, or you may all wish to give me something, so it may be a good thing to have this model and show it to any one then."

It has been suggested that a fountain of the design which so pleased Lord Kitchener should be erected in one of London's parks as a memorial to him, and the League will be glad to receive communications from persons interested in the proposal, and will forward information as to expense, size, or other particulars. Small replicas of the boy groups in plaster, lead, or bronze may be obtained to-day at Buckingham Gate.

Another interesting exhibit is an old Chinese porcelain bowl. This was one of the objects in the S. E. Kennedy sale held at Christie's on June 22, and Lord Kitchener, wishing to add it to his art collection at Broome Park, asked Mr. Frank Partridge to purchase it on his behalf. His death took place before the sale, but Mr. Partridge carried out his wish, and presented it to the London Museum in Lord Kitchener's memory. It has been lent by the museum for this occasion. There is also on view a model ship's boat, made out of the wood from H.M.S. Hampshire sent by Lady Beatty to Mrs. Parker, Lord Kitchener's sister. A series of photographs of Lord Kitchener and some autograph letters complete the collection.

The Marchese Salvago Raggi, who has been transferred from Cairo to Paris as Italian Ambassador, has arrived in the French capital. He was received by the President on Tuesday.

On Sunday a memorial to Sub-Lieutenant Arthur St. Clair Tisdall, R.N.V.R., was unveiled at St. George's Church, Deal; Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain-General to the forces, performed the ceremony, and paid a fine tribute to Lieutenant Tisdall, who, it will be remembered, was awarded the V.C. after his death in action on May 6, 1915, for gallantry during the landing from the s.s. "River Clyde" at Gallipoli.

In a touching letter to a friend the Queen of Roumania, referring to the death of Prince Mircea, says: "My little one has been taken from me, perhaps so that I may better understand the sorrows of mothers who have lost their nearest and dearest. A Queen, like other mothers, must bow to the dictates of Providence."

Dr. Streit, former Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed to the Chair of Constitutional and International Law in the University of Athens.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The *London Gazette* contains the announcement that the King has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Mervyn Robert Howard Molyneux Herbert to be a Second Secretary, and Mr. Miles Wedderburn Lampson, M.V.O., to be an Acting First Secretary in H.M. Diplomatic Service.

Mr. Lampson was in 1911 Acting Second Secretary at Sofia, and acted as Chargé d'Affaires there for some time. He entered the Foreign Office in 1903, and has been connected with various missions to Japan. He holds the Japanese Orders of the Rising Sun and the Sacred Treasure.

The Hon. Mervyn Herbert entered the Diplomatic Service in 1907. He has served at Rome, Lisbon, and Madrid, and was ap-

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
ΣΧΟΛΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΩΝ. Διδασκαλία συστηματική.
Διερμηνείας κ.λ.π. Διδασκτὰ μέτριοι.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

pointed to Cairo in February, 1915. In November of the same year he was granted the allowance for knowledge of Arabic.

Amongst other appointments gazetted are the following:—Major Hugh Augustus Keppel Gough, as H.M. Consul at Shiraz; Mr. George A. G. Mun Gavin, as H.M. Vice-Consul for Lingah, the Shib Kuh ports, and the islands of Farur, Kais, Hindarabi, and Sheikh Shuaib, to reside at Lingah; and Lieut.-Colonel William G. Grey, as H.M. Consul-General for the province of Khorasan, to reside at Meshed.

King Nicholas of Montenegro has received, at Neuilly-sur-Seine, Count de Salis, Minister for Great Britain, who presented his letters of recall.

The *Official Gazette* of Bucharest publishes a decree appointing Senator Saveano Roumanian Government Commissary at the Russian Headquarters.

The Austro-Hungarian Minister at Sofia, Count von Tarnowski, has been appointed Ambassador at Washington.

OBITUARY.

General Sir Horace William Montagu died at Colchester on Tuesday, at the age of eighty-three. Born at Swaffham, Norfolk, he was the third son of the late Rev. George Montagu, rector of South Pickenham. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1842, and distinguished himself in the Crimea at the battles of Alma and Inkerman and at the siege of Sebastopol. In March, 1855, during a sortie, he was taken prisoner by the Russians, but was subsequently exchanged, and returned to the scene of operations shortly before Sebastopol fell. For his services in the Crimea he received the medal with three clasps, the Sardinian and Turkish medals, the Legion of Honour, and the fifth class of the Order of the Mejidieh. After his return to England he occupied various high appointments. He was created a Companion of the Bath (military) in 1869 and a Knight Commander of that Order in 1905.

Major Arthur Langston Pilleau, Hampshire Regiment, who took part in the Aden operations in 1903-4, is now reported "believed killed in action" on August 10, 1915, at Sari Bair, Gallipoli Peninsula. At the time he was reported "wounded and missing." He had been twice wounded, but was still gallantly leading his battalion when last seen. The only son of the late Mr. Arthur Pilleau, of Clifton, he was educated at Clifton College, Trinity Hall, and the R.M.C., Sandhurst. He reached the substantive rank of major, Indian Army, in 1903, and two years later retired but rejoined for the war, and in September, 1914, he was gazetted to a service battalion of the Hampshires, originally second in command. He had seen service in the Tirah campaign of 1897-8, and was at Malakand and in the action at the Tanga Pass. He received the Tirah medal with clasp. He married Constance Geraldine, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Keating Clay, of Meadowbank, County Dublin, and leaves one son, Lieutenant Gerald Pilleau, the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), now serving at the front.

The death was announced on Monday of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Thomas Seymour Brand, of Glynor Place, Lewes, who commanded H.M.S. *Bittern* at the bombardment of Alexandria (1882). For his services on that occasion he was promoted, and was awarded the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star. The second son of Mr. Speaker Brand, who afterwards became first Viscount Hampden and twenty-third Baron Dacre, he was born in September, 1847. He entered the Navy at an early age, and was flag lieutenant to the late Lord Alcester from 1874 to 1877. He retired from the Navy in 1892. Admiral Brand was on the Commission of the Peace for Sussex and an Alderman of the East Sussex County Council and he unsuccessfully contested Hastings in the Liberal interest in 1886, and was thrice candidate for the Eastbourne Division. He married in 1879 Annie Blanche, daughter of

the late H. L. Gaskell, of Kiddington Hall, Woodstock, and leaves a son, who is a lieutenant in the Navy, and a daughter.

A Reuter's message from Bucharest, dated November 7 reports:—"General Dragalina, the commander of the Roumanian troops in the Jiul valley, has succumbed to wounds sustained on the battlefield.

The Bucharest correspondent of *The Times*, in a despatch describing the incident in which General Dragalina was wounded, said this officer had been foremost in giving an example of gallantry to his troops. In face of a German surprise attack, after urging his advanced troops to hold on at all costs, he drove back to give warning, taking as the quickest way a route which passed close to the German lines. There he came under machine-gun fire and was hit twice in the arm, which had to be amputated.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—"The death of Mr. Onoufriou Jassonides, at Limassol, has removed one of the best known figures of the Greek community. Mr. Jassonides was one of the best educated Cypriots. He spent some time in the seventies as an unattached student of Christ Church, Oxford, where he made several friends. He was a good English scholar, and was devoted to English literature. His tastes were those of a scholar, and he contributed articles and poems to various Greek papers. For a time he owned and edited a small literary periodical in Cyprus. He took but very little part in local "politics," keeping aloof from the parties which came into existence in the Greek community. He was a nephew of M. Acamas, who was Consular Agent for France in the early years of the British occupation, and a well-known and esteemed representative of the "old school" of Cypriots.

Second Lieutenant Ernest Macfarren, Royal Irish Rifles, who is reported killed, was attached to the British Legation at Sarajevo from 1909 to 1913. In the autumn of 1914, he joined the London Rifle Brigade. In September, 1915, he received a commission in the Royal Irish Rifles, and was sent out with the British Adriatic Mission in November, with the temporary rank of captain, returning last April to his regiment in Ireland at the time of the rebellion. He went to the front in June, and died of wounds on November 8. He was the son of Mr. Herbert Macfarren and grandson of the late John Macfarren.

Second Lieutenant Eustice Marchetti, R.F.A., who is reported killed on November 8, was the elder and only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. George Marchetti, of 135, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, his only brother, Second Lieutenant A. Marchetti, Rifle Brigade, having been killed on March 15 last. He was born in London of Greek parents, and was educated at Charterhouse. When war broke out he was in India. He joined a volunteer corps and came home on leave, soon after joining a Cadet corps. He received his commission last July.

Second Lieutenant Leonard Perkins, attached to the First Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, reported to have been killed in action on the third of this month, was in civil life a member of the London staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Of that staff fifty-three have joined the Army since the commencement of the war, and of those fifty-three no less than ten have now been killed. Lieutenant Perkins was not quite thirty years of age. He leaves a widow and child.

The death has taken place in Paris, at the age of eighty-seven, of the Marquis de Vogué, a former French Ambassador in Constantinople. He was a well-known explorer and historian, and a member of the French Academy; and during the present war he has done splendid work as President of the Société de Secours aux Blessés.

The death has occurred at Hull, at the age of seventy-three, of Mrs. Ashton, sister of Mr. John Ross, and formerly of Alexandria.

The death is announced as having taken place in London, in a nursing home, of Mr. Charles D. Rudd, the father of Lady Eldon Gorst.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

MANSON.—On the 23rd October, at Cairo, the wife of J. B. Manson, War Office, Cairo, of a daughter.

DEATH.

CLAYTON.—On the 24th Oct., at Cairo, Thomas Falkingham, infant son of Brigadier General and Mrs. G. F. Clayton, aged four weeks.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHERD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year R and—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine, Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

IN PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1916.

MR. ASQUITH ON THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Thirty years ago, speaking at a Guildhall banquet on Lord Mayor's Day, Lord Salisbury said: "Again and again in this hall have you heard references made by successive Ministers to the difficulties which have baffled successive generations of politicians in the South-east of Europe." Those were the days when the Prime Minister's review of foreign and home affairs was awaited with somewhat more interest and curiosity than is the case to-day. The recurrence of the ceremony last week, however, found Mr. Asquith dealing with the same subject, and, although according to his wont he practised greater economy, if not of speech, at least of information, his reference to the settlement of the Turkish question deserves closer attention than it has received amid the stress of matters of more immediate concern. Characteristically vague as the remarks were, they offered, we are inclined to think, the most definite indication of future policy that Mr. Asquith allowed himself in his review of the general situation. Discussion on the future of the Turkish Empire has hitherto been discountenanced among the Allies. From the Prime Minister's words we may infer that the reasons which made for silence in the past no longer retain their original cogency. Even now the moment is probably not ripe for any detailed examination of plans, but there is much to be said for accustoming public opinion to face frankly the new circumstances which have altered the whole complexion of the Near Eastern question. Two years of war have served to establish the fact that a people cannot be dissociated for sentimental considerations from the acts of its rulers. It is improbable that the traditional liking of the British nation for the Turks will undergo much change; but recent events have shown them to be politically incapable of directing their own destinies, and at the same time a dangerous tool in the hands of any designing influence. It has taken an upheaval of the whole of Europe to satisfy Great Britain that the regeneration of the Ottoman Empire from within can never be realized. The fault may not be wholly Turkey's. In so far as she has always been subject to the distraction of European jealousies, she may be said to be the victim of circumstances over which she cannot hope to exercise control. However that may be, the outstanding feature to-day is that the Allied Powers would be faithless to the trust which the cause of liberty and justice imposes upon them, if they allowed the war to come to an end leaving Turkey still a powerful weapon lying close to hand for any who may once more be minded to trouble the peace of the world.

The prominence which Mr. Asquith gave to the Turkish question in his Guildhall speech by addressing himself at once to the subject was in contrast to the attitude of the British Government at any time during the past two years. We shall, therefore, not be far wrong in giving to the words he used the widest meaning of which they are susceptible. After referring to the satisfaction—premature and ill-founded, as the events proved—with which he had acclaimed the triumph of what was called the Young Turk Movement over the spy-ridden and blood-stained tyranny of Abdul Hamid, and to the hopes entertained in Great Britain in those days for the regeneration of the Ottoman Empire from within, Mr. Asquith continued: "Our hopes have been falsified and frustrated, and I believe we all now realize that the continuance of Turkish rule in Europe, where the Turk has always been a stranger and intruder, has already come to mean, and, if it

is allowed to persist, will increasingly mean, that the Turk is there only as a vassal and a subservient agent of German interest and ambitions." Proceeding to give what he termed a practical illustration and a very tragic one, Mr. Asquith instanced the sufferings and wholesale massacre of the Armenians. He pointed out that Great Britain, Russia, and the United States had raised large sums for the relief and repatriation in the future of these victims of Turkish misrule. "I need not say," Mr. Asquith added, "that his Majesty's Government look with profound sympathy on these efforts, and are resolved that after the war there shall be an era of liberty and redemption for this ancient people. But Germany, the master of Turkey, who by lifting a finger could have arrested and, if she wished, prevented this organised campaign of outrage and massacre against a Christian people—Germany has looked on unmoved, quiescent, for all we know, complacent. That is a significant example of what is meant by a Germanised Turkey." The Prime Minister left it to his hearers and to a far wider audience to complete his syllogism. If the Armenians are to enter upon an era of liberty, there must be an end to a Germanised Turkey; but there will always be this Germanised Turkey so long as Turkish rule in Europe is allowed to persist. The inference is as plain as if Mr. Asquith had stated it in unequivocal terms.

Unfortunately the settlement of the Near Eastern question entails a variety of separate settlements, and Mr. Asquith, although he reached an important landmark in his Guildhall speech, did not take us very far towards a solution of the whole problem. We may hope, however, that his reference to the subject reveals a disposition on the part of the Allied Governments not to postpone discussion of it any longer. The matter is too complicated to be adjusted between the cessation of hostilities and the signing of Peace. But a cut-and-dried settlement will have had to be reached before then; for the one thing that a meeting for the signing of Peace—by whatever name the gathering be styled—cannot be allowed to debate will be the terms of the Near Eastern settlement. This point is too frequently ignored by those who picture a congress of much wrangling and many compromises before Europe will have returned to a state of peace. It was insisted upon by Sir Edward Carson at the inaugural meeting of the Serbian Society. When the Allied Powers, he stated, after the victory they are determined to win, set themselves to the revising of the map of Europe the interference of Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria will be eliminated. If the Allies wish, they can ensure that the settlement of the Near Eastern question will precede the settlement of the greater European question. But it will require a frank and possibly prolonged exchange of views between them. For this reason an early discussion is desirable. It may be necessary to introduce certain modifications in any arrangements tentatively made at the beginning of the war. On the other hand, agreements then reached, for which public opinion in one or other of the countries concerned was not ripe, may well be accepted now without cavil. In Great Britain there may have been some who viewed at one time with apprehension the prospect of trying to find any suitable successor to the Turkish Government in Constantinople, and on that account were prepared to see the Turks remaining in Europe. Mr. Asquith understated the case when he pointed out that the Turk can only be there as a vassal and a subservient agent of German interest and ambitions. When the war is over Europe will still have to fear the establishment of the Central European Block, stretching from the Baltic to Baghdad or beyond, which is the scheme by which Germany hopes in the shortest possible space of time to regain the power necessary to fight once more—and this time successfully—for the hegemony of the world. There can be no surer way of defeating this ambition than to have a strong and permanent wedge driven into the proposed Block. Constantinople affords the most suitable place for such a wedge, and the Allied peoples, when deciding on the form it is to take, must keep carefully in mind the objects they are setting out to achieve.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

LONDON THROUGH PERSIAN SPECTACLES

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The following is a copy of a letter from the Persian Envoy to this country, Mirza Abdul Hassan, written about 1820, and now in the possession of my family. The writer's quaintly expressed views on English life and customs at that date will probably be of interest to your readers. His reference to what was evidently a meet of the Coaching Club is unique and entirely Eastern:—

To the London Gentleman who lately write him letter
and ask very much to give answer.

SIR, MY LORD,—

When you write to me some time ago to give my thought of what I see good and bad in this country, that time I not speak England very well, now I read I write much little better, now I give you my think.

In this country bad not too much, everything very good, but suppose I not tell something little bad, then you say I tell all flattery, therefore I tell most bad things. I not like such crowd in evening party, every night in cold weather not very good. Now hot weather, much too bad. I very much astonish every day now much hot than before, evening party much crowd than before, pretty beautiful ladies come sweat, that not very good. I always afraid some old lady in great crowd come dead, that not very good, and spoil my happiness. I think old lady after 85 years not come to evening party. Why for take so much trouble? Some other things little bad, very beautiful lady she get ugly fellow for husband, that not very good—very shocking. Ask Sir Gore, why for this? He says me, perhaps he got too much, perhaps he got title, perhaps he good man. I say I not like that, all very shocking. This all bad I know.

Now I say good English people, all very good, all very happy, do what they like—say what like—write in Newspaper what like. I love English very much, they very good very civil to me. I tell my King England love Persian very much. England King best man in world, he love his people very good much. Queen very best woman I ever see. Prince of Wales such a fine elegant beautiful man. I not understand English proper to praise him, he is too great for my language. I respect him same as my own King, his manner all the same as charm and talisman. All the Princes very fine men, very handsome, very sweet words, and very affable, I like all too much. I think Ladies and Gentlemen of this country most high rank, high honour, very rich, except two or three very good, very kind to inferior people.

This very good, I go to see Chelsea, all old men set on grass, in shade of high trees, fine rivers run by, beautiful place, plenty eat, drink, good coat, everything very good. Sir Gore tell me King Charles and King James make. I say, Sir Gore they not Mussulman but I think God love them very much. I think God love the King for keeping up that charity. Then I see one small regiment of little children go to dinner, one boy he say thanks to God for eat for drink for cloaths other little boys they all answer amen, then I cry a little my heart too much pleased. Two things soldiers fight much better, because see their good King take care of old wounded fathers and little children.

I then go to Greenwich that too good place, such fine sight, make me a little sick for joy. All old men so happy, eat dinner well, fine house, fine beds, all very good, this very good country. English ladies very handsome, very handsome beautiful. I travel great deal, I go to Arabia, I go to Calcutta, Hyderabad, Poonah, Bombay, Georgia, America, Constantinople, Malta, Gibraltar, I see best Georgian, Circassian, Turkish, Greek ladies but nothing so beautiful as English ladies, all very clever, speak French, speak Italian, play music very well, sing very good, very glad for me if Persian ladies speak such sweet words. I think tell little stories, that not very good. One thing I see, but I not understand that thing good or bad. Last Thursday I see some fine carriage, fine horses, thousand people go to look that carriage, I ask why for, they say me that Gentlemen on Boxes they drive their own carriage. I say why for take so much trouble, they say me, he drive very well, that very good thing, it rain very hard, some Lord some Gentleman he got wet, I say why not go inside? They tell me good coachman not mind get wet every day, will be ashamed to go inside—that I not understand.
—Sir, My Lord, good-night.

ABUL HASSAN.

Three Roumanian soldiers who were prisoners in Bulgaria have arrived in Bucharest, after having escaped from the camp in the environs of Sofia, and having swum the Danube between Tutrakan and Silistria. They report that they were subjected to bad treatment and received food which was hopelessly inadequate.

PROBLEMS OF THE SUDAN.

IV.—The Position of Woman.*

(BY OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

There is no problem more difficult, and possibly more urgent, in the Sudan than that of the women. The men have acquired and have a taste for progress; the women have not changed. It is not merely that they do not desire the civilisation of a Western origin; it is remarkable that all the women of the Mahdi's family are taught to read and write and are skilled in embroidery. Yet this example, which might easily have become a matter of faith with them, has produced no sympathetic feeling. For the woman of the Sudan there is but one standard, money; one need, a man. Will education or learning obtain them? If not, it is not worth thinking of.

Notwithstanding the fancy pictures of fiction of the lovely houri surrounded by luxury, but enclosed within the prison of the harem, the woman's lot is not an easy one. Her business is primarily to get married, at as high a price as possible, and then to get as much as she can out of her husband before the grinding burden of childbirth and child-bearing relegate her to the second rank.

A Sultan of Darfur, with great forethought, once sent a number of Fur girls to be trained in Cairo in the art of cookery, and even now in Darfur a woman is reckoned by the dishes she can prepare. But this was a solitary gleam by a momentarily enlightened Sultan. The position of women in the Sudan varies to some extent. In the northern provinces, where the Turk and Egyptian influence has been long and strong, the system of the "harem" has popularity—with the men. But, normally, the women take a great interest and part in affairs, and every market-place contains at least as many, if not more, women than men; and anyone who has administered a district can tell that nearly all criminal cases are attributable finally to woman's influence. For they are taught from childhood to look for money; if their husband is poor, he must do anything—steal, rob, make slaves—but he must get money. If he is rich, he must spend his riches in jewellery, silver anklets, gold ornaments, amber beads—anything that may become her property.

Being entirely illiterate, the women are immensely superstitious; having but two ideas—men and money—they pursue them by superstition, and are a ready prey to the parasitic class of "Fugara" holy men, mostly of Fellala origin, who go from village to village hawking spells and love potions and involve in every intrigue. It would be too much to say that every woman has a lover; it would be true in certain districts, and the average of continency elsewhere is certainly low; but where all is primarily on a money basis sentiment is bound to creep in, and, even so, with the hope of profit. Morality—that is, the normal morality—has nothing to do with it, for, the end and object of life being profit, coupled with man, the women are pursuing and attaining their moral end.

That is exactly where the difficulty lies—the morality of the women of the Sudan is not that of the normal man; they pursue it with enthusiasm, and they will not tolerate any interference. Schools, even for boys, they look on with suspicion; innovations they assume to be profane and liable to draw the evil eye; and they rely ultimately on the fact that they can make a man's life a burden and a sorrow, so that he dare not go beyond a certain point. True, he may divorce them, but they know that he will never do so if he can avoid it. It means loss of money and another dip into the pool, likely to produce a very similar result.

Cruelty is always to be found in an unthinking people, but the worst is to be found between woman and woman when jealousy has made trouble between them. The oath of a woman is never accepted by an Arab, and he is probably right; and the proportion of women who have even the rudiments of Moslem religion is extraordinarily small, although they will be found to be the most fanatical of all.

There are certain schools for girls established in the Sudan, but they are few, and are used largely by officials, Syrian and Egyptian, for their families, and by such as are so dependent that they have little choice but to accept. The bulk of the feminine population remains untouched. It may be, as in one province, that the pure-bred Arab girl is not going to mix with the half-bred trash (from her point of view) that frequent the school. It may equally be the unwillingness of the parents to expose the girl to new ideas, producing no profit to her as a marriageable speculation. For it would be a bold man who married a woman who knew as much as himself, and perhaps more. So how are good honest parents to get back the trouble of rearing the girl?

In the negro tribes the position of the woman is entirely subservient. A hewer of wood and drawer of water, she

* Previous articles in this series appeared in the THE NEAR EAST of August 11 and 25 and September 22.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers

thanks heaven for the good things that come her way, and does not resist too violently if a stronger man comes along. Amongst the truer types of Sudanese Arabs—that is, those who have not suffered from Turkish influence—the women have considerable individuality; some, indeed, attain to well-deserved fame, whether as poets or as mothers of large families, or even both.

In such tribes the old system of chivalry is still extant. Every lad has his fair lady, for whom he is prepared to overstep the limit, if opportunity offers; and if, by slaying a lion or (unluckily) by stealing a slave, he may make himself a subject of song when the virgins meet at sunset to celebrate the happenings of the day, any punishment is bearable. And although some of their customs would be deplored by Sunday-schools, there is at least a healthy spirit of loyalty, even possibly at times a higher passion, evoked; and there are refreshing instances of couples leaving their respective parents wrangling over the marriage dues and disappearing together to return with the *fait accompli*, and no more to be said or paid than the customary dues. Even so, the romance appears to be chiefly on one side, and the great problem of the Sudan is to bring the women up to the standard of the men, to teach them a less materialistic philosophy, and to secure the blind confidence that now they give to unworthy objects, to the ends of the true good.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Great Britain and Greece.

In a leading article, "At Guildhall," upon the Prime Minister's speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet, the *Morning Post* remarks:—

We are glad to see that Mr. Asquith has expressed his sympathy with M. Venizelos, and that he has said a word or two in season to the Government at Athens. Let us hope that this sympathy will be extended also to the prisoners who are suffering in Greek dungeons for adherence to the cause of the Allies, and that it will take the practical form of insisting upon their liberation. Moreover, if Athens is still the "focus and centre" of German intrigue, it might be possible to settle accounts with the Athens Government without being "anti-Dynastic." After all, we are fighting the German Emperor without being anti-Imperial.

Roumania's Improving Army.

Under the title "The Barrier to Roumania," *The Times* on Tuesday published an interesting despatch from its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula. Writing on the 10th inst., he says:—

In the opinion of military critics, the Austro-German efforts to effect the passage of the Carpathians are gradually slackening. The troops are fatigued, and unless considerable reinforcements arrive they will in all probability prove incapable of making further progress. Whether reinforcements are sent depends upon the pressure exercised elsewhere by Roumania's Allies.

The failure of the Germans to break through the Carpathian barrier must, in the first place, be attributed to the stubborn resistance of the Roumanian troops, whose capacity for mountain warfare, as was acknowledged by the King in his manifesto after the retreat from Transylvania, was not generally realized at the beginning. On the other hand, the initial successes of the Germans were mainly due to superiority in heavy artillery, and they were not maintained when the conflict was transferred to the mountain passes, where this advantage failed them. The enemy, moreover, have latterly suffered commissariat difficulties, which become greater as the distance from the base increases, and will hardly diminish amid the rigours of the coming winter. Meanwhile the Roumanian troops, hitherto unaccustomed to campaigning, are rapidly acquiring experience, and as incompetent elements are weeded out the Army is becoming a first-class fighting machine.

The writer then summarises a semi-official statement in the Roumanian papers describing the effect of our latest Ally's military activity upon the operations of the last two months. This statement frankly admits that the decision to take the offensive on the northern frontier while maintaining the defensive in the south was taken "owing to political conditions." It also points out how the successful resistance in the Carpathian passes forced the enemy to bring up further reinforcements, drawn from the French, Russian, and Italian fronts, thus contributing to the French victory at Verdun.

"The Greek Serial."

Although serious enough in all conscience, the situation in Greece undoubtedly has its comic side; and this evidently inspired the following note in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of last Saturday:—

The latest instalment of the Greek serial story keeps up the thrills very cleverly. Germany, we are told, has issued an ultimatum to Greece, and will declare war if the Allies get the breech-blocks, or what it is they are demanding. Accompanying the announcement, however, is an explanation that the threat of war was suggested to the German representative by the Greek Government as an excuse for their declining to comply with those demands. The situation grows contemptible. For our practical soldiers and sailors to have to play this silly game must be a sore trial to their patience.

King Constantine's Dilemma.

In a vigorous leading article, "Athens and Salonika," urging plain speaking by the Entente to King Constantine, the *Manchester Guardian* refers to the occupation by Greek troops of Western Macedonia as it is evacuated by the Bulgarians. "There is," says the *Guardian*, "one simple test of the propriety of these movements."

Constantine is King of Greece, except in so far as he has himself resigned his sovereignty. We are in occupation of Greek territory, either by right of conquest from the Bulgarians or as the result of conversations with M. Venizelos towards the end of last year. King Constantine may have disputed our right to be at Salonika, but he has never disputed the Bulgarian right to be in occupation of other portions of Greek territory, and to that extent he has resigned his sovereignty over it. He cannot have it both ways. He cannot both let the Bulgarians in and, when we turn them out, claim the right to reoccupy as though his sovereignty were still intact. Supposing that the Germans and Bulgarians had taken Salonika from us, they would only have admitted the Greek troops, if at all, on the terms that they went over bodily to the side of the Central Powers. As it happens, contrary to the expectations of the King, the fortunes of war have gone the other way, and, so far from losing Greek territory, we are winning it back from the invaders, whom the King has assisted in every way that he dared. It follows that, while we do not dispute the legal sovereignty of the King, we cannot admit him to occupation of any recovered territory for the period of the war. How do we know that he will not again give it back to the enemy, as he gave Fort Rupel and Kavala?

The lives of our Allies, the Serbs, and of our own troops, are, says the writer, more to us than the sensibilities of a monarch who, "whatever he may do in the future, has in the past shown himself no friend of ours." It may be painful to speak thus plainly, but needs must.

We are not reconquering occupied Greece for King Constantine, but for Greece. We hope that there may be no real difference, but we do not know for certain; it remains to be seen. We do not, of course, mean that his sovereignty depends on his taking our side in the war; Greece has a right to be neutral if she will, and to force her in against her will would be an act of tyranny. At the same time, we are guarantors of the constitutional government of Greece under the treaty of 1863, to which King Constantine owes his crown, and in our opinion the King, in dismissing M. Venizelos, in taking a different view from his responsible advisers of the obligations of the treaty with Serbia, and in acting upon this view, has been guilty of unconstitutional conduct.

After showing how France and England had, under the terms upon which they guaranteed Greece's independence, a right to land troops if that independence were menaced, the article proceeds:—

We are therefore in Greece to-day by the same right as King Constantine is on his throne. Being there, we were justified in taking such steps as seemed desirable in support of Greek independence or the Greek Constitution. We have used these rights with the utmost moderation and extreme consideration for the King's position. In the face of every difficulty, we gave him credit for thinking only of the interests of Greece, and instead of placing him out of harm's way (as Germany would have done under the same circumstances, and, in fact, did do with the monarch of one of the States whose independence she had guaranteed, Belgium) we agreed to recognise two sovereignties—a legal sovereignty of King Constantine and the *de facto* sovereignty of the people represented in certain districts of Greece by M. Venizelos. That is the present position. If it is not clear to King Constantine, the reason must be that our great tenderness for his feelings has been allowed to obscure the true facts of his position. It would be well that these should be made plainer to him than apparently they have been.

Arabia: Past and Future.

In a note headed "A New State," the *Globe* on Monday referred sympathetically to the Arabian revolt against Young Turkish misrule and oppression, and expressed hopes for the future of Arabia that will be shared by most Englishmen. The writer remarks that we may scarcely expect to see a revival of the glories of the days of the early Abbassid Khalifs, "for though the Arab race is large, the population of Arabia itself is small. But," he continues—

it will be at least a very interesting State, and, with its magnificent traditions, it should be free from the hideous stagnation which afflicts every land ruled by the Turk. The people who gave us algebra, and the numbers without which intricate calculations are almost impossible; who revived philosophy, invented chemistry, and devised one of the loveliest architectures of the world, will hardly be unprogressive now that they

are once more free. When books were rarities in Europe, Baghdad possessed a really large library, and that of the Khalif Hakim II. is said to have contained more than six hundred thousand volumes. The Arabs were great conquerors and great thinkers once; there is no reason to think that Arabian history is a closed and finished book to-day.

The Roumanian Theatre of War.

Discussing "Balkan Strategy," the military correspondent of the *Scotsman* (November 11) observes that criticism of our strategy in connection with bringing Roumania into the war should be cautious, since the average critic "is necessarily in the dark in respect of much that is requisite for the forming of a just judgment." He continues:—

In some quarters the statement has been made that all would have gone swimmingly with Roumania if her marching into Transylvania had coincided with an overwhelming Russian invasion from the Bukovina, and if the Allied Forces in Macedonia had simultaneously done their utmost against the Bulgars. But there is no reason to suppose that, in a strictly military sense, General Sarrail has not done all he could. It is no fault of his that there was a Greek Army in Thessaly that required watching. As for Russia, she had immensely important work to do between the Styra and the Stokhod and on the north side of the Dniester. If one were allowed to guess, one would say that the Entente heard of an accumulation of troops towards Temesvar, destined to help the Bulgars to make an end of our holding at Salonika. Three hundred thousand men, with plenty of guns, would suffice, Greece would be "liberated," and Roumania would, at worst, remain neutral, and would trade with Germany in corn and oil. Our view would be that Roumania, being ready to fight, would be in no real danger from 300,000 Austro-Germans, aided by 100,000 or so of Bulgars and Turks, and that her intervention would so increase the length of front as to upset all the German plans, and snatch from the enemy the initiative he was aiming at.

Turning to the activities of von Falkenhayn and von Mackensen, the correspondent discovers signs that the former is becoming stronger. There are also signs that the southern Bulgar army in Macedonia is being strengthened.

Von Falkenhayn is for the moment raging about from one pass to another, as if he were groping for a weak point. Presently, before the full winter sets in, he will choose a pass, or a group of contiguous passes, put in everything he can, and make a final effort at a decision. The central group, the Predeal and those to right and left, lead into the oil region, and are nearest to Bucharest. They should prove attractive, but our side are well aware of that, and have doubtless large reserves—local at Pitesti, Ploesti, and Buzau; general at Bucharest. The Roumanian railway system seems to be strategically favourable in this region.

The German "may try one of the wings, the Vulkan and Roterturm on his right or the Trotus Valley on his left," but we have good reason to hope that his attempt will not succeed. As for his companion, we read:—

Von Mackensen, retreating already in the Dobrudja to the extent even of abandoning Hirsova, may be so acting of set purpose. He said it was only strong reconnoitring bodies of his that followed his enemy's retreat north of Caramurat. This may be so, and he may be all the time entrenching from a point covering Cernavoda to the Tashavlu lagoon, on the Euxine. He is credited in some quarters with an intention of forcing the passage of the Danube, perhaps in the neighbourhood of Rastchuk, but more probably further up stream about Sistova. If he has this project in hand, we may expect von Falkenhayn to make a prodigious effort in the Vulkan and Roterturm Passes, with a view to joining hands with his colleague south-west of Bucharest. But von Mackensen had better beware of General Sakharov. This chief has arrived in the Dobrudja, and a man of his ability and repute has not left his army of Brody for nothing. His three successive and successful battles on the Volhynian Lipa at Brody, and among the upper waters of the Galician Sereth, have stamped him as a great tactician, and he has probably crossed the Danube with a large handful of his own veteran and victorious troops.

Mistakes of the Past.

"German Penetration in Roumania" is the title of a valuable article which Mr. D. Mitrany contributes to the current *Quarterly*, and which will be read with interest by all who wish to see the Allies profiting in the future by the mistakes they made in the past. The story told by M. Mitrany is not entirely a new one to readers of *THE NEAR EAST*, but he tells it more fully and more connectedly than it has ever been told before, and it will repay careful study. Unfortunately, it would be impossible in a brief summary to do justice to the author's lucid and detailed exposition of the subject. We may, however, present a few extracts from passages which lend themselves to quotation more readily than those that are of a more technical character. Roumania, says M. Mitrany, was the first of the south-eastern European countries to establish a German

dynasty upon her throne, the first to be drawn into the sphere of influence of the Central Powers. Yet—

Nothing seemed more artificial than this association between peoples so widely different in character as are the Germans and Roumanians, especially if we also take into consideration the constant friction due to the sufferings of the Roumanians in Hungary. Since the political emancipation of the European Near East sprang from, and was fostered by, French and English liberal ideals, the success of the German efforts is the more remarkable. The practical spirit, energy, and perseverance of the Germans, and the *éblouissement* which their highly developed State organization exercised when contrasted with five centuries of Turkish domination, cannot, therefore, fully explain the situation. It was the unfortunate tactics of Russia, coupled with the short-sighted passivity of the Western Powers, which most helped to build up the German policy.

Later, M. Mitrany gives a concrete case in which Roumania was, so to say, thrown into the arms of Germany—and by France, of all nations.

An attempt to reduce German political and economic influence was made in 1913. The diplomatic machinations of Austria had considerably weakened the bonds between Roumania and the Central Powers. The journey of Prince Ferdinand—now King of Roumania—to Petrograd, and the even more significant visit which the Tsar soon afterwards paid to the late King Carol at Constanza, unmistakably pointed towards a change in Roumanian foreign politics. In harmony with those events was the desire of the Roumanian Government to float a loan on the Paris Bourse, for which purpose M. Marghiloman, then Finance Minister, was despatched to Paris. This was soon after the conclusion of the Peace of Bucharest (August, 1913), which had added to Roumania's greatly consolidated economic position an enhanced political prestige. Roumanian public opinion viewed the Government's change of policy with much satisfaction, and in the light of the recent successes was nurturing sanguine expectations as to the result of M. Marghiloman's mission. Yet, notwithstanding the efforts of the latter, an agreement could not be arrived at, mainly, strange to say, on account of the unsympathetic attitude of French official circles. The transactions were followed closely by German financiers; and, at the critical moment, M. Marghiloman was approached by the representative of the Diskonto with an offer so favourable that he could not do otherwise than break off negotiations with the French bankers. He proceeded that very day to Berlin, where he had no difficulty in arriving at an early settlement.

This strange indifference is contrasted with the activity and pushfulness of the Germans, official as well as unofficial.

The German Government has never failed to back the efforts of German finance and industry; and, though the "Imperial Commercial Traveller" never honoured Bucharest with a visit, for personal reasons, the German diplomatists have not thought it beneath their dignity to sing, not always in the sweetest of tunes, the praises of this or the other German product. And these diplomatists were of the best that Austria and Germany had at their disposal.

And if the diplomatists "pressed the button" the German commercial man and workman was ready to do the rest.

German money never comes alone. Every new investment, every new undertaking, industrial or financial, brought along with it a crowd of German clerks and workmen. This peaceful invasion was rendered easier in our case by the fact that the Roumanian peasant, being deeply attached to the land and disinclined on account of social and climatic circumstances to regular work, settles down with difficulty to industrial labour. On the other hand, the ideal of the middle and upper classes is politics and officialism. If not exactly welcomed, the Germans were in these circumstances suffered.

"The present situation in the Near East," writes M. Mitrany, "proves only too clearly how unfortunate were the policies of France and England in the past." Very few people would be found to take the opposite view. The article concludes:—

There is now undoubtedly an opportunity of making good past errors. Roumania will the more gladly welcome such a change, as her place in the lap of the Central Powers, with Bulgaria sitting on her knees, must be at once uncomfortable and not a little alarming. But there is one point which the Allies must not overlook. The great difficulty in dealing with Roumania is her situation with regard to Russia. What the policy of Russia will be in the future no one can predict. But it is clear that Roumania's position is very delicate; politically, because she would never be able to withstand a pressure from the North: economically, because she depends for her trade upon the Black Sea and the Straits. In these circumstances, she must either be made secure against Russia, or she will of necessity, and with no other possible alternative, grow to depend more and more upon the Central Powers. This would mean—the considerations applying with equal force to the other south-eastern European States—a definite step towards the realisation of that Teutonic conception of "Mitteleuropa" which we may now hope will never become a fact.

A Sofia telegram announces that the Sobranje has adjourned until November 22, when it will meet again to discuss the Budget for 1917.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

King Constantine's Promises.

Nov. 9.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, said that he was afraid he could not make any statement in reference to the nature of the interviews which the British Minister at Athens had recently had with King Constantine, or whether any undertakings had been given in writing.

A Salonika Despatch.

Nov. 14.

Mr. FORSTER informed Sir W. Essex that a despatch from the General Officer Commanding the British Forces at Salonika, dealing with operations up to October 8, had just reached the War Office, and it would be published in due course.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. J. F. HOPE, replying to questions put by Sir E. Carson and Sir E. Cornwall, said: From every hostile Government, except the Turkish, we have been able to obtain satisfactory lists of prisoners of war, but, notwithstanding all our efforts and those of the American Embassy at Constantinople, we have failed to obtain any but the most incomplete lists of our officers and men in Turkish hands. Apart from those who were taken prisoners in the Gallipoli operations, some 12,530, including, of course, Indian prisoners, we believe, surrendered at Kut-el-Amarah, but by means of information received up to the present from the Turkish Government, we have been able to identify only 1,923, and to this must be added another 764, of whom we have heard by means of private letters and other unofficial communications. In all other hostile countries prisoners of war camps have been visited by members of the American Embassy concerned, but a similar concession has always been strenuously opposed by the Turks. It is, therefore, impossible to give any assured information regarding our subjects in Turkey; but from all we can learn we have reason to fear that the conditions are very far from satisfactory, and that the mortality in certain cases has been heavy. There are also indications that our men have suffered severely on their way from Kut to places of internment. Moreover, we have grounds for fearing that our men are short of clothing, but every endeavour is being made by the American Embassy and Consular officials to meet this want by local purchases. A request to the Turkish Government to allow supplies of clothing to be sent in a neutral ship to some point in Asia Minor has been accepted only on the condition that the distribution shall be made by the Turkish authorities, which, again, is contrary to the practice in other countries, and is open to obvious and grave objection. Up to the present we have been compelled to rely on the provision of clothing from local sources, supplemented by the despatch of parcels from this country to those whose whereabouts is known; but the receipt of any parcels appears to be very uncertain. We have every reason to believe that the American authorities, through whom alone we can act, are doing their best under very difficult circumstances, but it would be idle to deny that the present situation is unsatisfactory in the extreme. We have recently again drawn the attention of the United States Government to the extreme urgency of the case.

Mr. FORSTER informed Sir E. Carson that care will be taken from time to time that any possible information is given to the country in reference to these prisoners.

Old and New Greece.

Mr. ASHLEY asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Government still maintain official relations with King Constantine's Government; if so, in what districts of Greece does his Majesty's Government recognise that King Constantine has jurisdiction; and what amount of official recognition has been accorded by the Allies to the Provisional Government under M. Venizelos at Salonika.

Lord R. CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative as regards the Allied Governments, including his Majesty's Government. As regards the second part, the situation changes from day to day, but it may roughly be said that M. Venizelos' authority exists in New Greece and the Islands, whereas the Government at Athens retains jurisdiction over Old Greece. As regards the last part of the question, I would refer the hon. member to previous statements which have been made on the subject. The Government of M. Venizelos is treated by the Allies as the *de facto* authority in the districts where it is established.

Mr. ASHLEY: What is the use of continuing the official recognition of the Government of King Constantine?

Lord R. CECIL: That is rather a large question to answer in reply to a supplementary question.

Mr. R. McNEILL: Has the extent of the recognition accorded by the Allies to M. Venizelos been indicated to him?

Lord R. CECIL: I understand so, certainly.

Mr. CATHCART WASON asked whether the noble Lord's attention had been directed to a despatch from M. Venizelos to Principal Ronald Burrows, King's College; and whether, in view of the facts there set forth, coupled with the occupation of fresh territory by Bulgarians, despatching of fresh troops to Berlin, and persecution of Greek patriots, he would consider with the Allied Powers what further steps it was necessary to take for the protection of M. Venizelos and his friends.

Lord R. CECIL: The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

Sudanese Troops.

Commander WENDWOOD asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether any additional battalions of Sudanese troops had been raised in the Sudan during the war, and, if not,

why such action had not yet been taken, in view of their suitability for fighting in Mesopotamia.

Lord R. CECIL said the answer was in the negative. For local reasons of a convincing nature it had not been considered desirable to raise additional battalions of these troops during the war.

Comforts for Mesopotamia.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked to what extent the army in Mesopotamia was now being supplied with winter comforts either by the Government or from private sources.

Mr. FORSTER said warm clothing, mackintosh capes, etc., had been despatched in large numbers to Mesopotamia. He also understood that the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations was in constant touch with Busreh, and had supplied and forwarded from time to time all the comforts which he had been asked to provide.

Mr. BILLING: Are we to understand that large numbers mean necessary numbers?

Mr. FORSTER said, as far as he knew, it did.

Sir J. JARDINE asked whether lime-juice and fresh vegetables were included especially for garrisons where scurvy was said to have broken out.

Mr. FORSTER said he did not think that the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations would be responsible for the despatch of vegetables, and they ought to be supplied by the Regular Army Service. As far as he knew, as abundant a supply as they could manage was being sent. Every possible precaution was being taken.

A Lady at Salonika.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked if the daughter of the British Consul at Salonika was sent home by the military authorities there, and if she had been allowed to return, in defiance of the opinion of the intelligence officers in Greece.

Mr. FORSTER said the lady was permitted to return by the General Officer Commanding the British troops at Salonika. He was not aware of the opinion of the intelligence officers in Greece.

Recognition of M. Venizelos.

Nov. 15.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. LYNCH, said:—The Allied Governments would, of course, recognise the belligerent rights of those Greek volunteers who attached themselves to the Allied Forces at Salonika. M. Venizelos was not in revolt against the King.

Mr. LYNCH: How can the noble lord justify the assertion that M. Venizelos is not in revolt against the King when he is raising armed troops which are defying the King's authority?

Lord R. CECIL: We have M. Venizelos's own account of it.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a further question by Mr. LYNCH, stated that the Allied Governments had made a provisional advance of 10,000,000 drachmæ to the Government of M. Venizelos. He entirely agreed that the present position of States openly financing a provisional Government without formal recognition of its authority was anomalous, as were the circumstances that occasioned it.

Mr. LYNCH: Is there any precedent for giving a subvention to a subject in revolt against his Monarch and at the same time jeopardising the campaign by propping up the throne of that same Monarch?

Lord R. CECIL: As far as I know there is no precedent for the circumstances. So far as we are concerned the sooner the anomalous state of affairs comes to an end the better.

PLUMBING IN SERBIA.

The following extract from a letter written by the matron attached to the medical unit sent out to Vodena by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., is of interest in showing what has to be done in arranging a building as a hospital:—"The house was just an ordinary private one, and consequently pipes have had to be arranged, sinks made, portions of the passage-ways screened off to make bathrooms, and two kitchens provided. The one already existing in the basement was rearranged as a sub-kitchen capable of cooking for 160, and a second kitchen was made upstairs. Out here it means 'making bricks without straw.' . . . I view with satisfaction a sink that I have just arranged for the kitchen. The trough is made from the wood of packing-cases, lined and neatly joined with the tin from petrol-tins, and the pipe below to the floor, where it joins the waste-pipe, is of the approved pattern, so that the proper water seal exists. This pipe had to be made by cutting small sections of tin and overlapping them. We have our own tinsmith, but he is a Serb, so that most of my instructions have to be given by drawings."

The Mesopotamia Commission sat at the House of Lords on Tuesday to hear further evidence.

The Greek Metropolitan at Durazzo has been arrested by the Austrians, who have sent him to Vienna.

Inhabitants of Roumania who have suffered from the enemy invasion are to be compensated by the Government.

An official report has been presented by Professor Jean Cantacuzene and the Director of the Bacteriological Institute at Bucharest upon their examination of the sweetmeats dropped by German aviators and spread over the city by German spies. Experiment showed these to contain disease-producing bacilli, including those of typhoid fever and infantile complaints. In the flasks discovered at the German Legation were found cultures of morve (glanders) and a very virulent form of anthrax.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

War means augmented and new transport services, and in this direction, I understand, the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company has done exceedingly well. Last December, as announced previously, the management was able to clear off the arrears on preference payments and to resume payments on the ordinary shares. For the year 1914-15 the board distributed five per cent., and since then an interim return of five per cent. has been made on account of the twelve months ended on June 30 last. Recently in London the market has had visions of a dividend of ten per cent. or more for the whole twelve months, a payment which would restore the company to something like the position it occupied a few years ago, and from which it was ousted through an accumulation of bad luck. The visions have been eclipsed, for, as will be seen from our City section, not only has a final dividend of 10 per cent. been declared, but a bonus of 10 per cent. has also been announced, making a total return to shareholders of 25 per cent. on the year.

The figures given in the report are worth study. After making allowance for the estimated liability in respect of excess profits duty, the working of the year resulted in a net profit of £51,957, compared with £19,731. After paying the increased dividend and bonus, the fine sum of £28,598 has been carried forward, against £12,637 brought over from last year. During the year under review, a number of the company's ships have been requisitioned for British Government service, others have been trading between Egypt and the United Kingdom, while the Cyprus mail service has been maintained and also a portion of the Red Sea pilgrim traffic between Egypt and Jeddah. Those vessels which have come home to British ports have been repaired.

Very important indeed are the indications of prosperity and well-being which are to be found in the result of the year's working of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, with the dividend declaration of which for the year ended August 31 we have already dealt in THE NEAR EAST. In addition to the usual return to shareholders of 15 per cent., it will be recalled, a bonus of 2½ per cent. (income-tax free) is also to be paid. From the annual report, which is to be submitted to the meeting of shareholders next week, I take the following particulars:—Gross profits, £212,600 (increase, £23,700); net profits, £12,000 (increase, £10,500). Deposits have increased by more than £2,300,000. Holdings of Treasury Bills have increased from £1,400,000 to £3,550,000, and the cash holding from £1,279,600 to £1,786,000. The reserve fund exceeds the paid-up capital by £190,000. What could be better?

Mr. C. W. Twelves, late president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium, has written from Cairo to the November Trade Supplement of *The Times* to support the contention that if Great Britain prohibits importation of all enemy products, while allowing Allied or neutral country products in free or under very light import duties, every German factory would soon have a subsidiary plant on

neutral soil. Mr. Twelves points out that "German factories have for many years past already existed in large numbers in many neutral countries, such as Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, etc., etc., and to a less extent perhaps in Great Britain, France, and Italy, etc. In some instances the fact that Germany controlled these industries was hidden either by the use of a non-German title or by allowing the name of an already established industry, bought up by Germany, to subsist."

In his letter, Mr. Twelves mentions a typical instance of the latter evil. "A French firm established in Egypt," he writes, "ordered a light railway plant from Decauville in France, and when the order was carried out the French firm here were much surprised to find that a large part of the goods came from Koppel in Germany, who, it was afterwards ascertained, held a controlling interest in Decauville, France." If I am not mistaken, British merchants all over the world could cite many instances of this method of Germany's "peaceful penetration," and it is to be hoped that after the war such barefaced exploitation will be impossible. I am aware that there is a boot for the other foot, that British manufactories have been established in foreign countries, and now in some cases may actually be working there. They may be stopped from doing so; but that would be a "reprisal" which we could afford to meet, and I trust its possibility will not be allowed to stand in the way of our initiating commonsense methods. The great point is that we must rid ourselves of the "German octopus grip" (to quote an apt description applied to the Hun stronghold by Mr. Twelves) and no private or individual interests must be permitted to stand in the way.

People who are inclined to minimise the importance to the Entente of Roumania should study carefully a thoughtful article in the *Portnightly*, by "Politicus," on the "Position of Roumania," in which he examines the statistics of her grain and petroleum industries. Roumania's downfall would be a disaster of the first magnitude to the Grand Alliance; he declares, with solemn truth: "It would almost completely nullify the British blockade. Germany and Austria-Hungary could hold out indefinitely as far as bread, meat, and petroleum are concerned, and their position with regard to wool and leather would be greatly improved. In addition, the Roumanian mines could supply them with considerable quantities of copper, nickel, etc."

But it is not only from that point of view that our enemies would gain. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will recall that in a recent article on Serbia we described the great railway projects upon which the Huns have set their hearts. This is what "Politicus" has to say upon the same subject, and I believe too much attention cannot be paid to his views:—"Instead of a single railway line towards Turkey and Bulgaria, Germany would command four. Her transporting and her striking power by railway would be quadrupled. In addition, she would dispose of the Danube from the source to the mouth, and she could transport on it vast bodies of troops and millions of tons of food and stores, leaving the railways free for other transport. There is a canal which connects the Elbe and the Danube. By subduing Roumania, Germany could easily send a large fleet

of submarines by way of the Elbe and Danube into the Black Sea, which might become a German-Austrian lake."

The Poland farce now being staged by the two Kaiser impresarios may be a crude political bluff; but it is, none the less, a military measure of some significance, for it will be held by the pirate kings to justify the enrolling in the armies of the enemy of thousands of Russian Poles. Beyond this, however, no importance attaches to the promulgation of the "paper" State. Certainly it has no bearing on the economic situation, nor is it likely to last long enough to affect it. This does not signify, however, that the creation of an autonomous Poland, after the war, will not be a powerful factor in the economic development of Central Europe; but such a province, or State, must be independent of Austro-German rule, and not a mere creation of those States, lamely set upon their legs to further their interests. A Poland of the latter sort would be an insignificant member of that Mittel Europa confederation of States which Naumann has been writing about, and its fortunes would be those of Prussia.

As was pointed out in THE NEAR EAST recently, however, the formation of this Central European combine cannot and will not be permitted if a lasting peace is to be signed, and if Prussia is not to continue to be a direct menace to Western civilisation and progress. We can, therefore, discard the probability of a Prussianised Poland, as is now designed by the grace of the Kaiser, becoming a unit of such a combine. But an autonomous Poland, created under the auspices of the Czar, is a different matter and one of considerable commercial interest to us. Needless to say, it must have a port of its own—a concession which, I think, the Russian Government will willingly grant—in order to enable it to draw its necessary supplies and manufactured articles from across the seas; without a port, it would remain a closed market to all the world excepting Germany and Austria—surely a state of affairs that would not tend to strengthen the country's economic relations and freedom of action. Poland, as it has been sketched by the Grand Duke Nicholas, with its own seaport, would rapidly become a leading State in the Near East, and would wield an important economic influence throughout Eastern Europe.

While on the subject of Poland, mention must be made of the lecture given at Burlington House by Professor Masaryk on Monday last on Czech aspirations. The Czechs, whose home is Bohemia, do not seem to be as pro-German as Pan-Germans fondly imagine; they are distinctly pro-Ally, and long for the success of our arms whereby they will be able to throw off the Austro-Teuton yoke and gain their independence. There is no valid reason why they should not be allowed to do so. Moreover, it would favour our own interests, political as well as commercial, in the Near East. Bohemia, it must be remembered, is the most industrial province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the loss to the Teuton Empires of her factories and output would be a serious blow. A Mittel Europa without Bohemia would be an octopus without its body. So let us remember the aspirations of the Czechs and favour them.

COMMENTATOR.

The Prosperity of Egypt.

Healthy State of Government Finances.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 2.

The statement of accounts for the period ended on August 31, just published, reveals a continuation of the satisfactory condition of the State finances already referred to on previous occasions. Revenue at the end of August stood at £E6,927,214, as against £E5,930,455 on the same date in 1915, and expenditure at £E6,976,784, as against £E6,308,929. Revenue had therefore improved by £E966,759 and expenditure had increased by £E667,855 during the five months, with the result that the balance is £E328,904 better, or a deficit of only £E49,570, as against one of £E378,474 at the close of August, 1915.

Improvement in Revenue.

The principal heads of revenue showing improvement during the period have been:—Direct taxes by £E12,083, Customs £E402,583 (an increase of 70 per cent.), tobacco dues £E99,164, legal fees £E10,506, railways £E487,118 (an increase of about 40 per cent.), Post Office £E13,685, investment of funds £E20,849, and sale of land £E11,216. It is to be noted that the latter item already exceeds by £E5,635 the total estimate for "extraordinary receipts," in which proceeds of land sales are included. The only heads showing any important diminution were port dues, by £E13,954, and Domains receipts, by £E50,171. The decrease in the last-named is due to the inflation of the receipts during last summer by the proceeds of the sale of the 1914 cotton crop, which had been held over owing to the bad prices ruling during the autumn of 1914; the receipts this year are actually £E5,901 better than they were at the end of August, 1914. During August this year Customs increased by £E73,207, legal fees by £E11,071, and railways by £E82,120, and the total improvement in revenue for the month was £E144,664.

Expenditure during the five months was, as already mentioned, £E667,855 more than during the corresponding period of 1915. The chief items causing this increase were: Domains, by £E16,653; Post Office, by £E31,857; Public Health, by £E30,520; Irrigation, by £E40,889; Railways, by £E551,647; and provincial services, by £E21,943.

It is perhaps interesting to note that, by comparison with August, 1914—the month in which the first blow of the war was felt—the revenue during August this year was £E395,784 better—£E1,151,773, as against £E755,989. How improved the position now is can be gauged from the comparison of some of the heads of revenue during the months in question. Thus, direct taxes are £E72,067 (£E236,588), Customs £E102,860 (£E196,791), tobacco £E70,203 (£E164,575), legal fees £E30,913 (£E92,157), railways £E121,698 (£E329,743), Post Office £E7,149 (£E25,308) above what they stood at in August, 1914. (The figures in parenthesis are the amounts realised this August.)

Signs of the Times.

As a matter of fact, in addition to the State accounts there are other ample indications of the prosperity existing to-day in the country. Debts are being liquidated with alacrity, and very little further credit is being asked for, whilst the mortgage banks are finding their instalments and arrears coming in in a most satisfactory manner. Another striking indication of the local prosperity is the support that is being given to the share market. The few shares that are quoted are being very much sought after. Unified is in very great demand, and the recent issue of War Loans at 6 per cent. does not seem to have affected this security, which at present prices returns 5 per cent. At times it has been exceedingly difficult to find any lots offering, and con-

siderable consignments have been received from London and Paris. All have been absorbed with the greatest ease, and it is estimated that on an average £100,000 worth has been brought over monthly during the past few months. The interesting feature about these purchases of shares is that the buyers, one and all, are paying hard cash. There are practically none of the purchases on margin, which denote speculation, and those of the banks which do such business have had very few applications for advances against new shares purchased. One can, I think, say without exaggeration that all these shares have been acquired by bona-fide investors, which is, forsooth, one of the surest indications of local prosperity.

Bank of Egypt—Probable Reconstruction.

By-the-bye, I am credibly informed that a local financial group is negotiating for the purchase of the remaining assets of the Bank of Egypt, which is still in liquidation. The syndicate in question is, I understand, trying at the same time to raise sufficient capital locally to enable it to reconstruct, on a modest scale, of course, the old bank. The members of the syndicate appear to consider that more could have been made out of the liquidation and that they could do a great deal with the remaining assets. It remains to be seen whether their view is correct. Certainly the resurrection of the oldest bank in Egypt would be welcomed in many quarters, where its disappearance aroused genuine regret, although it is to be feared that too long has been allowed to elapse since the closing of its doors for the assets still unrealised to constitute much of a foundation for a reconstruction.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan during September was somewhat brisker than a year ago, imports from the latter amounting to £E53,725, and traffic the other way to £E104,285, as compared with £E38,153 and £E95,185 respectively last year. The chief imports from the Sudan were:—Live stock, £E14,271; skins, £E2,444; maize, £E16,268; sesame, £E7,662 (the amounts for these two items for the nine months is a little more than double that of 1915); gum, £E1,204; and charcoal, £E1,250. No cotton came down this month, presumably because adequate accommodation could be found on steamers at Port Sudan and Suakim. Chief exports to the Sudan were refined sugar, £E27,291; cotton tissues, £E29,332; and cereals, £E7,779.

SIX MONTHS' SUDAN TRADE

According to statistics recently issued by the Sudan Central Economic Board, the values of the principal articles imported and exported during the first six months of the current year were as shown in the following table, the figures for the corresponding period of 1915 being added for purposes of comparison:—

Imports.

	(Jan. to June) 1915.	1916.
Cotton fabrics.....	232,373	258,192
Sugar.....	121,003	183,205
Coal.....	20,958	124,321
Coffee.....	22,060	47,673
Sacks, empty.....	36,134	38,667
Flour.....	26,800	31,136
Motor cars and accessories	4,439	25,884
Tea.....	11,029	45,261
Clothing and underclothing	14,803	19,311
Saddlery.....	1,664	15,198
Soap.....	12,876	9,991
Oils.....	3,404	8,554
Cordages and cables.....	2,208	7,669
Boots and shoes.....	6,401	7,418
Timber.....	20,661	6,539
Spices.....	3,882	5,926

Exports.

Gum.....	197,656	470,597
Cotton, ginned.....	127,010	252,042
Dura.....	108,153	173,326
Sesame.....	53,205	132,081
Cattle.....	52,804	44,406

PERSIAN TRADE.

Notes by the British Vice-Consul at Bushire.

The British Vice-Consul at Bushire (Mr. H. G. Chick) reports that hitherto Bushire has been the port of supply and shipment for the coastal region extending from the Province of Arabistan to the neighbourhood of Lingah, for the Province of Fars, and to a small extent for the towns of Isfahan and Yezd in Central Persia. Up to 1907 the Bushire-Shiraz-Isfahan route had been the principal caravan road for all merchandise entering the country by the Persian Gulf, piece-goods and sugar and other commodities for the important Isfahan market finding their way up-country from Bushire. Since that year increased traffic on the road from Ahwaz to Isfahan reduced to a large extent dealings between Bushire and Isfahan, both in imported goods and Persian produce. Larger sales in Fars and the coastal region, and greater business activity generally, however, have helped to maintain the value of trade entering and leaving the port at its previous level, viz., £1,000,000 to £1,500,000. Continual political disorders in one region or another of Southern Persia supply the reason for lack of further progress.

The outbreak of the European war, followed by the British campaign in Mesopotamia against Turkey from November, 1914, has effected radical changes in the volume of trade in the principal classes of imports and exports, viz., piece goods, sugar, tea, spices, gum, opium, carpets and almonds.

The total import of loaf sugar, previously brought from Belgium by German steamers, amounted to only 609 tons during the period August, 1914, to March, 1915, as against 4,525 tons in the corresponding period of 1913-14. On the other hand, imports of crystal sugar from India and Hong Kong amounted to 2,160 tons, as against 779 tons, during August, 1913, to March, 1914. The decrease in the imports of piece goods, from 1,112 tons during August, 1913, to March, 1914, to 659 tons during 1914-15 was largely due to the fact that the war has reduced direct sailings from the United Kingdom to a minimum and made shipments via India the only alternative. The closing of the Dardanelles—Batoum route for the large market for tea which exists in northern and central Persia brought the trade in tea back to the Persian Gulf and Bushire, the import for the year ended 21st March, 1915, being 600 tons, or three times the quantity imported in previous years. Similar reasons influenced the trade in spices, imports of which practically doubled.

As regards exports, the demand for Persian opium received a great fillip, doubtless connected with the interruption of the supply from Smyrna. A slump in the export of carpets has been caused by the severance of connections with the Constantinople, Smyrna and Vienna markets, the greatly reduced demand in Egypt and the United States, etc.

LIGNITE DEPOSITS IN SICILY.

The recent discovery of deposits of lignite in the Province of Messina is of considerable interest to manufacturers and users of steam power in Mediterranean Sea countries, for this product, more commonly known as brown coal, is compact, partially carbonised, and forms a fuel intermediate between peat and true coal. The mineral has been found on the property of Sig. Settimo Mingrino, in the Passo del Urni (Sicily N.E.). Active mining has commenced, and about 100 men are employed. The daily output is between 25 and 35 tons.

Although operations are carried on at less than 20 feet from the surface, examinations which have been made indicate that the deposit is of considerable depth, and has a surface area of practically 30,000 square yards. The quality is pronounced excellent.

The result of the analysis of this lignite is not yet available, but it is stated that certain valuable chemical properties have been found, making this discovery of greater importance than was at first realised. The owner is endeavouring to form a company for the development of the mine.

NEW CEREAL FOR CYPRUS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, November 2.

Attempts have been made by the Agricultural Department to induce farmers to cultivate rye. Curiously enough, this cereal has never been grown in Cyprus, and until recently was not even known by name. The first Director of Agriculture under British rule, Mr. Gennadius, endeavoured to introduce it, and a few individuals tried it, but did not persevere.

The present director, Mr. W. Bevan, has had some grown on government land, and has some loaves made from rye flour for distribution amongst farmers. The introduction of this cereal should be profitable, since it grows well in poor soils, sandy or calcareous, which abound in Cyprus. It would furnish the earliest green forage, and the straw would be preferable to that of wheat, which is used in one of the local industries—that of making flat trays, by Cypriot women.

It would also be useful for rotation on soils where wheat and barley crops have been for years suffering from a pest (the *tinea temperella*), which has caused much trouble. The yield on most soils is greater than that of wheat. It is doubtful whether villagers would take to rye bread, but it is well that it should be given a trial.

GREECE AND THE ENTENTE.

What is coming to light in Athens regarding the complicity of Greek officials and merchants, politicians also, in the plot to hand the kingdom over to the Prussians, may well warrant the representatives of the Entente Powers in holding their hand until more is revealed, the *Investors' Review* wrote on November 15. Evidently the Greek capital, the Greek army and navy, the banking and mercantile classes, and many among the meaner strata of the people have been bought (or otherwise corrupted) by the Teutons. But until the evidence is complete enough to support conclusive action, it is better to let the infamy yeast itself to the surface.

Where *Truth* gets support for its assertion that the Powers are at variance over Greek affairs we do not know, but Lord Robert Cecil has again and again emphatically declared the contrary, and he is not a man given to lying; and the facts appear to us to support him, because they disclose nothing in the unhappy country's conditions for the Powers to quarrel over. Greece can never now hope to enter upon a great inheritance in outlying lands or to play a master part of any sort in the Near East. Her boundaries will be enlarged in accordance with just pretensions, but the little State can never be more than one of the several liberated and readjusted States into which the Balkans and adjacent territories will be divided under the protecting wing of the Great Powers.

Why, then, should these Powers "differ" about Greece? We cannot guess why, and do not believe that they are at variance, for not one of them is fighting to reach a position enabling it to annex and oppress, either in the Balkans or anywhere else. They are in arms to free the slaves of all races, to revive and liberate small peoples and large, and are ready to do justly by Greece, even as by Bulgaria, once the Turk has been swept off the stage as a "Power."

THE WHISKY FOR CONNOISSEURS.

TUCKEY'S
Years 10 Old
Pure Malt Whisky
per 57/- doz.

Case Free and Carriage Paid.
Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky.
Sample Bottle, post free, 5/8.

The *Lancet*, March 28th, says: "It is well adapted for dietic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

12 Years Old Liqueur Whisky
60/- per doz. Sample Bottle 5/8
CHAS. TUCKEY & CO., Ltd.,
3, Mincing Lane, E.C.



LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market continues to gain strength, and a healthy demand has again been experienced in most quarters. Spinners of yarn have been independent for some time now, and producers of cloth are steadily improving their position. Further high records have been established in American cotton rates, a fresh bullish movement being started by operators in the United States. Egyptian cotton futures have been irregular, and there is some uncertainty as to what will be the effect of the decision of the Liverpool Cotton Association to impose restrictions upon dealings from next Monday in the way of a deposit of £10 a bale, and a permit being secured from a special committee. The demand in piece goods for Egypt continues healthy. Some substantial contracts have been arranged at high figures, and for delivery a long way ahead. Sized goods have been the chief attraction, but printed and miscellaneous fabrics have also moved off well.

A rather increasing demand has been experienced for India, a feature of interest being speculative purchasing by one or two leading houses in shirtings. Further buying has also been reported in dhooties and jaconets at advancing rates. China after being slow for a long time now seems to show signs of waking up, and more business has been done. Owing to there being less anxiety for fresh contracts, manufacturers of cloth, as a body, are holding out for more remunerative prices. In American yarns for home use the tone has been strong and prices have been put up in sympathy with the rise in the raw material. Some spinners are rather afraid to continue selling at such abnormal figures. The margin of profit in 32's twist is healthier than for many years back. Some miscellaneous sales have occurred in shipping counts, but no business of weight has been done. In Bolton yarns prices have not been much affected by the rather easier tendency in Egyptian cotton. Producers are heavily sold and can afford to be independent.

FERTILISERS FOR AGRICULTURE.

British merchants may consult at the offices of the Department of Commercial Intelligence a copy of a Memorandum (No. 5.) dated September, 1916, on the international movement of fertilisers and chemical products useful to agriculture, which has been issued by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

The fertilisers dealt with in the memorandum are: Phosphatic fertilisers, namely, natural phosphates, basic slag, superphosphate of lime, natural and artificial guano, bones and bone manure; potassic fertilisers, namely, potassic salts, saltpetre, and other potassic fertilisers; nitrogenous fertilisers, namely, nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, synthetic and organic nitrogenous fertilisers; general fertilisers, namely, unclassified chemical fertilisers, and unclassified fertilisers, and chemical products employed in agriculture, namely sulphur and sulphate of copper.

REUTER'S TELEGRAM COMPANY.

Messrs. Bircham and Co., solicitors, authorise the statement that the offer to purchase the undertaking of Reuter's Telegram Company, Ltd., has been made by the Hon. Mark Francis Napier, the chairman of the company, with whom are associated Lord Glenconner, chairman of the Union Bank of Scotland; Viscount Peel, a director of the London and Provincial Bank; and the Right Hon. Sir Leander Starr Jameson, Bart., president of the British South Africa Company. Certain investigations are now being undertaken on behalf of Mr. Mark Napier and his friends, and if the result is satisfactory to them the offer will promptly be submitted to the shareholders of the company for their approval. It may be stated that one of the principal objects of the acquisition of the undertaking is to ensure that Reuter's Agency shall continue to be independent of any alien or undesirable control, and that its conduct and administration shall be entirely British. It is intended to continue the existing administration of the Agency, and Mr. Roderick Jones, the present head, will remain in that position with enlarged powers.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tarbushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10.)

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs, dressings, sundries, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 25.)

The Director of Stores, Coast Guard Administration, Arsenal, invites tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required by the service at Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez during year 1917. (December 1, 1915.)

The Sanitary Commissioners of Gibraltar invite tenders for the supply and delivery of the following coal in such quantities as may be required during 1917:—Best Cardiff steam; South Wales small; Newport large; best quality Durham unscreened; anthracite large; and anthracite nuts. Specifications, conditions of contract, etc., may be obtained from the Sanitary Commissioners' Office, Gibraltar, at which address sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to the dates mentioned. (November 21.)

The Collector of Customs at Valetta reports that a local firm wishes to take up sole agencies for United Kingdom manufacturers of provisions, household requisites, stationery, jewellery, toys, textiles, clothing, haberdashery, perfumery, etc. Apply to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

NEW COTTON-PICKING MACHINE.

According to *Al-Mokattam*, of Cairo, Gobran Bey Greis and Hussein Bey Wali have invented a machine to collect cotton bolls, which was tried recently in the presence of Mr. Dudgeon, Mr. Mackillop, and other officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, when it is said to have answered the purpose. The machine is very simple and is drawn by a pair of oxen, and can gather the crops of four feddans of cotton in a day at a cost of four or seven piastres per feddan. The invention has been registered, and the inventors propose to seek the assistance of some capable mechanical engineer to perfect it.

ROUMANIA AND RUSSIA.

A Special Commission is being sent by the Russian authorities to investigate the possibility of exporting Roumanian oil for the use of the Southern and South-Western Russian railways. The quantities of oil which it is considered possible to export are estimated at one million tons.

Owing to the establishment of close economic relations between Russia and Roumania there is now an increasing demand for Roumanian currency. The standard exchange rate has been fixed at 44 roubles for 100 lei.

Lately great interest has also been shown in Roumanian currency on the neutral markets. Negotiations are taking place to obtain shares of Roumanian oil properties by Russian financiers, and this circumstance also increases the demand for currency.—*Financier and Bullionist*.

In the *Journal Officiel Tunisien* (September 30) is published the text of a Decree fixing maximum prices for the sale of certain cereals. The Decree provides, *inter alia*, that from October 1, 1916, for the period of the war and during the year following general demobilisation, the maximum prices for wheat, barley, and oats harvested in Tunis shall be as follows:—On railway trucks at the ports of Tunis, Bizerta, and Susa, 32 fr. per quintal for hard wheat weighing 79 kilograms, and soft wheat weighing 78 kilograms. to the hectolitre; 20 fr. per quintal for barley weighing 60 kilograms. to the hectolitre; and 23 fr. per quintal for oats weighing 48 kilograms. to the hectolitre. No permits for the exportation of cereals had been granted up to September 30.

PRODUCE REPORT.**Currants.**

LONDON, November 16.

After the activity and large business that passed during the last three or four weeks the market seems quiet, and prices have slightly declined in some instances.

Sultanas.

The quality of the first arrival of new Greek sultanas was quite satisfactory, and the small quantity that was available met with a ready sale. Afghanistan fruit, old crop, is still coming and sells at full prices. Cretan raisins are quiet, but prices are unchanged.

Figs.

New Spanish are in demand; in fact, it is the only kind available in the market at present, and probably for that reason they are dearer at 47s. to 55s.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm, but not active. London-Calcutta spot 98s., afloat 99s.; Nov.-Dec., 100s., and Dec.-Jan. 101s. Bombay, Nov.-Dec., 101s.; Dec.-Jan., 102s.; and small Nov.-Dec., 98s. Bombay to Hull, small, Nov.-Dec., was sold at 97s. 6d., and ordinary ditto at 99s. Rapeseed is strong and higher prices paid; Ferozepore 80s, while brown Cawnpore to Hull, prompt, was sold at 77s. 9d., and Toria to London, Nov.-Dec., at 83s. Cotton-

seed is firm. Egyptian is unaltered; Bombay dearer; London Sakelarides, prompt, £15 16s. 3d.; ditto to Hull, afloat, £16 15s. Bombay to Hull, Nov.-Dec., £15 15s. Rangoon white beans are very firm, spot £34 ex store; afloat £34, and new crop £31 c.i.f. The market for canary seed is strong, and an active business has been passing this week at rising prices.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm, spot pipes quoted at £50 10s., barrels, Nov.-Dec., £51 10s.; and Jan.-April, £52 10s. Rape oil is also firm, refined English in barrels, spot, £54. Cotton oil is steady for crude pipes, spot, at £47 10s.; refined pale, pipes, £50 10s.; and sweet barrels, £54 to £56. Olive oil is firm on spot at £63 to £65 per tun, ex store, in barrels.

Oilcakes.

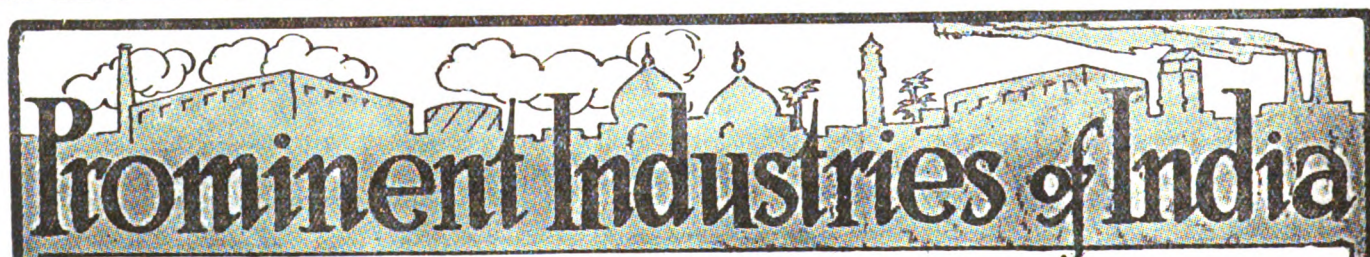
Cotton Cakes.—The market is practically cleared of any stocks of Egyptian, and good business is being done only in parcels afloat, and for November shipments at £12 per ton ex ship; while English makes are obtainable in limited quantities at £12 10s. to £12 15s. Linseed cakes are in small demand considering the time of year; values, however, are well maintained owing to the small quantity of English and foreign that is available on spot or for shipment. Best London made offered sparingly at £15 10s. to £15 15s. East India seed, pures, sell at £15 5s. to £15 10s. per ton.

EGYPT'S INSECT PESTS.

An interesting work has just been issued under the auspices of the Sultanic Agricultural Society on the insect and related pests of Egypt injurious to the cotton plant. The author is Mr. F. C. Willcocks, the entomologist to the Society, who has confined his attention to the pink bollworm, for the volume that has just made its appearance is only the first of three similar, all of which will deal with the varied insect pests of the country.

Originally it had been intended to publish an account of the insect and related pests of cotton in a single part to form the first volume of the complete report, but the great importance assumed by the pink bollworm here has made it imperative that a detailed and illustrated account of what is known up to the present time about this scourge should be put into print without any delay.

The second portion of the first volume will deal with the cotton worm, the ordinary bollworm, the cutworm, the aphis, and other creatures of this kind, while the second volume will include an account and suggested methods for the control of the insect and related pests of agricultural and horticultural crops other than cotton; fruit and fruit trees; shade trees; ornamental plants and shrubs; domestic animals; household pests; and insects directly injurious to man by biting or stinging him, or acting as carriers of disease germs.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.**

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

**Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.**

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

**Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.**

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

NEUTRAL CARGO ON ENEMY SHIPS.

Important Judgment in Prize Court at Alexandria.

Cargo ex the German steamer Lutzow is still the subject of litigation in the Alexandria Prize Court. The most recent case is one in which the American Trading Company claimed a release of goods, shipped by its Hamburg branch, on the ground that it was a neutral concern which, on the outbreak of hostilities, took steps to sever its connection with the enemy.

Giving judgment, Judge Cator said:—

"On the general question of principle I have already expressed my opinion that a neutral or British subject is entitled to a reasonable time within which to withdraw his property, and I now have to determine whether the claimants have so acted as to obtain any benefit from that rule.

"Shortly after the declaration of war the company decided that its Hamburg branch should engage in no fresh business, and that the affairs of the branch should be wound up, and it contends that under these circumstances its goods cannot be condemned as prize, in spite of the fact that up to date of the last affidavit filed in the cause the business had not been fully liquidated. It really comes to this, that, in effect, I am asked to declare that a neutral house in an enemy country need do no more than cease to take new business in order to benefit by the rule to which I have already referred, and to say that the Court should pay no attention to the length of time which may elapse before the liquidation of the business is concluded. That, however, is a proposition which I cannot accept. The cases are not very helpful on the point, but I think they indicate that promptitude in deciding to withdraw is not the whole duty of the merchant. Promptitude of action in removing his goods or winding up his affairs seems also to be required, and certainly it accords with common sense that a merchant should not be at liberty to claim any special indulgence unless he can show that he has taken extraordinary pains, even at the cost of some sacrifice to himself, to expedite the closing down of his house."

His Honour then discussed the liquidation proceedings, and, observing that the company determined on August 25, 1914, that it would wind up the affairs of its Hamburg branch and would do no fresh business there, proceeded:—

"What the exact nature of the company's business may be I do not know. We have no information as to details. But Mr. Morse has produced two balance-sheets relating to the Hamburg branch, which show its financial position on June 30, 1914, and December 31, 1915. From these it appears that considerable progress had been made in the liquidation by the end of 1915, but none the less the account was still some way from being closed. The total assets shown on the first balance-sheet amount to upwards of \$228,000, in which merchandise on hand figures as more than \$69,000, while at the latter date it is something over \$27,000, to which merchandise in hand contributes over \$6,000. But it has taken sixteen months to reach this point. How far the liquidation had got by the end of the year 1914 we are not told.

"The burden of proof in these cases must always rest with the owner of the goods, and when the liquidation takes so much time as this has done the Court is entitled to ask for special and particular explanations to account for the delay—explanations which in this case have not been attempted.

"So far as I can judge from the scanty information laid before me, the affairs of the house have been continued in just the same manner as before the war. It is doubtless true that no fresh business has been entertained, but certainly no special effort has been made to expedite the liquidation of the old. The great object seems to have been made to avoid loss. And although I should most gladly order a release of the company's goods if I felt that the law allowed me to do so, and should certainly give the company the benefit of any doubt that I might feel, I can only hold that this branch was carried on as a house of

business in an enemy country during war time, and as such ran the risk of having its property seized as prize.

"Any other conclusion would be an admission of the contention which I have just declared to be inadmissible, for if I were to release these goods I can imagine no case where a house having ceased to transact new business on the outbreak of war could not claim immunity from capture for all its merchandise.

"I regret to say that I must treat the claimants' property as if it pertained to an enemy house, and as the ship upon which it was seized has already been confiscated, I must deal with the goods in a similar manner. An order for sale has already been made, so that I have only to declare that the goods or the proceeds of sale are confiscated as prize for the benefit of the Crown."

AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT.

The Commission of Agricultural Commerce of Egypt continues its good work, and at a meeting held at Cairo on October 17 good progress was reported. The President (Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon) described the progress which had been made with the sericulture experiment, and the manner in which the two families of Armenian experts had been installed at Ras-el-Khalig. The experimental work with "til" was being continued, and it was hoped shortly to publish the results of the flax-growing experiments of the Government farm.

Inquiries were being made with reference to the use of "bourdi," the Egyptian bull-rush for paper-making. Samples of coarse paper were recently exhibited in Alexandria, made from this plant, and the exhibitors seem confident that it will prove remunerative to manufacture pulp for export. The chief obstacles are connected with the difficulties of collection and transport. In the course of a subsequent discussion, it was pointed out that attempts which had previously been made to utilise the material in normal times failed owing to these difficulties. It was, however, agreed that it was the duty of the Commission to advise the Government of the points where the collection of the raw material might affect the scheme, in order that there should be no misunderstanding by those interesting themselves in it later. "Bourdi" was doubtless to be found in large quantities in the northern lake regions, where it was difficult to approach by boat owing to the shallow water, and was equally difficult to transport by men. The President pointed out that instances had recently been brought up, showing that where the plant had been frequently cut it had ceased to exist, and, in order to ensure a continuance of the crop, it would be necessary to leave it uncut about every third year. The question of the interference with fisheries was one which also required examination if cutting was to be carried on in the lake region.

Naus Bey's note on wheat and flour was then considered, and samples of types of Egyptian wheat and flour were shown. Egyptian wheat was far more impure than any other on the market, but improvement and selection of the best kind were being undertaken at the Ministry's farm at Gizeh. Before making definite recommendations, it was necessary that the experimental growth should be carried on under Government supervision, but, in the meantime, there seemed no reason why cultivators themselves should not improve their strains, and the President agreed to issue a short circular advising the procedure to be adopted by private individuals to obtain more perfect seed.

Mr. Dudgeon thought Egypt was the only country where the ordinary mixed commercial kinds were regularly used for sowing, nobody apparently making any attempt to obtain uniformity.

The Roumanian revenue for the financial year 1915-16 amounts to £25,796,880, showing an excess of £3,087,760 over the revenue of the previous year. The excess of receipts over expenditure amounts to £5,332,240.

At its last meeting, the council of the British Cotton Growing Association resolved that a letter be sent to Sir Reginald Wingate, the Governor-General of the Sudan, congratulating him on his appointment as High Commissioner for Egypt.

POPPY CULTIVATION.

Important Developments in Macedonia.

An important industry of Macedonia—and one that has brought excellent returns to the growers—is the cultivation of the poppy plant. Besides the opium extracted from the flowers, an oil is expressed from the seeds that is said to be superior to Russian sunflower oil and even to English and American cottonseed oil. The residuum, after being pressed into cakes, forms a nourishing food for cattle.

This year's crop of the poppy plant has been most abundant (its estimated value being £100,000, including the flowers, the opium extracted, and the seed produced), the various centres of cultivation contributing to the season's yield in the following amounts:

Districts.	lb.
Tikvesh.....	55,000
Veles.....	55,000
Ship.....	33,000
Kumanovo.....	33,000
Skopje.....	26,400
Radovich.....	6,600
Kratovo.....	6,600
Prilep.....	11,000
Kotchani.....	15,400
Total.....	242,000

The prices obtained for the season's crop ranged from 6d. to 8½d. per oka (the oka being the equivalent of 2½ pounds).

The primitive methods of extraction pursued in Macedonia produce but 42 per cent. of oil, but it is believed that with modern presses the output would be much greater. One-third of the seed suffices for the needs of the country, the remainder being exported. The opium produced likewise is exported, but it has been found impossible to obtain any reliable information as to the probable value of this special product.

BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY.

In the House of Commons, on November 9, Mr. Shirley Benn asked the President of the Board of Trade if he would say what percentage of the stock of the British Petroleum Company was owned by Germans; if it was now vested in the Public Trustee, and why he had not the power to sell if he could obtain a reasonable price?

Mr. Pretyman said that the capital which was held by or on behalf of a German company was now vested in the Public Trustee. Russian, French, and Belgian interests claimed to be entitled to 49½ per cent. of the capital of the German company. The question of how best to deal with the shares in the national interest was under consideration. Pending the result of that consideration, he was not prepared to authorise the sale.

Sir E. Carson: Is the intention of the Government in such cases to prevent them using the name British Petroleum Company?

Mr. Pretyman: I think it is very probable the name will be changed.

Major Hunt: Will the hon. gentleman see that the Belgians and French get their share? The Belgians complain that they are not well treated by the British Government, and I should think it is probably true.

On November 15 Major Hunt asked the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons if he would say when the Board of Trade proposed to authorise the Public Trustee to sell the shares in the British Petroleum Company, and so stop profits being taken from the British public to be held in trust for Germans until peace was declared.

Mr. Pretyman said the shares of the controlling company belonging to enemies would be sold by the Public Trustee. The question of how best to deal with the shares in the national interest was under consideration. He was not prepared to state what method would be adopted. Neither the shares nor any of the property were being held in trust for the Germans, but would be an asset in the hands of this country at the end of the war.

The recent organisation in Smyrna of a new Turkish firm to conduct a general import and export business, on commission and for its own account, is reported by the American Consul at that port.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Coal Substitute for Petrol.

Mr. Sydney H. North, in the November issue of *Cassier's Engineering Monthly*, in the course of an interesting article on the economic and scientific treatment of coal, declares that coal should be deprived of all its invaluable products before it is used as a fuel for heating purposes, and it has been proved that by the use of low temperature distillation a solid fuel of good heat-providing properties may be supplied after the oils and ammonia and pitch have been extracted. Many endeavours have been made for years past, to discover some substitute for petrol, or some means of treating it, which would reduce the quantity consumed. The importation of this spirit amounts approximately to 200,000,000 gallons, for which we are entirely dependent on foreign sources of supply. What should we have done had these sources been cut off? We should have been compelled to resort to the same practice as Germany, who has made up her large deficit of petroleum spirit by distilling oil from coal and obtaining from it benzol which, in its refined state, is equal to petroleum spirit. Since the war began Germany has produced millions of gallons from her coal. There is, therefore, no economic or scientific reason why we should cast away the invaluable products obtainable from this mineral. There is no reason why we should be so completely dependent on foreign countries for the oil we require for power purposes of every description. There are, however, grave reasons why we should, from economic and scientific points of view, deal with our coal resources in a rational manner.

Gas-making Economies.

Discussing the question of coal substitutes as fuel for gas-making in a recent article in *The Times Engineering Supplement*, a writer observed:—"In Algeria it is common practice to distil eucalyptus wood mixed with about 20 per cent. of coal. This wood, which is of the white, and not the red, variety, is cut into blocks about four inches cube. After distillation for two hours it will yield per ton about 11,650 cubic feet of a somewhat inferior gas, and the charcoal residue obtained amounts to about one-quarter of the original weight of wood treated. Since the beginning of the war in works of importance Russia has adopted somewhat novel means of overcoming the coal shortage. In this case the raw substance carbonised consists of a mixture of coal, wood, and mazout, the last being a residue obtained from petroleum. When the mixture consists of 35 per cent. of coal, 64 per cent. of wood, and 1 per cent. of oil residue the yield of gas amounts to about 22 per cent. of the total products obtained, while coke accounts for 60 per cent and charcoal for 15 per cent. The greater portion of the charcoal may be readily separated from the coke by hand picking. In Bavaria and Switzerland wood gas was in regular use some years ago, and was popularly known as Pettenkofer gas. In these countries it was found that up to 14,000 cubic feet of gas could be obtained from a ton of pine, but the gas contained as much as 25 per cent. of carbon dioxide which had necessarily to be removed by means of lime. The ultimate product yielded contained nearly 8 per cent. of unsaturated hydrocarbons, and was conspicuous from the point of view of illuminating power. The by-products consisted of about 20 per cent. of charcoal and 5 to 7 per cent. of tar of good quality. The French Committee speak highly of the use of resins obtained from the tapping of certain pine trees. This gum-like material is collected and strained, and may then be carbonised with or without admixture with coal or any other substance. As would be expected distillation takes place very rapidly and results in a gas of exceptionally high candle power, while practically no solid residue remains behind.

The scarcity of the material, however, and its cost (about £6 per ton) precludes its adoption on a large scale. In the South of France experiments have been conducted with the residues from the production of olive oil. The pulp of the fruit, after squeezing, is used direct, and yields over 40 per cent. of its weight in gas. The solid residue consists of charcoal powder, which is mixed with tar and employed in the manufacture of briquettes. The chief drawback to carbonising wood and such materials in conjunction with coal is the change which is found in the density of the gas. Wood gas is invariably of greater specific gravity than neat coal; hence its adoption must be followed by the wholesale adjustment of burners and other appliances."

Oil and Gas Production

Confined though the work practically is to American conditions, the book of Professor Roswell H. Johnson and Mr. L. G. Huntley, of the University of Pittsburg, on the principles of oil and gas production, will appeal to a considerable section of the scientific world. The authors have treated more fully the newer, less developed topics of their subject, and less fully those that already possessed a literature of their own. It is of interest to note in passing that they contest the view held by some that the drilling of wells "is the very heart of oil and gas production" . . . "it is, in fact, merely an operation used also by the miner and prospector for water, and is not worthy of the disproportionate attention it has received, as compared with that given to the very vital need of developing better methods of locating and extracting." Students of the subject will be more than interested in the chapter (one) on varieties of oil and gas. Dealing with "heating value," in the same chapter, the authors observe that many of the heavy "fuel" oils contain a certain percentage of light hydro-carbons, frequently enough so that it pays to "tip" them. That is "to run them through the first step in the distillation process in order to extract the relatively high-priced gasoline content before the bulk is sold as fuel oil. Even in the higher grade petroleum, after the distillation is carried further the residue is sold as fuel oil. This is done in several American fields, as well as in Russia and Roumania." The book abounds in diagrams and other illustrations, and should appeal to all who are interested in the developing and widening of this great industry.

Seed-sowing Appliances

One of the latest American agricultural inventions, apart from the really interesting and economic advantages which it promises to agriculturists and farmers, will appeal particularly to a certain class of farm hands who agree with the inventor that "making drills and sowing seed by hand in the usual manner are not only tedious and back-breaking operations, but they are also wasteful, because far more seed than is necessary is planted, involving thinning out at a later date, when the seedlings have attained a certain growth." In the latest American idea the seed is sold already spaced and embedded in a tape. This tape is composed of a special fertilising material, which, decomposing and associating with the soil immediately contiguous to the seed, assists its germination and growth. The tape is sold in coils up to 40 or 50 ft. long, but it can, of course, be cut to the length required. All that is necessary is to plant the tape in accordance with the directions given. Sowing in this manner can be carried out rapidly and with a minimum of physical exertion. Provided that each seed is fertile, and that the ravages of birds and other pests are overcome, the seedlings will appear in due course a regular distance apart. Not only is thinning-out avoided, but economical use of seed is assured, no more being sown than is actually required. The colour of the tape is not mentioned. It may be "red."

NEW TRANSEUROPEAN RAILWAY.

Enterprising French Project for a Great Electric Line.

M. Herriot, the highly influential Mayor of Lyons, has placed himself at the head of the movement in France for the creation of a great Trans-European Railroad which would directly link up the Atlantic coast of France with Italy and South Russia (says the *Financial Times*). Before the war the only communication overland between the Atlantic seaboard and Russia was through German territory. In order to obtain a sort of "right of way" which would make Russia, France, and Italy independent of the German lines, it is proposed to promote the establishment of a Trans-Continental line which would closely follow the 45th parallel degree from Bordeaux, moving slightly northwards to Lyons, thence to Turin, Milan and Venice. From Venice it would follow the Adriatic coast to Trieste, Fiume, and Agram to the banks of the Danube, passing through Serbia and Roumania into South Russia, where its terminus would be at Odessa.

The line would be 2,500 kilometres in length, and would closely cling to the southern slope of the great mountain ranges of Europe. It would form the axis of the temperate zone, being at an equal distance from the Pole and the Equator. The numerous waterfalls and the character of the country would admit of the line being electrified throughout its entire length. There are no material or engineering difficulties that could not be overcome. Many existing lines could be utilised, but would require widening and the laying down of an additional set of metals. The cost would be amply repaid by the economic and material advantages such a line would produce. It would link up Switzerland directly with the French Atlantic seaboard and greatly facilitate trade between Italy and the West of France. For this reason the Italian Government is said to favour the scheme, and correspondence has taken place on the subject between the French and Italian Governments. Mr. Herriot is of opinion that the capital for such a line should be jointly guaranteed by France, Italy and Russia.

He points out that the Swiss are keenly alive to the advantage of the French section of such a line, inasmuch as it would enable them to link up Switzerland and Swiss products directly with Bordeaux, Nantes, La Pallice, and other Atlantic seaports, thus realising a much cherished Swiss scheme, the "Swiss-Atlantic" line. It has been demonstrated that, thanks to her low railway freight rates and to the St. Gothard Tunnel convention, Germany was able to transform the natural current of traffic towards Mediterranean ports in favour of Hamburg and her other North Sea and Baltic ports, and that she was enabled to bring the whole of Northern Italy under her economic and financial vassalage. If the Continental Allies are sufficiently clear-sighted and sufficiently energetic to take advantage of circumstances, they have in such a line a great economic future, a source of enormous wealth and prosperity. The question is, Have they? asks M. Herriot.

On and from November 1, all bales of cotton for transport over the Egyptian State Railways must be hooped. Bales secured with wire or rope will not be accepted.

One of the most important industries recently opened up in the Caucasus is a large plant for the production of French turpentine near the railroad station of Borjoh, in the Government of Tiflis.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 736.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHARBY
P. O. B. 1094. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 3056

FREDG. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan, "
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

NITRATE PRODUCTION.**Reduced Output and Increased Prices Explained.**

An American Consular report throws some light upon the nitrates position in Chili. It states that the production of nitrate of soda at all the Chilean oficinas during August, 1916, was 5,396,981 Spanish quintals of 101.4 lbs. each. The exportation from all ports during the same period was 4,338,013 quintals. There was a slight increase (84,205 quintals) in production over the preceding month, but a considerable decline (1,336,075 quintals) in exports.

This falling off in shipments may be attributed largely to a storm that prevailed along the coast and delayed loading operations. A violent wind at Mejillones destroyed or beached a large number of lighters at that usually quiet port, thus crippling the loading facilities there until lighters to replace those destroyed were brought from other ports. During the latter part of August and the first part of September there were an unusual number of vessels in the nitrate ports awaiting cargo.

Chili's August production and exportation of nitrate in the last five years have been:—

	Production.	Exportation.
	Quintals.	Quintals.
1912	4,870,821	4,115,302
1913	5,352,292	4,302,376
1914	4,839,657	1,362,189
1915	3,443,409	4,939,130
1916	5,396,981	4,338,013

The changes in price of nitrate on the coast have not been great, but the market has been rather firm. Nitrate is not pressed for sale, and the demand has not been insistent. Prices at Valparaiso have shown an advance of about 4d. per quintal for ordinary nitrate and about 2d. for the refined for early delivery. At the close of the month quotations for ordinary or 95 per cent. nitrate were about 7s. 10d. per quintal alongside for deliveries up to the end of 1916. Refined or 95 per cent.—1 per cent. nitrate was held at about 8s. 2d. for deliveries in this year, while 8s. is asked for next-year deliveries.

Factors that tend to increase prices are the possibilities of reduction in production, owing to the closing of some oficinas, and a reduction in fuel oil supply to those oficinas that use oil instead of coal, the oil companies having given notice that for the immediate future they can supply only about 80 per cent. of the amount formerly delivered. The wages of men employed in the oficinas, as well as many other expenses incurred in producing and shipping nitrate, are paid in Chilean paper currency, which fluctuates in value. The value of the paper peso has been rising for several months—being at present about 10d., or more than 30 per cent. above its value a little over a year ago—and this rise increases the cost of production.

GREEK FINANCE.

Answering a question by Mr. Lynch in the House of Commons on November 15, Lord Robert Cecil said that the Athens and Ionian Bank had advanced to the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos 10,000,000 drachmas on account of the Allied Powers. He certainly agreed that the present position was anomalous and without precedent.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.**Department for the Raw Materials of the Empire.**

An Inter-departmental Committee, presided over by Mr. Harcourt, has now arranged the respective spheres of work and co-operation, in dealing with commercial inquiries, of the new Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade and the Imperial Institute, which in recent years has become a central department for information and investigation respecting the sources and uses of the raw materials of the Empire. In future the Technical Information Bureau of the Imperial Institute will answer all commercial inquiries respecting the sources of supply, technical uses and value of raw materials within the Empire, and will be responsible for supplying all information required in order to bring the producer overseas in touch with the manufacturer at home.

Inquiries as to immediate supplies may be addressed either to the Board or to the Institute, as may be most convenient, but the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade will, as a rule, be prepared to deal with inquiries for immediate supplies of well-known raw materials which can be obtained at once through ordinary trade channels. In answering those inquiries in which special statistical or trade information is required in addition to technical information, the Board and the Institute have arranged to co-operate.

Investigations of the possible industrial uses of raw materials will, as heretofore, be dealt with by the Imperial Institute. The arrangement proposed by the Committee has now been accepted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the President of the Board of Trade, and by the Executive Council of the Imperial Institute.

BRITISH OIL CONCESSION IN ALGERIA

In the Chamber of Deputies, on November 9, M. Sembat, Minister of Public Works, was interpellated by M. Outrey with regard to negotiations between that Ministry and the London firm of Pearson and Son with a view to the concession to the latter of an exclusive right of prospecting for petroleum within an area of 2,818 square miles and the exclusive right of exploitation within an area of 386 square miles in the province of Oran, Algeria. According to M. Outrey, the British company asked the French Government for this concession in January, 1915, and the Governor-General of Algeria favoured the application subject to Parliamentary approval. The deputy suggested that M. Sembat had attempted to avoid the control of Parliament and to favour a foreign company at the cost of French prospectors.

The Minister, in his reply, remarked that an opposite complaint had been made—namely, that because of his Socialist opinions he refused to give concessions necessary for the national defence. He showed that both complaints were unjustified, and he objected to France's Allies being treated as other foreigners. When the question of exploiting mines in the Loire Inférieure comes before Parliament, he said, the advantage of associating Frenchmen and Englishmen in such enterprises would be seen.

The debate was closed without a division.

COMPANY REPORTS.**Khedivial Mail.**

The report of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company for the year ended June 30 last shows that the trading profit, including Government subsidies, and after adding dividends, interest, and transfer fees received, and after providing for estimated liability in respect of excess profits duty and income-tax, has amounted to £85,657. Deducting London office expenses, debenture and loan interest, directors' fees, depreciation, etc., amounting to £33,700, and adding £7,139 brought forward, there is a balance of profit of £59,096. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 10 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £28,598. The Board report that a number of the company's ships have been used, in various capacities, in the service of the country. Others have traded between Egypt and the United Kingdom. Advantage has been taken of the presence of such ships as have come to the United Kingdom to carry out many much-needed repairs. The Cyprus mail service has been maintained, and for a portion of the year the Government required a mail service to be run between Alexandria and Piræus. The s.s. 'Caloubieh' was sunk while in the employment of the Admiralty, and since the completion of the accounts the s.s. Prince Abbas has been sold. Meeting, 4th proximo, 12.30 p.m., Winchester House, E.C.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for the year ended August 31 states that the gross profits, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, are £212,608, and deducting the expenses, amounting to £99,783, there remains £112,825 net profit for the year, which, added to £50,000 brought forward, makes £162,825. The directors propose a further dividend at 20 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 15 per cent. for the year, together with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free of tax, to be paid on December 1, to transfer to reserve fund £10,000, to apply £5,500 as bonus to staff, to write off premises account £5,151, and to contribute to staff provident fund £2,674, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £52,000. Meeting, 21st instant, 3 p.m., 27, Clement's Lane, E.C.

Central Cheleken Oilfields.

The balance-sheet of the Central Cheleken Oilfields Company at December 31, 1914, shows the following items:—Debit: Capital issued (less £2,574 calls in arrear), £300,926; sundry creditors and suspense account, £10,377; loans from bankers and interest, £2,811; total, £314,114. Credit: Purchase of property, £252,993; capital expenditure in Russia (including £1,465 during year, but less £4,138 sundry realisations), £14,526; stocks of casings and materials at cost, £5,330; loan and interest, £5,298; sundry debtors, £936; preliminary expenses, £9,061; underwriting commission, £9,350; rent paid in advance (Russia), £237; cash at bank and in hand, £199; expenditure in Russia (including £2,163 for year), £8,325; loss on sale of sundry plant, etc., £1,223; consulting engineer's fees and travelling expenses, £1,211; trustee's and agent's fees, £1,202; expenditure in London (including £1,731 for year, but less £146 interest, etc.), £4,193; total, £314,114.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Doroboiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti. Pl-eshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000.

Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298-05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

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

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)
THROGMORTON STREET,

Wednesday Evening.

There has been quite a revival of activity in Egyptian shares this week. Egypt has been a bigish buyer in certain directions, and there has also been some local buying here of several shares which have been neglected for a long time past. The high prices of cotton and other produce have evidently caused an accumulation of large profits in Egypt, and some of these profits are now finding an outlet on the Stock Market. The natives in Egypt are also said to be beginning to make enquiries for the purchase of land. National Banks jumped up very smartly from 12½ to 13½, but are since rather quieter at 13½. Agricultural Banks are down to 5 and closed 3-32 higher at 4 29-32.

Land Banks have been wanted at 5½, but without business resulting, as there are no sellers. Egyptian Salt and Soda shares have been quite a feature on large buying orders from Egypt; they are 23s. bid to-night against 20s. 9d. last week, but sellers here have withdrawn from the market, owing to the very favourable rumours in circulation as regards the dividend, and there are no sellers under 27s. to-night. Another feature has been the rise in Khedivial Mail shares, which, on the final dividend of 20 per cent. (making 25 per cent. for the year), have jumped up 5s. to 37s. The report is an exceedingly satisfactory one, and shows, after allowance for excess profits, etc., that 40 per cent. has been earned on the ordinary shares.

Egyptian Markets are unchanged at about 25s. 6d. ex-dividend, and here also an increased dividend is expected. Alexandria Water are bid for at 1½ without result. Behera shares have again come to life, some fair business having been done at £6, at which price they are still wanted. Union Foncière have also jumped up from 31-32 to 21s., but without much business. Sidi Salem have had a smart rise from ¼ to 7-16, some few hundreds having been done at about 7s. 9d., with buyers left over willing to pay slightly higher prices. Egyptian and Foreign Trust have improved 1s. to about 6s., which is much under the intrinsic value as represented by their holdings.

Greek stocks are again higher all along the line. 81's and 84's are a point up at 54, 90's are 1½ up at 54, and Rentes also are better at 43. There has not been very much business done, as sellers have continued very scarce. There has been some business passing in Currant Bonds at 89½, at which price there are still buyers.

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, production for the week, 18 tons (last week, 26 tons); Hurgada, production for the week, 4,517 tons (last week, 3,534 tons).

Black Sea Amalgamated Oilfields.—Week ended November 4, 23,188 poods (374 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended November 5, 78,700 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended November 4, 16,173 poods (261 tons).

North Caucasian Oilfields.—Week ended October 25-November 7, 543,066 poods (or 8,759 tons).

Dividends, etc.

The Egyptian Markets, Ltd.—An interim dividend of 5 per cent. (less income-tax at 4s. 6d in the £) in respect of the year ended December 31, 1916, on the ordinary shares of this company has been declared, payable on and after November 14, 1916, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Clements Lane, London, E.C.

The Bank of England announces the numbers of 699 bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two-and-a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898 which have been purchased for the sinking fund and cancelled.

"THE EXPORT WORLD
AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE"

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK
EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4½ 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5% Bds	96	62½	62½
Egypt Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	71½	71½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	79	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	67	68½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	63	65
Do. 4½ State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5%, 1891	57	53	54
Do. 5%, 1894	56	53	54
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	50	50
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	42	43
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52½	53½
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	50
Do. 4% Ralls. Loan, 1902	77	65	65
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumanian 4½ Gd. Ln. 1913, So., £500	92	77½	77½
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	87	74	74
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	76	76
Do. 3½ Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	65½	65½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	54	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	37	37
Do. 4%, 1909	69	37	37

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4½	4½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ Guar. Bonds Red.	83	6½	6½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12½	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	2½	—	—
Bank of Athens	2½	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	3½	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	12½	12½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	82	88½	88½
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	—
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	10	10
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	11½	11½
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	59½	59½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	55	55
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10½	10½
Circus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4%	90	74	74
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	55½	55½

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	15/-	15/-
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red. ..	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt ..	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	2½	—	—
Do. do. Def.	—	6	6
Béhéra Co.	8½	3½	3½
Do. Pref.	4½	2½	2½
Daira Sanieh	2½	7½	7½
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd. ..	9½	9½	9½
Do. Delta Land and Inves. ..	9½	86½	86
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tat.	98	—	—
Do. and Foreign Trust	98	—	—
Gharbiel Land Co.	1½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt ..	—	96	96
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	98	7½	7½
Do. 4½ 1st Chgs. Debs. Rd. ..	97	76	76
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	8½
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	—	—
United Egyptian Lands	1½	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12½	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. ..	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	26/6	25/3½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	95	95
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	20/9	24/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	96	95	95
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	32/-	36/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	3½	3½
Do. Pref.	30	89	89
Do. 4½ 1st Mt.	30	81/6	81/6
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7-500) ..	117½	—	—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	12/3	12/6
Anglo-Persian	20/6	20/6
European Oilfields	3/6	3/9
Roumanian	14/6	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	456	450
Canal de Suez	4450	4200
Credit Foncier Egyptien	643	660
Turkish Unified 4%	61	61.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	87	87.05
Serbian, 1895	63	63

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON OCTOBER 27.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 12½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 86	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11½	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5½	—	—
priv.	L.E. 3½	—	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 127½	—	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. 104	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) ..	Frs. 61	—	—
Privilegiée	Frs. 95	—	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 75½	—	—
Urbanes et Rurales	Frs. 2½	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	Frs. 1	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	Frs. 1	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 4½	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4	—	—
Bond-d. Warehouses	L.E. 4½	—	—
Unifiée	L.E. 80½	—	—
Privilegiée	70 ex comp.	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—	—
Fondateur	—	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 31	—	—
Nungovitch Hotels	£ 2½	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3½	—	—
Ord.	20/6	—	—
Alex. and Barmeh Railway	£ 4	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 104	—	—
Jouissance	Frs. 154	—	—
Egyptian Markets	25/-	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 220	—	—
Div.	Frs. 148	—	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 160	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	20/-	—	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 608	—	—
1880 Oblig.	Frs. 310	—	—
1903	Frs. 247	—	—
1911	Frs. 254	—	—
Delta Lands	3½	—	—
Port Said Salt	34/6	—	—
Cotton Ginners	7/6	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	P.T. 4½	—	—
United Lands	28/9	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	118/-	—	—
Fond	—	—	—

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended October 20, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
Oct. 10-20	£ 5,727	£ 8,027
April 1-Oct. 10	84,980	103,500

OIL FROM FRUIT STONES.

To increase the supply of oil and fat, poppy and sunflower seeds have been even more widely sown this year than last in Germany. In 1915 about 662,250 pounds of oil were obtained from sunflower seeds, and this year promises a rich crop of poppy seed. Attention has also been drawn to the high percentage of oil contained in cherry and plum stones, which are usually thrown away. According to the statistics of 1900 there were 22,000,000 cherry and 70,000,000 plum trees in Germany. Large quantities of fruit stones were collected by school children last year, but great quantities were thrown away or destroyed, owing to the difficulty of extracting the oil from them.

The chief obstacle lay in the fact of there being no really practical method known by which the hard outer shell and the kernel containing the oil could be separated. The firm of M. Martin in Bitterfeld has succeeded in constructing a machine which solves this difficulty. The firm of Krupp Grusonwerk has also experimented successfully in grinding the stones between millstones, but after the outer shell has been cracked open it still remains carefully to separate the kernels from the crushed stones, and for this process no satisfactory machine has as yet been invented. The problem of separating stones and kernels has been solved by Dr. Alpers, who has discovered a chemical process, which is also to be recommended on account of the attendant small outlay.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packing), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Hamoh, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 290.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	73	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Peace and Reconstruction ..	84	Notes and News	89
Cairo	75	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	80	Labour Problem in Busreh..	90
Khartoum	76	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Trade in Libya	90
Cyprus	77	When the World was Young	81	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	91
Bucharest	78	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	82	Trade Notes	91
Bulgaria (via Bucharest) ..	78	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	86	Produce Report	92
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	88	American Trade Methods ..	94
The Mecca Pilgrimage ..	76			Engineering Notes	94
Problems of the Sudan—V.	79			Company Meeting	95
The Roumanian Frontiers ..	85			Company Notes	95
				On 'Change	96
				Stock and Share List ..	96

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The death of the Emperor Francis Joseph has come at a moment when the significance it might previously have had is swallowed up in the events of far greater importance that are now taking place. It was feared at one time that the removal of the veteran monarch's personal influence must inevitably precipitate a conflict among the discordant elements of his heterogeneous Empire. The Dual Monarchy, however, is already in the grip of the very convulsion which its own dissensions were expected to promote. For this reason the actual change of rulers may be effected more easily than any of the various Heirs to the Throne had reason to hope, but subsequent events will determine the fate in store for the Monarchy as a result of the war which it was instrumental in provoking. For the late Emperor Britons have always entertained a strong regard. No personal responsibility was attached to him for conditions in his Empire to which exception might well be taken. Whether he ought to have been able to control the responsible forces is another matter. It can hardly be doubted that as far as this war was concerned he was merely a helpless tool in the hands of others. He has passed away, therefore, at an opportune moment, for he has been spared the further humiliations that may be in store for Austria-Hungary at the hands of Germany or of whoever may be the instrument of her destiny.

Attention was drawn in these columns last week to the fact that the fighting in the Carpathians was dominated by the ability of the Austro-German forces to change their point of attack more readily than the Roumanians could transfer reinforcements to the district threatened at the moment. The course of events has proved that, while the enemy was hammering away at the Predeal Valley, he was concentrating for a further effort in the western passes. This effort has taken him practically unchecked to the main railway line connecting the frontier station of Verciorova with Bucharest. Craiova, the chief town in western Roumania, 120 miles west of the capital, is in his possession, and the situation has necessarily assumed a critical aspect. The Austro-German advance has been so rapid that for the moment some uncertainty prevails with regard to the fate of the Roumanian army operating near Orsova and closing the enemy's access to the Danube below the Iron Gates. Unless it has made good its retirement while the railway was intact, it may find it difficult to escape from the triangle formed by the Danube and the two railways from Verciorova and

Kalafat which meet at Craiova. Much depends on the strength of the invading troops. The rapidity of their advance suggests that they are mostly mounted.

It would be a mistake to regard the situation yet as desperate. Provided there has been time to remove or destroy the grain stores, the enemy has penetrated into the least vital part of Roumania. Moreover, as has been pointed out before, the rivers and streams run athwart his line of advance all the way to Bucharest. But other columns are still making a bid for the Roter Turm, Törzburg, and Predeal Passes, and if the Roumanians are to keep the situation in hand, it will be necessary to administer an early check to the force now occupying Craiova. While waiting for further news, the Allies must derive all the consolation they can from the fact that the Roumanians have the advantage of having at headquarters both the French and Russian Military Missions. What they stand most in need of is, perhaps, men and munitions. These would, no doubt, have reached them before now, if there had not been reason to suppose that Hindenburg is making ready for another blow against the Russians. In the meantime the position in the Dobruja is somewhat obscure. Both sides continue to report the absence of any change. Artillery activity at certain points along the Danube seemed to suggest that von Mackensen was feeling his way for an invasion across the river in order to assist von Falkenhayn in the north. The Roumanians could hardly have their hands fuller than they are. The Allies must see to it that neither in Macedonia nor in the Dobruja is the pressure relaxed sufficiently to leave von Mackensen time to carry out his designs.

It is inevitable that the situation in Roumania should detract from the satisfaction derived from the capture of Monastir, but there is no need why it should be allowed to obscure the importance of that achievement. Two months have passed since the hopes of the Salonika force were raised by the opening of the battle for Monastir. Subsequent events have proved that the strength of the enemy and of his carefully prepared positions had been seriously underestimated. But the Allies stuck to their task. The arrival of Italians enabled General Serrail to detach some of the French troops to strengthen his left wing, where the Serbians were showing that they were completely a match for the Bulgarians, if they could meet them on more or less equal terms. Thus, while the French and some Russian troops advanced from the south and south-west of Monastir, it was left to the Serbians to eject the enemy from the difficult country to the south-east and east. In the cap-

ture of Mount Kaymakcalan, 8,200 ft. high, they gave an earnest of their capabilities. But the ground between them and their objective still offered every advantage to the defenders, and the enemy made no attempt to conceal his conviction that Monastir would prove too big a nut for the Allies to crack. In the end it was the great sweeping movement executed by the Serbians, well supported by French artillery, that rendered the Bulgarian position at Monastir untenable. From the south the Allies gradually thrust back the enemy, who was becoming anxious for the safety of his communications, and during the night of November 18 the last Bulgarians and Germans left the town, after setting fire to some of the buildings.

Although French and Russian troops were the first to enter Monastir, the Serbians have carried off the honours in the operations that resulted in its capture. Apart from their belief in its impregnability, the Bulgarians regarded the town as their chief goal in this war, and its loss is likely to accelerate their disillusionment in regard to their future prospects. For the Allies Monastir is merely a landmark. General Serrail is a firm believer in the policy of exercising steady pressure on the enemy, and he has acted up to it in so far as his forces have enabled him. The Allied Army, therefore, is not likely to lay too much stress on the capture of the town or to seek to rest upon its laurels. It is understood that at the last moment German troops were hurried down to save Monastir, but, if this was the case, they arrived too late to be of use. They will, however, galvanize the Bulgarians into further resistance, and the country is still greatly in favour of the defence. One effect of the capture ought to be to facilitate an advance for other sections of the Allied line. It may still be necessary to wait for the Italians on the extreme left; but if the most is to be made of the moral advantage to be derived from the possession of Monastir, the Bulgarians must be given no respite at any point of their battle front.

Admiral du Fournet, armed with a very big broom, continues his sweeping operations in an attempt to clear the Greek house of an accumulation of German dust and microbes. The fact that the proprietors still remain in residence adds to the zest of the proceeding, without abating the ardour of the Allies' executive officer. Discretion and self-respect, it might have been thought, would have prompted the proprietors to withdraw until the Admiral's efforts have subsided; but they prefer to examine each stage in the cleaning process and generally to pronounce against it. The work, however, continues, while their protests keep pace with it.

During the past week the situation in Greece has passed through two fresh stages. Further demands on the part of the Allies have been embodied in a Note presented by General Roques, the French Minister of War, to the Greek Government. It is understood that the Entente Powers press for irrefutable proofs of Greece's friendliness, and suggest that these should take the form of the transfer to the Entente of the use of certain railways, the surrender of a quantity of munitions for the troops of the National Defence Movement, and the expulsion of a number of persons suspected to be agents of Germany or her Allies. As was to be expected, the Greek Government found itself unable to accede to these requests; but there would seem to be no doubt that in due course they will be carried out in their entirety.

The next stage in the relations between the Allies and Greece was the presentation of a Note by Admiral du Fournet to each of the Ministers of the Central Powers and of their Allies inviting them to leave Athens three days later. This invitation was duly complied with under protest on the part both of the Ministers concerned and the Greek Government. The measure was no doubt drastic; but it was a normal development of the situation, and the only cause for surprise is that it was not adopted long ago. The enemy

Ministers formed the centre of all the anti-Entente intrigues so actively carried out in Greece. So long as they remained undisturbed there could be no real improvement in the position. Moreover, the Allies were in possession of sufficient evidence to be able to prove that each Minister had so grossly offended against the comity of nations that he was no longer entitled to Greek hospitality. The Allies, it is stated, wished the Greek Government to hand the Ministers their passports. It had been given good cause for such a step in the statement made by the German Minister that all Greek ships carrying troops to the Provisional Government would be torpedoed. But the Greek Government declined. With the departure of these head spies, who are to be sent to Dedeagatch, there is hope that the malign influences which have been at work in Greece will be shorn of some of their potency.

One result of this fresh display of Admiral du Fournet's activities has been that the officers of both services who had been imprisoned for showing sympathy with the National Defence Movement have been liberated. At the same time the neutral zone between Old and New Greece, designed to prevent collisions between the Royalists and the Venizelists (to use catch terms), has been established. It has a depth of from three to seven kilometres, and, as it will be guarded by Allied troops, its efficacy is assured. As if to show that the pro-German element still retains some power, the acting chief editor of the *Patris*, a Venizelist organ, has been arrested on a charge of high treason for having published documents regarding the handing over of Fort Rupel to the Bulgarians. These documents, it will be remembered, purported to be the text of the official orders signed by the War Minister in the Skouloudis Ministry and by M. Skouloudis himself, instructing the commander of Fort Rupel to allow the fort to be occupied by the Germans and Bulgarians, but not by the Allies. M. Skouloudis assured the Greek Chamber that he knew nothing of any such order.

The sinking of the hospital ship *Britannic* off the coast of Attica, if it is proved to have been due to a torpedo and not a mine, can hardly fail to strengthen the determination of the Entente Powers to cope once and for all with the anomalous position in Greece. There can be little doubt that the enemy submarines rely upon services rendered to them in Greek territorial waters, and until the influential support which is behind these services has been withdrawn, the task of dealing with the submarines will be rendered more difficult. The sinking of hospital ships has become such a recognised feature of German policy that a fresh instance would evoke no surprise. It is clearly not in the interests of the Allies to announce their intentions too definitely; but it would reassure public opinion, if it could be stated in general terms that suitable reparation for all enemy offences against the laws of civilised warfare will in due course be enforced.

News of a Turkish attack on Sultanabad lifts for a moment the veil that has for a long time obscured the course of military operations in Persia. Neither our Ally nor the enemy is in any considerable strength in this region, but it comes as a surprise to find that the Turks have been bold enough to raid as far south as Sultanabad. Their activities had hitherto been devoted to the neighbourhood of Hamadan and north of that town. But the advance of the Russians down the western frontier may have tempted them to return to their haunts of a year or more ago in the expectation of finding this part of the country devoid of Russian troops. The most effective way of dealing with these marauding bands will be to occupy their base, which is Baghdad. For this reason news of a forward movement in Mesopotamia is awaited with eagerness. A fresh Turkish offensive in Armenia south-east of Oghnut proves that the Turks are still able to profit by any respite allowed them to draw upon their considerable reserves of man-power. The Russians' policy can only be to hold their own in this region and to contain as large a Turkish force as possible.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 9.

The High Commissionership of Egypt.

The news, published here on Tuesday morning, that Sir Reginald Wingate had been appointed High Commissioner in succession to Sir Henry McMahon came somewhat as a surprise to many people. Yet it should not have taken anyone unawares, for the appointment is but the natural consequence of the death of Lord Kitchener, which completely changed the situation, as far as the High Commissionership at Cairo was concerned. When Lord Kitchener became Secretary of State for War he still retained a lien, so to speak, on the Cairo appointment. It was no secret that he intended to return to Egypt as soon as the war had been concluded and he could be spared, and it was, therefore, decided to make no permanent appointment to the post. Had it not been for this, the High Commissionership would have gone immediately on the declaration of the Protectorate to Sir Reginald Wingate, who, apart from having the greatest claims, was Lord Kitchener's own candidate for the post, in the event of his not returning to it; but who could, naturally, not be promoted to what at the time was merely a temporary vacancy. It was in these circumstances that Sir Henry McMahon was selected to "hold the fort," but for obvious reasons it was not announced at the time that his appointment was only provisional. The death of Lord Kitchener in June last rendered it no longer necessary to maintain the previous state of affairs, and so it was decided definitely to appoint Sir Reginald Wingate, who will take up his duties in about six weeks' time.

Sir Reginald Wingate.

It is after all but in the fitness of things that Sir Reginald Wingate should succeed Lord Kitchener in Egypt, seeing that he followed him as Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan eighteen years ago. Apart from that, his experience of the country, his knowledge of "native" affairs, his proved administrative ability, his tact and prestige mark him as the right man for the post, which he should fill with the same conspicuous success as has attended his administration of the Sudan. Before this letter reaches you, your readers will doubtless have been fully informed regarding Sir Reginald Wingate's work in the Sudan, so it is unnecessary for me to devote any space to what constitutes one of the most remarkable achievements of Empire building the world has seen in modern times. All that I will say about it is that the magnitude and importance of his work are fully recognised by all in Egypt who take any interest in such matters, and that I have reason to know that the administrators of British dependencies contiguous to the Sudan have greatly benefited by the influence which Sir Reginald Wingate wielded from Khartoum, and by his advice.

His appointment, judging from the impressions I have been able to gather, is an exceedingly popular one in all circles, and the local Press is unanimous in applauding it. At the same time it is pleasing to note that it is equally unanimous in its regret at the departure of Sir Henry McMahon, who, it is agreed, has had an exceedingly difficult task to fulfil, and who has carried it out with remarkable ability.

Sir Henry McMahon.

In this connection I may, perhaps, be permitted to say a few words in explanation of the part played by the retiring High Commissioner during his twenty-two months of office. It must have required no little courage, no little public spirit, for a man with a brilliant Indian reputation such as Sir Henry McMahon possessed, to accept a position like the High Commissionership of Egypt in the circumstances under which it was offered him two years ago. He came out to Egypt a stranger in a strange land. He was not known to the people, neither did he know anything about them. He followed a man whose name was a household word throughout the valley of the Nile. He had to face all the difficult and delicate problems which might con-

ceivably arise out of the complete change in status that the country had undergone but a month prior to his arrival. To crown it all, the country was under martial law, as a consequence of which the military authority took precedence; and, although it was laid down that the military régime was intended to supplement where necessary, not to supplant, the existing civil organisations, the situation nevertheless presented easy openings for any amount of friction. Could any prospect have been more discouraging to a new man taking up office than that presented by the High Commissionership of Egypt? There was not even attaching to it the saving grace of confirmation in his appointment should he make a success of it.

Sir Henry McMahon gave further proof of the courage, public spirit—call it what you will—which had prompted him to accept the position by the attitude which he publicly adopted in all political matters. He has throughout deliberately kept himself in the background, because he realised that it was absolutely essential that there should be no friction between the two authorities which existed side by side in the country, and that the local political situation demanded that the "kudos" for whatever benefits could be afforded to Egypt should go entirely to others than the British officials. In his opinion Egypt was too small for there to be "two kings in Brentford," and so he decided that he could best serve his country by not coming into the foreground of affairs. There is no disguising the fact that he has been much criticised for this attitude, but his critics either did not understand the motives underlying his decision, or were not in a position to know what was being done.

Keeping in the background does not, however, necessarily entail being out of touch with things or losing control of the situation. I have been at some pains to ascertain exactly what part the outgoing High Commissioner has taken in the conduct of affairs; and I find that in all quarters where any contact has existed with the Residency identically the same views are held, viz., that not only has he shown the liveliest interest in everything that was going on, and participated actively in the settlement of all questions that have arisen, but that the work he has done will in the long run prove of the utmost value to Egypt and to Great Britain, and that it should in many respects facilitate the settlement of many of the problems which the war has created in Egypt and elsewhere. Political considerations stand in the way of my referring more explicitly to these matters. It must be left until more peaceful times set in for the true record of his work to be made public and for his services to be seen in their proper light. Those, however, who have any knowledge of what has been done from a political point of view in this part of the world during the past year alone, and of what lies before the country in the near future, will be able to read between the lines and make a shrewd guess as to the direction in which his ability and his experience have been turned to Imperial account. Meanwhile, Sir Henry has the satisfaction of knowing that, at the end of two momentous and difficult years, he is handing over to his successor a peaceful, prosperous, and contented country, where cordial relations exist between the ruler and the Protecting Power and unity reigns between elements which were previously not in sympathy or accord one with the other, and where the foundation has been truly laid for a good deal of the work which lies before those responsible for the government of Egypt. Such a state of affairs alone should in the peculiar circumstances justify his tenure of office being qualified as successful.

Reference to Sir Henry McMahon's work in Egypt would be incomplete without any mention of his activities in non-political spheres. His régime will be remembered for the successful launching of the Cairo Cathedral scheme, for the impetus given to the Kitchener Memorial, and for the great assistance afforded to the Red Cross and St. John of Jerusalem Funds, the "Our Day" appeal for which resulted in Egypt taking second place amongst the British dependencies. In all these and similar objects of public and local interest Sir Henry took very great interest; and his attitude in these matters serves

but to prove still further that his "effacement" in matters political was deliberately self-imposed. In all his social work Sir Henry has been most ably seconded by Lady McMahon, who in the short time she has been in Egypt has acquired a unique place in everyone's affections on account of her charming personality. She has worked most indefatigably to further and make a success of all the schemes that have been started for the alleviation of the privations of our gallant soldiers and for their entertainment; she was one of the prime movers and most active supporters of the Imperial Club for Army Nurses which was opened in Cairo last winter; and she has displayed very sympathetic and practical interest in the question of the emancipation of the women of Egypt. Her departure will be deeply regretted by everyone, not least by those whose cause she has always championed so generously.

THE NILE FLOOD.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 8.

The Nile is slowly but surely dropping and the period of danger is gradually receding into the far distance. So far there have been no ill effects from the high flood, and the irrigation authorities deserve great praise for their able handling of a situation which was at one time fraught with serious possibilities. A great many of us have come to regard and speak of the present flood as a phenomenally or abnormally high one. It appears, however, that we err in so doing. True, it is the highest flood recorded since 1884, but the latter itself was not an abnormally high one, and we can understand that that qualification is incorrect as applied to the present flood, when we learn that it is quite possible for the Nile flood to reach a level one metre above what it has done this year. In short, the 1916 flood has been nothing more than what would have been looked upon in former years as a very good one, and it has only been regarded as abnormal because it has come after a period of low or ordinary ones.

Whilst the present flood has confirmed the great advisability of providing some substantial form of protection from the dangers of high Niles, such as the White Nile Dam, to which reference was recently made in *THE NEAR EAST*, it has at the same time shown more clearly than ever the urgency of the prompt execution of the great Delta drainage works, which were suspended on the outbreak of war. The experience of the last few months has revealed the extraordinary fact that lands which some few years ago were able to obtain all the water they required during flood have this year, when there was an abundance of water, failed to obtain all their requirements. The explanation of this lies in the great expansion in cultivation in the Delta of late years. This has brought about the result that the water required in a given region is very much more than it used to be, and that landowners at the far end of the canals are finding that more water is being taken on the way down by the intervening land, and that consequently less water than used to is reaching them.

The only remedy is the complete remodelling of the Lower Egypt canal system, which is part and parcel of the great drainage scheme embarked upon under the ægis of Lord Kitchener and suspended in the autumn of 1914. The provision of more water by works in the Sudan to increase the volume available at the low or summer stage of the river is becoming more pressing season by season, and is now so clamant that the demand ought at an early date to be met, otherwise reorganization of the canal and drainage system of Lower Egypt would lose more than half its value.

The Athens correspondent of the *Daily Express* learns from a good source that negotiations of an official character have taken place between authorised representatives of England and Turkey for the exchange of certain classes of civil prisoners.

An Admiralty notice in the *London Gazette* states that preparations are being made for the intended distribution of the award of the prize bounty granted to H.M. Submarine B 11 for the destruction of the Turkish battleship *Messudieh* on December 13, 1914.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, November 7.

Khartoum is now full; the cold weather has begun, and has brought with it most of the ladies resident in the city who had not previously returned. Among recent arrivals are Dr. Chalmers, of the Wellcome Research Laboratory, with Mrs. Chalmers, and Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, with Mrs. Smith and their baby. Colonel Smith is acting as Adjutant-General for the time being, owing to the sickness of Major Logan, who had been acting previously. Dr. Thomson arrived in Khartoum with Mrs. Thomson on his way to resume his duties at Roseires, and Mr. Hewins brought back Mrs. Hewins from Cairo after a short stay in Egypt. The Police Magistrate, Burges Pasha, has also arrived from England with Mrs. Burges. Others expected to arrive by to-day's train are Mr. Dun, the Advocate-General; Mr. Struve, Governor of the White Nile Province, with Mrs. Struve; Captain Field, R.A.M.C., with Mrs. Field; Major Forbes, of the General Staff; Mr. Grabham, the Government geologist; and Mr. Burgess, Inspector of the White Nile Province.

Mr. More, Governor of Khartoum, went North on the 3rd to meet Mrs. More on her way South.

The temperature has dropped 10 degrees in a few days, and feels astonishingly cold after the hot weather, especially the very unpleasant damp days that have been frequent recently. The thermometer now registers only some 85 degrees Fahrenheit maximum.

THE MECCA PILGRIMAGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 1.

The 1916 pilgrimage is over. The caravan has returned to Egypt, and with it the thousand odd Egyptians who have made the pilgrimage after waiting two years to accomplish the great duty imposed upon them by their Prophet. It was with some misgivings, it must be admitted, that many of us learned that the Egyptian Government had decided to allow the pilgrimage to take place this year. We were aware that the Shereef had given guarantees that the safety of the pilgrims and the caravan should be assured, and that he had undertaken not only not to exact the usual payments which he had been accustomed to demand from the pilgrims every year, but also to prevent the tribes and the parasitic population, which dwells in the Hejaz, from badgering and fleecing the pilgrims, as had been their wont. But we were of the opinion that Shereef Hussein was perhaps somewhat too sanguine, and that, as the Turks would very probably make a determined effort either to menace the pilgrimage itself or to prevent the promised protection being given to the pilgrims, the result might be disastrous, not only to the latter but also to the cause of the Shereef, with which we, as a people, have the greatest sympathy. But our fears have proved groundless. The Turks, either from fear that any interference on their part would do their cause more harm than good or from inability to do anything, took no step which could in any way affect the safety of the pilgrims, with regard to whom Shereef Hussein proved better than his word.

Most admirable arrangements had been made for the pilgrims' reception and accommodation. From the moment they landed at Jeddah to the hour of their re-embarkation after the conclusion of their journey to and from Mecca they were unmolested. None of the scenes that marred previous pilgrimages were recorded; prices were regulated; perfect order reigned all along the route from Jeddah to Mecca and at the Holy Shrine itself; and, more striking still, the sanitary arrangements were so good that no cases of infectious disease occurred.

All the pilgrims tell the same tale of pleasure at their trip and satisfaction with their treatment, and the vernacular Press is full of articles contributed by them on the subject. In order to obtain, so to speak, an outside opinion, I called on the Mission which went from the French colonies to congratulate the Shereef, and the members of which have been spending a few days in Cairo before embarking for France. The Mission consists of the following:—Sidi Kaddour Ben Ghabrit, Chief of the Protocol of H.M. the Sultan of Morocco and head of the Mission; Agha Zakrooni, Agha of Jebel Nader, who took 1,500 horsemen on the outbreak of war to France, where he fought for eighteen months, and who is Commander of the Legion of Honour; and Sidi Mustafa Cherchebli, both delegates

from Algeria; Sidi Chadly Okby, Kaid of Tunis, and Hajj Larbi Cheikh, delegates from the Bey of Tunis; Sidi Ahmed Skiredj, Alem of Fez, delegate of the Sultan of Morocco; and Abdou Kane, delegate of French Western Africa, where he was formerly Chief Kadi.

I was received by Sidi Ben Ghabrit, a fine-looking man of middle-age, with a short beard tinged with grey, who, I found, spoke French fluently. Even accustomed as I am to hear Egyptians speaking English and French, it somehow seemed strange to sit beside this typical Arab, dressed in the characteristic robes of his country, and to listen to him expressing his views in perfect French without any accent and with all the gesticulations of a born Frenchman. We talked of many matters connected with Arabia, which it would not do to publish at the present moment—of the war and of things in general. I found to my great pleasure that, albeit a most devout Moslem, he took a most broad-minded view of affairs.

But to return to the subject of the pilgrimage. Sidi Ben Ghabrit told me that he had never before made the pilgrimage, and he admitted that he had embarked upon it with misgivings. Not that he feared to be attacked on the way, for, as he smilingly remarked, he had been far too accustomed to have bullets whistling round his head during the twenty-two years he had resided in Morocco to mind such things—he is an Algerian by birth—but because he dreaded the diseases which he and his companions might catch owing to the bad sanitary conditions which always existed during the pilgrimage in the Hejaz. To his surprise, the hygienic conditions were everywhere excellent. They could not have been better in any civilized country, and while, no doubt, a great deal of the credit is due to the system prescribed by the specialists in Egypt, the merit of having introduced this welcome change in the local conditions, whatever the means adopted, must be attributed to the Shereef, who, in this matter, as in so many others, is displaying an enlightened and receptive mind rarely met with in men of his stamp and environment.

Sidi Ben Ghabrit and his companions were very much struck with the evident sincerity and the statesmanlike qualities of the Shereef, with the complete control he had over his people, as evidenced by the smoothness with which the pilgrimage was carried out, and with the martial bearing and intelligence of his sons. As an illustration of the latter, Sidi Ben Ghabrit told me that one of them discussed with him all the phases of the European war, pointing out with remarkable accuracy the faults that had been made by either side at various points. He said that the Shereef paid particular attention to the Indian pilgrims, the more important of whom were given a place at a table beside his own. About 30,000 pilgrims visited Mecca this year, about 5,000 Indians, 2,000 Egyptians (including the Mahmal escort), 2,000 Moroccans and Algerians, and 18,000 Hejazis. This was not, of course, anywhere near as many as usual, but it was a sufficiently large number to test the organisation and position of the Shereef. He had talked with pilgrims from all parts. One and all were very favourably impressed with the movement, the importance of which he doubted whether the Moslem world at large really realized. (In Morocco and Algeria they certainly did recognize what it meant, and the people were wholeheartedly on the side of the Shereef.) The authorisation of the pilgrimage this year was a bold enterprise, one that seemed at the outset almost too daring, but it had been a splendid success and the venture would bring its own reward; for the safe return of the pilgrims to their homes and the recital of their adventures and of what they had seen with their own eyes, would, he felt certain, have a favourable determining effect on the vacillating element in the Moslem world.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, November 5.

Petitions to High Commissioners.

The High Commissioner, in his recent tour in the Papho District, visited Polistes Chrysokhou. The Mayor, after welcoming H.E., submitted various petitions relating chiefly to the improvement of road and postal communications, the appointment of a third Mudir for the district, for increased jurisdiction for the local village judge, the establishment of a Government nursery garden, and increased facilities for the purchase of timber from the State forests. These petitions show the general character of village needs.

Views of the New Members of Council.

Some of the newly elected members of the Legislative Council have had an interview with the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, during which they submitted various recommendations. Among them were the following:—That loans of seed corn should be granted to all agriculturists in need of it; that prices should be fixed for wheat, and that the Government should allow wheat to be issued from the tithe stores, even in small quantities, to householders; and that vetches—largely used for cattle food—should be similarly sold to farmers. Amongst other expressions of opinion was one that the police should cease to apply with rigour the "Cruelty to Animals Law." The High Commissioner replied that the Government would give careful consideration to all the recommendations. It is to be hoped that there will be no relaxation of the law referred to, for the protection of dumb animals. It was with great difficulty that the existing law, mild as it is, was passed, under Sir Henry Bulwer; and the prosecutions under it are only too few. The ordinary Cypriot peasant regards animals merely as other goods and chattels. Although Cypriots are not less humane than many other peoples, in no country have there been worse examples of cruelty. The maiming of animals has been until recently a very common form of showing animosity.

Demands for Control of Prices.

The rise in the price of many articles of consumption continues to be widely felt. The Commissioner of Nicosia, Mr. C. S. Cade, has received a number of officials, who explained the difficult position in which they were placed by the excessive cost of the necessities of life. It was urged that maximum prices should be fixed, at all events for articles produced in the island. The hardship is not only that of officials, but of the people in general.

Greek Cypriots and the War.

Greek Cypriots appear to realise quite clearly that the future of Greece depends on the success of the Allied armies, and that the action and policy of M. Venizelos, far from being revolutionary or anti-dynastic, are in the highest sense patriotic, and alone can save the nation and the territories now in "the barbarous hands of the Bulgarians." The papers refer in glowing terms to M. Venizelos and his new forces. The *Phoné tes Kyprou*, the leading paper of the capital, looks forward to the participation of Cyprus in the cause. "when," it says, "volunteer corps will be sought in Cyprus, in order that they may place themselves under the orders of the Government of M. Venizelos, as is likely to happen very shortly, since according to our Egyptian *confrères*, M. Lapathiotis, a highly distinguished officer of Cyprus, is coming here for that purpose. We have no doubt whatever that the youth of Cyprus will regard it as a duty to hasten to the call of the Mother Country."

EGYPT AND THE RED CROSS.

We announced last week that the first instalment of Egypt's contribution to the "Our Day" collection for the British Red Cross was £60,000. On Monday a telegram was received at the Red Cross Headquarters from Sir Henry McMahon, stating the total Egyptian contribution to date £85,210. A sum of £500 was subscribed personally by the Sultan, and the splendid contribution is a remarkable indication of public interest in and sympathy for the work of the Red Cross. It has been largely subscribed by Egyptians of all classes, to whom this year, unlike last year, no direct personal appeal was addressed by the High Commissioner.

**MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF
HIDES AND SKINS,
TANNING MATERIALS,
DYEWOODS.**

**KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.**

Established
over 50 years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, October 21.

The Air Attacks.

The German air raids, news of which has doubtless already reached your readers, have caused intense exasperation and indignation here. The Government is taking careful note of all damage done by the bombing, and is considering whether those citizens who have suffered loss should not be compensated by drawing upon the sequestered property of enemy subjects in this country.

The death and destruction wrought by the bombs dropped have made many converts among what was formerly the pro-German party. Even M. Maioresco, one of the most important members of that party, is reported to have been "visibly impressed" on visiting the scenes of havoc. But the greatest sufferer from "nerves" is said to be the German Consul, who, under the protection of the American Legation, and under the shelter of its hospitable roof, has remained here, to assist in looking after German interests. He is reported to have said that, whereas he formerly declined entirely to believe what he heard and read of his countrymen's acts of savagery and "frightfulness," he is now prepared to believe the worst. He is a man of heavy build, and Marienbad and Baden Baden had both failed to reduce his weight; but the few weeks of bombing, with intervals of painful anticipation, have worked wonders in this respect.

The Enemy's Poison Campaign.

The analysis made by Dr. Cantacuzene of the chocolates and other sweets dropped by the Bulgaro-German aviators in the course of their flights over the country has proved conclusively that these bonbons contained the microbes of typhus and other maladies. The Roumanian Government will send copies of the analyst's report and samples of the poisoned sweets to the Governments of the neutral countries.

Notices have been published in the Press and circulated among the rural authorities calling attention to the great danger of eating any sweets found; and the public are further warned against picking up pencils, cigarettes, or handkerchiefs which they may see lying in the streets, as it is believed that the Germans will resort to the use of such things to spread disease in their despicable war on women and children.

In connection with this poison campaign, it is important to note that a search in the German Legation brought to light—buried in the cellars—many phials containing the microbes of plague and typhus, and also some infernal machines. This rather suggests that, before the war, the manufacture of the poisoned sweets had been going on in Roumania itself; and it is even possible that those found were not all dropped from aeroplanes, as the fall would scatter and injure them, but were distributed by German agents. Needless to say, the police have the matter under investigation; and it is rumoured that some of the German agents have already been arrested, and handed over to the military to be dealt with.

The Scottish Women's Unit.

Quite a sensation was caused in Bucharest recently when among the many unfamiliar uniforms there appeared that of the Scottish Women's Mission, which is now proceeding to the Dobruja front, where they will serve with the Serbian forces. The smart uniform, with the slouch hat, short khaki skirt, leggings and gauntlets, was a revelation to the fair sex; and astonishment and admiration deepened when it became known that these ladies not only act as nurses, but also drive, clean, and repair their own cars, and that there is not a single man with the party.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

THE BULGARIAN SITUATION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, October 21.

A few refugees have managed to escape from Bulgaria to this city. They report that the Radoslavoff Government was for some time able to silence the malcontents in Sofia and throughout the country by assuring them that Roumania would never attack Bulgaria, all her attention and all her forces being needed for the Carpathians. The Tubrakan affair was turned to similar account. But at the present time some difficulty is being experienced in accounting for Roumania's success and Bulgaria's lack of success. The Opposition now attack the Government because foreign policy and the direction of military affairs are left so much in German hands, while Bulgarian military and political leaders are left out in the cold. The economic situation of the country leaves much to be desired, and even the population of Sofia is suffering considerable hardships.

The King has returned to Sofia, but he keeps much to himself and communicates with nobody; in fact, his return is denied by the authorities, but it is an open secret that he is actually in his palace, from which he never stirs. Only with M. Radoslavoff is he known to have held intercourse, and with him he has had long conferences. The dissensions between the Bulgarian and German officers are becoming more and more pronounced. General Mackensen is no longer at Sofia.

WOUNDED ROUMANIAN SOLDIERS' FUND.

The Earl of Bessborough, hon. treasurer of the Wounded Roumanian Soldiers' Fund, has received the following letter from the Lord Mayor:—

"I am glad to know that a fund has been established for the benefit of Roumanian wounded soldiers, of which your lordship is the treasurer, and that this fund is under the patronage of his Excellency M. N. Misu, the Roumanian Minister in London. It is also a source of much gratification to me to know that this fund has already placed the first instalment of its collections at the disposal of the Roumanian Red Cross Society in Bucharest. I feel sure that when this fund and its objects are brought before the generous British public its appeal will bring a worthy tribute, which will prove the extent of our sympathy."

Donations to the fund should be sent to the Earl of Bessborough, at the Bank of Roumania, Limited, 27, Throgmorton Street, London.

EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

The annual meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund was held on the 17th inst. at the Royal Society's Room, Burlington House. The chair was taken by Major Lyons, in the absence of Earl Cromer, the president, who was detained by work in connection with the Dardanelles Commission. Because of the war the explorers who always work for the fund are not making any excavations at present, but the publications are still being brought out, especially those of papyrus manuscripts, of which many are stored at Oxford to last for from ten to fifteen years. These were found in the Fayoum. A most interesting account was given by Dr. Bernard Grenfell of the very important remains of ancient literature which he is editing for the twelfth volume of the "Oxyrhynchus Papyri," which will be delivered to subscribers in January next. Two of the texts are theological, being portions of Ecclesiasticus and the Shepherd of Hermas. One papyrus contains long extracts from a kind of Historical and Mythological Dictionary of the Greeks, made up not of original matter, but of citations from scores of authors. There are two papyri containing fragments of poems by Pindar, one from a work of his hitherto lost. Classical scholars will be most interested in one of the lost orations of Lysias, of which a long piece, although much mutilated, remains; also in a speech by Lycurgus against Lycophron, on the occasion upon which Hyperides also spoke for the defence. In addition to these papyri, a volume, profusely illustrated, is nearly ready, dealing with the "Rock Cut Tombs at Meir."

In his speech the chairman mentioned that so accurate were the old Greek papyri in determining the boundaries of fields and palm groves, routes of canals and watercourses, and so little change takes place in the land of Egypt that the descriptions in the old Græco-Roman taxing lists and deeds, sales, and leases were found very useful to the Government surveyor when he was serving recently in the country.

On the occasion of the reopening of the schools in Bucharest last week speeches were delivered full of patriotic references to Roumania's valiant struggle towards final victory side by side with the Allied Powers in the war for right and justice and for the delivery of the Roumanians in the Transylvania.

The Bar of Bucharest has established a hospital for wounded magistrates, lawyers, and law students serving in the Roumanian Army.

It has become known through prisoners taken by the Serbians that the Bulgarians are already using Greek war material surrendered to them by the Athens Government at Kavalla, Drama, and Rupel, including a number of heavy guns, which are being distributed along the Bulgarian front.

PROBLEMS OF THE SUDAN.*

V.—THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS.

(BY OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

The system of distribution of medical knowledge in the Sudan is somewhat complicated. It must first be appreciated that there is no local talent at all, and that all expert knowledge has to be imported; and for all practical purposes it may be said that the medical staff of the country is entirely in official employ. It may seem astonishing to find that the qualified British staff of the Sudan Medical Department numbers only six. True, four of these are Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons or Physicians, as the case may be, and the standard is extraordinarily high; but the number seems to be very small in so vast a country as the Sudan. This state of affairs is due to a variety of reasons, amongst which the ever-recurring one of lack of funds may be counted first. Besides, the greater part of work in the out-stations is done by the officers of the R.A.M.C. employed in the Egyptian Army. That is to say, there are big and fully equipped hospitals at Khartoum, Omdurman, Atbara, and Port Sudan, which are supervised by the Sudan Medical Department. There are also smaller civil hospitals in every province, distributed, as far as possible, as population and circumstances require. In some cases these are supervised by the members of the Sudan Medical Department; in others the work is handed over to the military doctor, who combines the work with his own. This especially applies to the southern provinces. There are in the Egyptian Army some fifteen officers from the R.A.M.C., and some of these are of course employed in Egypt. It appears, therefore, that the total number of qualified men available in the Sudan does not exceed twenty, which still seems to be a very small number in so large a country, where communications are so difficult. There are, however, two other sources of expert medical knowledge. These are the Sleeping Sickness Commission, which is employed in the infected areas, and relieves the country of supplying other doctors in those parts, and the Wellcome Research Laboratory, the members of which not only do inestimable research work, but assist the doctors all over the country in every possible way by microscopic examinations and highly technical work of all sorts. They also take their part in the more ordinary forms of medical work where necessity bids. In effect, therefore, the medical staff of the Sudan makes up in quality what it may lack in numbers. It is probably true to say that no part of Africa is so well supplied with the latest knowledge of the science of medicine, and it is extremely odd to find the most modern treatments known and taken as a matter of course by savages of quite a primitive type.

The very highly trained staff described above is assisted by a number of qualified practitioners from Syria and Egypt, the majority of whom obtained their diplomas at Beyrout or at the Kasr-el-Nil school in Egypt, though there are some who hold American certificates. Unfortunately, the supply of these is not large. This is due to the fact that there is a very considerable demand in Egypt for practitioners who are conversant with the language and customs of that country. In fact, many of those employed in the Sudan finally retire to lucrative practices in Egypt, and when Syria is opened up to the Syrians (as must inevitably occur) there will be many more openings. The supply of the necessary qualified men for the subordinate posts in the Sudan is indeed a matter which will require consideration in the near future.

The people of the Sudan are extremely conservative in certain ways, and the introduction of many much-needed reforms can only be done by the tactful instruction of the medical authorities. It is not so much that the native is unwilling to do what he is told, as that unless he really believes in the efficacy of the treatment he will not do it properly, and there is still a strong feeling in favour of the old-fashioned spells. The native, therefore, needs to be encouraged to the required action by faith. He has learnt to have faith in quinine, he is fully cognisant of the virtues of 606, and he accepts vaccination—with some hesitation—because he himself discovered the merits of self-inoculation when in health, and uses the same method with his cattle. But hygiene is practically unknown to him, and, apart from the examples given above, he generally prefers to adopt some native treatment to visiting the doctor. Generally speaking, a strong purge and a faith cure is the native method, though there are most elaborate rituals of treatment for some diseases in some parts.

One of the chief difficulties in dealing with natives all over the world is their habit of secreting illness and thereby starting an epidemic. This is chiefly to be attributed to

the women, whose superstition will not allow them to make use of the foreign doctor or medicine, for fear that it may in some obscure way produce after-effects of the evil eye or the like. But the opposition is very deep-seated, and the only possible way of combating it would seem to be to train the natives themselves in medicine, so that they might be able to go to a man of their own race and believe in him, where the much more learned white man would have little chance of convincing.

The instruction of the native in so highly developed a subject as medicine seems, possibly, rather a fantastic idea; but it must not be forgotten that he would be supervised by an exceptionally highly-trained staff and would be employed in the subordinate posts only. There is little doubt that the training of natives can be done. It has been done elsewhere, and the capacity of the Sudanese for acquiring knowledge is adequate to the need, at least amongst the more educated classes, and these, thanks to the Gordon College and the Education Department, are an increasing number. It is to be hoped, therefore, that some move to the end suggested may be made in the near future.

OCCUPIED SERBIA.

(FROM OUR BUCHAREST CORRESPONDENT.)

The following sketch of conditions in Serbia to-day is based upon information from Russian sources, and may, I think, be regarded as trustworthy.

The definite division of the country between Austria and Bulgaria was accomplished in January, 1916, and the delimitation of the Austro-Bulgarian frontier was then proceeded with. The frontier starts at a point on the Danube and follows the course of the Great Morava, continues along the West Morava, then makes a turn to the south-east, leaving Kragujevatz to the Austrians and Konjoulou, to the south, to the Bulgarians. On the Plain of Kossovo the frontier passes between Mitrovitza and Prishtina, and includes Albania between Prizrend and Diakovo. This last portion of the frontier cannot be crossed without encountering Bulgarian guards, who prevent foodstuffs passing into Austria-Hungary. There are, however, no Austrian guards on this line.

The central administration of Serbia is at Belgrade, and its head is assisted by a military attaché, General Balitch, and a secretary of Hungarian nationality. Among the crowd of administrators and officials a certain Germann, formerly a member of the Bosnian Government, is conspicuous by his activity and his excess of zeal. Arrests and searchings of the houses of persons accused of complicity in the Serajevo assassination take place daily by his orders. Germann wears the uniform of a simple lieutenant, but he appears to possess powers greater than any general. He issues orders without consulting anybody, and they are obeyed instantly, and his apparently limitless authority enables him to perpetrate endless persecutions and acts of injustice.

The police and the gendarmerie in the portion of Serbia under Austrian occupation are recruited entirely from Hungarians. At Belgrade the tramways and the electric light are both worked entirely for the benefit of the army, and all the pharmacies have been taken possession of, and are run, by the military.

The only places at which the post offices work with some regularity are Belgrade, Gornj, Milanovitch, Valievo, and Palanka. Elsewhere it is useless to post letters, for they are never delivered.

The municipality at Belgrade exists in form only, and possesses absolutely no authority. All its decisions are liable to revision by the Austrian military, by whom they must be ratified—or rejected—and countersigned. The functions of the mayor are vested in a Dr. Velkovitch, assisted by two subalterns, MM. Denitchi and Popovitch.

In all Serbia there is but one man who enjoys the confidence of the Austrians—a Socialist deputy, named Powiskevitch.

A Salonika telegram says that the Council of the Greek Provisional Government has decided to send military officers to Egypt in order to form a corps of volunteers there and to drill them on the spot. This corps will be dispatched to Salonika when required.

The Anglo-Hellenic League, Reuter's Agency is informed, last week received the following telegram from M. Venizelos: "The authorities of Grevena are arbitrarily detaining a courier on his way to the villages in the district of Kozani. Some days ago the priest of the village of Tsouli was beaten and thrown into prison for having celebrated a Te Deum on behalf of the National Movement. The President of the Community of Dransita was thrown into prison by Athenian troops and beaten so that his left arm was broken. Colonel Mitsas has announced to the peasants that he will shortly occupy the town of Katerini and punish the population which joined the National Movement."

*Previous articles of this series appeared in THE NEAR EAST of August 11 and 25, September 22, and November 17.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am told that specimens of some new one-piastre and two-piastre notes, issued by the Turkish Government, have found their way to London. The lower value, I understand, bears a picture of the Dardanelles, while the latter depicts the Turkish victory at Kut. I wonder whether these embellishments will make this particular paper money any more popular in Turkey than the Smyrna issue to which I referred recently.

An officer writing from the Salonika front recently says. "I saw quite a comforting lot of German prisoners here to-day. . . . Brother Turk has come up against us in some force, and we catch him, too. You would hardly recognise him in his new uniform—rather Chinese in cut." There is a piquant little picture for you! It almost looks as if the Turk, realising that the Bag-and-Baggage Day is close at hand, is getting ready to trek eastwards again, to the home of his Mongol ancestors, and is preparing himself for a suitable change of costume.

The good start made by the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund is very cheering. It shows, I think, that the British public has only been waiting for a really "safe lead" to prove that it had not forgotten our splendid men who have been finding the traditional "Garden of Eden" region so very unlike Paradise. The public wanted to do something, but it did not know how to do it; and it had heard so many reports of "comforts"—to say nothing of letters—sent out by individuals going astray that it was afraid. Now that risk has been, as far as possible, eliminated; and with such an influential committee, such capable officials, the support of Sir Edward Ward, and the approval of the War Office, the fund is bound to inspire complete confidence. So, though rather late in the day, our Mesopotamian fighting man will come into his own, in this respect as in others, let us hope! Personally I feel as glad as I should if I were to receive all the subscriptions myself; for, knowing Mesopotamia well, and having been through a bad spell of sickness there, I was able to picture to some extent what our men have had—and *still have*—to go through; and I have felt not at all happy about it. But the first list of subscriptions has done me a lot of good.

Not the least pleasing thing about it is the support given to the fund by individuals and firms whose names are familiar to anyone who has been in touch with Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf. Many of these donations are for handsome amounts, and the fact that they are given so promptly shows that the donors realise the value of the fund and the urgency of the appeal. But it would be a great mistake to think that because the start is so satisfactory the fund can do without constant and generous support. I note that "it is estimated that not less than £50,000 will be required within the next few months." That seems to me an extraordinarily moderate estimate. But £50,000 takes a lot of getting. So—Well, "cheques should be made payable to the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, and sent to the hon. secretaries, 15, Aldford Street, Mayfair, crossed 'Coutts and Co.'"

The *Bosnische Post*, a journal published in Serajevo, announced recently, with a bit of a flourish, that a new German paper, *Die Deutsche Balkan Zeitung*, is to be launched in Sofia. Its object is "to give information on all Balkan

matters," and—as the Serajevo journal somewhat superfluously adds—to "propagate the principles of the alliance with Central Europe." It is not surprising to learn that this interesting venture is to be "financed with German capital," and that it is to be printed in German. Is not German to be the language of Mittel Europa, in which happy land Bulgaria (and Turkey) are, of course, to be incorporated? But what chiefly arouses my admiration for the scheme is the appointment of "a well-known German novelist" as editor. A practised writer of fiction is just the man for the post.

In spite of the strict blockade of our coasts which is maintained—according to the ever-veracious German Press—by the Kaiser's redoubtable under-water Navy, we are still able occasionally to get news of the outside world, now rapidly being brought under the blessings of Teutonic *kultur*, while the Kaiser's new Prussian Guard rehearses its triumphant entry into London. Thus it comes about that a telegram from Beyrout, giving momentous news, found its way hither last Saturday, having been transmitted by way of Amsterdam. It announced that "a war tribunal has sentenced to death *in contumaciam* Hussein Kemal Pasha—the Sultan of Egypt—on the ground that he placed under foreign rule constituent parts of the Ottoman Empire." And it adds, with fitting sternness: "The sentence has been confirmed by an Imperial Decree." This, as the small boy said a couple of seconds after the Head had invited him to bend over the form, is extremely painful; and I sincerely hope that the Sultan (of Egypt) will be more careful in the future. But what worries me most about the telegram is its failure to give information regarding two points: (1) The particular "constituent parts of the Ottoman Empire" which Sultan Hussein "placed under foreign rule"; (2) the date and place of the execution of the sentence. We can only hope that some kind friend will intervene with the Sultan of Turkey before the Imperial Decree is carried out.

Clearly, our friend the enemy is seriously annoyed. On top of the blood-curdling Imperial Decree just quoted, we have Kaiser Wilhelm, that faithful and devoted friend of Sultan Mohammed, announcing to one of his pet Prussian Divisions that the Roumanians must be "destroyed." And I notice that his chivalrous aviators—it was a German journal that reminded us a few days ago that chivalry still flourished in the air service—have already done their very best to carry out the Royal behest. We learned a few weeks ago that they had been dropping poisoned sweets in the streets of Bucharest. Now *The Times'* correspondent tells us that they have "carried out a series of ruthless attacks on peasants working in the fields, killing women and children." The Huns' hatred of the Roumanians seems to put quite in the shade even their hatred of this country. How long will it take them—and the neutrals—to become ashamed of this state of things?

It is pleasing to learn from Mr. Ward Price that German officers captured recently in the Balkans complain of the unreliability of their Bulgarian allies. They talked of the Bulgarian infantry stampeding and leaving them in the lurch, to be captured—horrible fate for the haughty Prussian!—by the Serbs. Really, the tactless way in which these Serbians insist on popping up again like a Jack-in-the-box, after being "exterminated" by the gallant Bulgaro-Germans, is extremely embarrassing. No wonder the German officers were unable to conceal their true sentiments towards their dear allies. But such straws show how the tide is running. And I hope the tide is going to turn to a regular flood very shortly.

For their part, the Bulgarians can hardly feel precisely happy just now. Their sins, and the sins of their "friends," are beginning to come home to roost. They purported sending a steamer, the Bulgaria, into the Black Sea as a hospital ship, and notified the Russian Government accordingly. But the Russian Government declined to recognise the vessel as a hospital ship, "in view of the recent sinking of the Russian hospital ships Portugal and Vperiod." Moreover, Russia has just made it very clear once more that she "will not be turned from her fixed purpose"; that she will not forget Bulgaria's "black treachery" towards her; and that she is "resolved to punish the personages of the Bulgarian Government who treacherously allied their country with the enemies of her invariable protector." Upon the whole, I am thankful that I am not in Ferdinand of Coburg's shoes, or in Radoslavoff's or Tontcheff's!

CORSAIR.

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815
COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.
Illustrated Catalogues on request
ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms, Mufti, Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits, Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements, Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits.
4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG.*

This book, one of the Peeps at Many Lands series, is intended primarily for young people, and it can hardly fail to appeal strongly to any boy or girl of ordinary intelligence. Certainly any boy worth his salt will find the story of Layard's adventures and discoveries excellent reading; and boys and girls will alike enjoy the lively pictures of life in the Assyrian capital, the stories of the heroes, and the legends of the gods and goddesses. But the little book is likely to be full of interest to many older readers also; for the author has been surprisingly successful in handling his subject. As treated by the professional Assyriologist, it is too often utterly dry and bewildering; but Mr. Baikie has clothed the dry bones, and, skilfully avoiding the chronological difficulties, has set before us a picture full of life and colour. It is, of course, a mere sketch, but it is cleverly done. If we want more than a sketch we can go to the learned works of the professors and 'ologists, and fill in the details for ourselves. Here, after all, we are promised nothing more than a "peep"; but the peep is a very pleasant one. If it sets us trying to get further views at the subject, so much the better.

The gradual building up of the Babylonian plain by the silt deposited by the great twin rivers, and of the birth of the small city states is well described. Babylonia itself is hardly in the picture, of course, but Assyria's rise and fall are outlined; then we are told how, after lying neglected for centuries, the ruin mounds were forced to yield up their secrets by the patience and perseverance of the excavator. Here, by the way, the author hardly does justice to his own countrymen. It is true that Botta was "first in the field" as far as actual excavation on any considerable scale was concerned, but it was Rich, an Englishman, who first explored the mounds in anything like a scientific spirit. The slip, however, may be regarded as of small importance in a book of this character.

After describing Layard's romantic discoveries and the sensation they caused in this country, the author carries us back "on some magic carpet" to Kalah, the Assyrian capital in the days of Ashur-natsir-pal. We visit the bazaar, examine a typical private house, are afforded a glimpse of the royal palace, and are shown the Great King himself on a lion-hunting trip. Then we follow his Majesty on his expedition against Syria—and, truth to tell, find the experience none too pleasant, for the King and his Staff have views upon the useful effects of a policy of "frightfulness" which bear a striking resemblance to those that flourish to-day in Prussia. It is interesting, however, to be present at what may be called the birth of the cavalry idea, and we find "the more modern and scientific members of the Assyrian staff. . . well aware that the day of the chariot in war is drawing to a close." Recent experiments with the "Tanks" seem to suggest that the despised chariot has come into its own again with a vengeance. So does the whirligig of Time go round!

After witnessing the gruesome sights attendant on the siege and fall of Aribua, it is rather a relief to be taken off to the great library of Ashurbanipal. It was all very well for Macaulay to make fun of cuneiform writing, as Mr. Baikie reminds us he did; but the wedge-inscribed tablets have enabled us to get more than a glimpse into the minds of the ancient Assyrians and the more ancient Babylonians. They have kept alive for us stories of heroes, gods, goddesses, demons, and all the rest of the characters that still strut bravely across the pages of many a popular writer. Some of those early tales are here retold for our delectation; and, frankly, we find them at least as entertaining in their old form as they are in the pages of the most fashionable lady novelists of the day—and, dare we add, less offensive? It is satisfactory to find that the indebtedness of the Hebrews to the Babylonians—or the Chaldeans—is fully acknowledged. To those who like to see their fellow-men becoming more hopeful and more happy, it is also satisfactory to note that the gloomy views of the "underworld" that prevailed amongst the Babylonians and Assyrians have been steadily losing some of their terrors as they were passed on from story-teller to story-teller and poet to poet. Mr. Baikie's readers—young or old—are unlikely to wish that they had lived in the "good old days" described, at any rate, in Assyria.

The photographic illustrations, from sculptures and tablets in the British Museum, are well chosen, and well reproduced. The coloured ones also, which will please the younger readers, are good—extraordinarily good for such a book. One of the latter shows a gateway in glazed brick-work, which is obviously restored on the basis of one of the structures unearthed by Koldewey at Babylon.

* "Ancient Assyria." By the Rev. James Baikie, F.R.A.S. (A. and C. Black. 1s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Andrew Melrose has published (6s. net) "With Serbia Into Exile," by Paul Fortier Jones. The author accompanied the Serbian Army in its heroic and famous retreat to the Adriatic, and here recounts his experiences.

Mr. Lane has published (15s. net) "The Antique Greek Dance After Sculptured and Painted Figures." Written by Maurice Emmanuel, the book has been translated by Harriet Jean Beaulieu.

Messrs. Blackie have published "On the Road to Baghdad," by Captain F. S. Brereton, one of the most popular writers for boys. With such a subject Captain Brereton should spin a good yarn, and one that ought to appeal very strongly to any boy of spirit and imagination.

Messrs. Harrap have just published "Myths and Legends of Babylonia and Assyria," by Lewis Spence.

Mr. John Hargrave is the author of another book on the Gallipoli campaign, "At Suvla Bay," of which Messrs. Macmillan are the publishers. The author served with the field ambulance of the M.E.F.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Balkan Freebooter. By Ian Gordon. (Smith, Lever and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

Oil and Gas Production. By Roswell H. Johnson and L. G. Huntley. (Chapman and Hall, Limited. 16s. net.)

More Tales by Polish Authors. Translated by Else C. M. Benecke and Marie Busch. (Oxford: Blackwell, 5s. net.)

Some Russian Heroes, Saints and Sinners: Legendary and Historical. By Sonia E. Howe. Illustrated. (Williams and Norgate. 7s. 6d.)

An Outline of Theosophy. By C. W. Leadbeater. (Theosophical Publishing Society.)

Les Lettres, les Sciences, et les Arts Yougoslaves. No. 4 of the Bibliothèque Yougoslave. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit. 50c.)

On behalf of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund, the Mayor of Poplar (Mr. A. H. Warren), at the Town Hall, on the 15th inst., handed over to A. W. Day, late of the Royal Fusiliers, a donkey and coster's barrow. Day, who had already been in the Army, re-enlisted for the present war, and was with the first party to land in Gallipoli, where he was totally disabled by a gunshot wound in the right hand. In order to enable him to earn a livelihood the Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund decided to provide him with a donkey and barrow.

WORD-FOR-WORD RUSSIAN STORY-BOOK.

WITH INTERLINEAR TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION * * ACCENTED AND ANNOTATED.

By NEVILL FORBES.

NOW READY. * * * 1s. 6d. net.

THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR LANGUAGE.

By Mmc. JARINTZOV.

WITH INTRODUCTION DISCUSSING PRO- NUNCIATION AND TRANSLITERATION.

6s. net.

"The right guide at last . . . an invaluable book."—*The Morning Post.*

"The merits of the book are great."—*The Times.*

"The intelligent student of Russian will be fascinated by this clever book"—*The Spectator.*

TWO MONTHS IN RUSSIA, JULY-SEPT., 1914.

By W. MANSELL MERRY.

2s. 6d. net.

"A really capital book of Travel, pleasantly informing and refreshing in its candour."—*The Aberdeen Journal.*

MORE TALES BY POLISH AUTHORS.

Translated by ELSE BENECKE and MARIE BUSCH.

NOW READY. * * * 5s. net.

Sequel to "Tales by Polish Authors."

"A book to be bought and read . . . it cannot fail to be remembered."—*The Contemporary Review.*

B. H. BLACKWELL, OXFORD.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Nov. 24 25	1916. Nov. 11 12	Friday	1335 Moharrem 28	5677. Hesvan 28
26	13	Saturday	29	Kislev 1
27	14	Sunday	30 Safar	2
28	15	Monday	1	3
29	16	Tuesday	2	4
30	17	Wednesday	3	5
		Thursday	4	

Sunday is the birthday of Queen Maud of Norway.

Monday is the birthday of the Empress-Dowager of Russia, and next Friday is the birthday of Queen Alexandra, her sister.

Prince Cantacuzene left London last week for Bucharest to join the Roumanian Army.

Lady Howard de Walden gave birth to a daughter at Seaford House, Belgrave-square, on Wednesday of last week.

General Sir John Maxwell had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Friday, when his Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, Military Division.

The *London Gazette* announces:—The King has been pleased to make the following appointment:—To be Assistant Private Secretary to his Majesty: Rowland Thomas Baring, the Viscount Errington, M.V.O. The appointment of Viscount Errington to be an Equerry-in-Ordinary to his Majesty is also gazetted.

In recognition of their services in the defence of Egypt, the Sultan has conferred the First Class of the Order of the Nile on General Maxwell and Admiral Wemyss, the Second Class of the Order on Major-Generals Wilson, Wallace, Eadie, Peyton, Watson, Lynden-Bell, Lord Denbigh, and Lord Lucan; and the Mohammed Ali Gold Medal on the Duke of Westminster.

A marriage has been arranged between Oliver William Verner, of the Ministry of Justice, Cairo, elder and only surviving son of the late Mr. W. H. Verner, I.C.S., and Mrs. Verner, of Cumber Lands, Kenley, Surrey, and Marie Louise, daughter of the Commandant d'état-major belge de Wasme and Mme. de Wasme.

The marriage arranged between Captain R. Chenevix Trench and Miss M. E. Jelf will take place at St. Margaret's Church, Oxford, on Saturday, December 2, at 2.15 p.m. No invitations will be issued, but friends will be welcome at the church.

On October 28, at All Saints, Cairo, and at the British Consulate, the marriage took place of Mr. Basil M. Rogers, of the Department of Mines, Egypt, and Miss Aline Ethel St. John. The bridegroom is the third son of the late Rev. W. H. Rogers, D.D., and the bride is

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

the fourth daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. St. John, D.S.O., who saw much service in Egypt (in 1882, 1884, and 1885) and the Sudan (1885-6).

Captain Procter, who in civil life is the manager of the Manchester branch of the I.O.B., was severely wounded in the face on the 15th of this month. He is now in hospital in London.

We are glad to learn that Trooper G. Parker, formerly of Constantinople, who had been reported missing, was recently in London, and that the report was therefore unfounded.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Orme Wilson, M.P., who commanded the Hawke Battalion of the R.N. Division in Gallipoli, has been wounded and sent home. Since the withdrawal from Gallipoli he has been serving on another front. Last September he was made a C.M.G.

Lady Roper Parkington, the hon. treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, having removed from Green Street, Park Lane, asks that donations to the Fund be sent to her at Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, W.

The Red Cross ambulance and hospital unit the gift of the miners of Great Britain to Roumania, which left London on the 11th inst., in charge of Dr. A. P. E. O'Leary, left Petrograd for the Roumanian capital on Monday. The Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, has received through the Foreign Office the following message from Lady Barclay at the British Legation, Bucharest:—"I have to-day seen the Queen of Roumania. Her Majesty will herself choose the hospital for the miners of England, and she would like it to bear the name of the much-loved infant Prince whose death she now mourns, thus associating the miners of England in her sorrow as also in her joy, which she finds only in nursing her sick and wounded soldiers. The hospital is to be called 'Prince Mircea Hospital.'"

Captain Edward Unwin, V.C., R.N., was last week presented with a scroll of honour voted by the Portsmouth Town Council. Captain Unwin, who belongs to Portsmouth, won the Victoria Cross for distinguished bravery during the landing from the transport River Clyde on Gallipoli beach. The scroll was enclosed in a casket subscribed for by the public.

The first group of the French Medical Mission, under the direction of Major L. Avenant and Surgeon-Major L. Heureux, has arrived in Bucharest, accompanied by a full staff. A mission has also arrived from the Carrel Institute, directed by Surgeon-Major Dehelly.

M. Vladimir Rosing announces a fourth recital of Russian songs in aid of Russian and Serbian Prisoners of War for the 28th inst. at Æolian Hall at a quarter past eight. He will be assisted by Miss Ursula Tremayne and M. Julian Bonell. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. L. G. Sharpe, 61, Regent Street, or at the hall.

One of the most interesting gifts which has been made recently to the Red Cross has just been received by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, from Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood. It is a packet of letters written by Lord Kitchener to Sir Evelyn Wood during the reconquest of the Sudan. Sir Evelyn Wood requests that they may be sold for the benefit of the Red Cross Funds.

On the march of the South Persian military police to Isfahan in August, Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., wrote to the secretary of the C.M.S. Mission in Persia, drawing attention to benefits conferred on the column by Dr. White, of Yezd. His work is "well known in Persia, but for the first time it has helped a British force." Those of the men who were sick were left behind "under excellent conditions."

Our Roumanian Correspondent writes October 20:—"M. Eugene Goga, author of the well-known book 'Les deux Sibéries,' and brother of the Roumanian poet Octavian Goga, who is a volunteer in the Roumanian army, is just now in hospital at Fetteshti. A Transylvanian Roumanian and a jealous patriot, like his brother the poet—who is now in exile in this country, having been condemned to death in his absence from Hungary for his efforts in the cause of Roumanian freedom—he was first forced to serve in the Austrian army, was wounded twice, and then taken prisoner by the Russians and sent to Siberia, where he remained 13 months. He then obtained permission to come to Roumania, where he was one of the first to volunteer on the mobilisation of the Roumanian army, that of his real country. Happily his wounds received in the Dobruja are not severe.

Miss May Joyce, daughter of the sub-manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Alexandria, has passed her final tests at the "Scuola Superiore di Pittura" at Rome with remarkable success.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Colonel Rascanu, of the Roumanian Staff, one of the ablest of the younger officers of the Army, says Reuter's Agency, has arrived in England on a special mission as representing the Roumanian Headquarters.

Under date of the 18th inst. Reuter's Washington Correspondent reports: The State Department has been informed that M. M. Ljoubonir Mihailovitch has been appointed the first Serbian Minister to the United States.

M. Slavko Grouitch, who was for a long time Serbian Chargé d'Affaires in London and later was Serbian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Serbian Minister at Berne. He will shortly take up his new position, where he will be assured of the good wishes of his numerous friends in this country.

M. Dragomir Yankovitch, who has been appointed Serbian Minister to Madrid, where he is the first occupant of that position, was formerly King Peter's Private Secretary.

M. G. Todorovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has been transferred from London to the Foreign Office at Corfu.

Bimbashi O. M. Conran, Officer Commanding Nuba Territorials, and Bimbashi H. C. Maydon, Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army on reversion to their British units.

Mr. H. Garland, Department of Ordnance, Egyptian Army, has been granted the temporary rank of Saghkolaghassi whilst employed on special service.

Captain C. McKey Bey, Director of Customs, has returned to Port Sudan, after having passed the summer in Cyprus.

El Bimbashi (temporary) C. H. Wolff, 9th Sudanese, has been transferred to Equatorial Battalion.

A Turkish Legation is to be established at Copenhagen with Sefa Bey, formerly Minister in Bucharest, as Minister. Hitherto Turkey has been represented in Denmark by the Minister in Stockholm. It will be remembered that, in sending us news of Sefa Bey's departure from Bucharest, our Roumanian Correspondent compared him favourably with the departing German Minister.

M. Sachtoris, the Greek Consul-General at Alexandria, has declared himself as the representative of the true Greek Government, which he considers to be the Provisional Government, with headquarters at Salonika, and with M. Venizelos at its head. The Athens Government, however, sent a telegram to M. Xanthopoulos, the Greek Consul in Cairo, ordering him to proceed to Alexandria and take over the Consulate from M. Sachtoris.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced as having taken place on Thursday of last week, at Higher Knowle, Lustleigh, South Devon, of Mr. Edward Blencowe Gould, I.S.O., late H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria, Egypt. He had been ill only a short time. Mr. Gould was the eldest surviving son of the Rev. J. Nutcombe Gould, and was born in 1847. At the age of twenty-one he was appointed a student interpreter in Siam. Until 1889 his service was all in the Far East; he was Acting Vice-Consul at Bangkok on several occasions, and was promoted Vice-Consul (at Chiangmai) in 1883, and Consul in Siam in 1885. In 1886, 1887, and 1889 he acted as Chargé d'Affaires. In 1891 he was transferred to Port Said, and in 1897 was appointed Consul, with the personal rank of Consul-General, at Alexandria. In 1900 he was given a new commission as Consul at Alexandria, with jurisdiction over all the seaboard between the Gulf of Solloum to Damietta, and the Province of Behera and Gharbia. In 1903 he was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order, and in November, 1909, he retired on a pension. He was a good shot and a keen angler.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* reports that M. Denis Stefanou, a former Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs and Secretary to the late King George of the Hellenes, died on the 14th inst. *The Times* adds:—"M. Stefanou, who came of an old and esteemed Zante family, began his career at the Bar. On being returned as Deputy for his native island in the Chamber as a Tri-coupiot, he joined the Tricoupi Cabinet as Minister of Justice. On the death of Tricoupi he joined M. Theotokis, under whom he on various occasions held the portfolios of Justice and for Foreign Affairs. After the war of 1897 he went as Minister to Constantinople, where he exhibited considerable diplomatic ability. Later he was appointed Chief of King George's Civil Cabinet. This appointment he held until 1910, when he retired from public life. After the resignation of the Kalogeropoulos Ministry a short time ago King Constantine invited him to form a new non-political Administration, but M. Stefanou was compelled by failing health to decline this offer."

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Much sympathy is felt for Dr. R. A. Cleveland, the Chief Medical Officer, who has received news of the death, at the front, of his son, Mr. S. A. Cleveland, who was much esteemed in Cyprus.

News has also been received of the death in battle of Mr. A. Cunningham, who was Assistant to the Postmaster-General in Cyprus. Mr. Cunningham's father was for many years an able and much-valued official of the Public Works Department in Cyprus.

The death occurred at Botley, Hampshire, on Tuesday, of Sir John Samuel Moore, K.C.B., Paymaster-in-Chief, Royal Navy. Born in 1831, he entered the Navy in 1846, and served on the Cape Station during the Kaffir war in 1849-52. He took part in the naval operations of the Crimean campaign, and during the Egyptian war of 1882 he was Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station. He was present at the bombardment of Alexandria, and was mentioned in despatches.

Brigadier-General Duncan J. Glasfurd, who died on November 12 of wounds received the same day, aged forty-two, was the second son of the late Major-General C. L. R. Glasfurd. He obtained his commission in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1893, and served in the South African War as adjutant of his battalion. He was twice wounded and awarded the Queen's medal with three clasps. In 1901 he served in Jubaland against the Ogaden Somalis (medal and clasp), and in Somaliland in 1902-4, when he commanded the 4th Somali Camel Corps, and was afterwards employed as a special service officer under the Director of Supply and Transport, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the clasp. On the outbreak of war he accompanied the 1st Australian Division on the General Staff, and was present during the whole of the operations in Gallipoli, being promoted to a brevet lieutenant-colonelcy. He was promoted early

this year to the command of a brigade of Australian Infantry. He was slightly wounded last June, but remained at his post.

Captain Hubert John Daniell, whose death is announced this week, was the elder son of Major-General J. F. Daniell, C.M.G., G.O.C., Sierra Leone, and Mrs. Daniell. On the outbreak of war he went with his regiment to the Persian Gulf, and later was attached to General Delamain's staff. He served through the siege of Kut, and was mentioned in General Townshend's despatches. During the siege he contracted enteric, from which he died at Mosul. He was twenty-eight years old.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur S. Tetley, Royal Marine Light Infantry, who has died of wounds, was, before the war, captain in the Reserve of Officers, to which he was appointed on his retirement in September, 1910. He was re-employed and given the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel. He served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli, when he was with a battalion of the Royal Naval Division, and was mentioned in General Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch, published in the *London Gazette* of August 5, 1915.

Captain Frederick Septimus Kelly, R.N.V.R., of Bisham Grange, Marlow, was killed in action on November 13. An Australian by birth, he was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and was a well-known oarsman. He volunteered for service with the R.N.V.R. directly war broke out, and served in the Gallipoli campaign. He was one of the three officers who remained at the observation post in the front trenches during the final evacuation, and was one of the last men to leave the Peninsula. For his services there he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

M. Otto Baerlein, Serbian Consul in Manchester, died at Osborne House, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, on Saturday. He was in his sixtieth year, and had held his post since June, 1896.

THE WOUNDED ROUMANIAN SOLDIERS' FUND

(Regd. for the purpose of TRANSMITTING FUNDS to the ROUMANIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.)

Under the Patronage of HIS EXCELLENCY N. YISU, the ROUMANIAN MINISTER in London.
Hon. Treasurer: THE RIGHT HON. the EARL of BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., Bank of Roumania, Limited, 27, Throgmorton Street, London, by whom

DONATIONS will be GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.
FIRST LIST OF DONATIONS.

Bank of Roumania, Ltd.	£105 0 0
Messrs. H. R. Merton and Co., Ltd.	105 0 0
Imperial Ottoman Bank, London	105 0 0
A. Gibbs, Esq.	100 0 0
Princesse de Monaco	50 0 0
G. N. Golozan, Esq.	50 0 0
Automobile Club Regal Roman, Bucharest	10 0 10
Lord Moulton	10 0 0
Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Trotter	10 0 0
Anonymous (N. G.)	10 0 0
Hamilton E. Browne, Esq.	10 0 0
Mrs. Z. C. Wardella	10 0 0
O. B.	5 5 0
Messrs. A. Biedermann and Co.	5 5 0
Messrs. Crawley Dixon and Co., Ltd.	5 5 0
Mrs. Frederick J. Robinson	5 0 0
Dr. Archer	5 0 0
T. J. Hunt, Esq.	5 0 0
Miss Jacqueline Trotter	5 0 0
A. Gibson, Esq.	3 3 0
Total amount collected at Lecture arranged by National Association Probation Officers, London Branch	3 1 3
Designers Dean Clough, Halifax, per <i>Halifax Evening and Weekly Courier</i>	3 0 0
Mrs. Mathilde Langenbach	2 0 0
Lady M. C. D. Lawrence	2 0 0
Miss Anna Lawrence	2 0 0
Anonymous	1 15 6
Mrs. M. A. Heathcote	1 3 6
E. Siby J. D. Wickinson, Esq.	1 1 0
T. Hamilton, Esq.	1 1 0
Chas. G. Bing, Esq.	1 1 0
W. S. C.	1 0 0
Miss Skylizzi	1 0 0
Mrs. Stewart	1 0 0
E. H. Everett, Esq.	1 0 0
Miss H. A. Collyer	1 0 0
Miss K. Y. Kennedy	0 10 0
J. J. Lockwood, Esq.	0 10 0
Mrs. A. M. C. Duthie	0 10 0
E. R. Cassam, Esq.	0 5 0
Anonymous	0 2 6
Anonymous	0 2 0
"A Poor Schoolmaster"	0 1 6
	£639 5 1

Out of the above amount a sum of £600 has already been placed at the disposal of the Roumanian Red Cross Society.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

DE SMIDT.—On November 16, at Lahill, Exeter, the wife of Leonard F. P. De Smidt, Egyptian Civil Service, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

WINGATE—VINOGRADOFF. — On November 11, at Lahore, by the Bishop of Lahore, assisted by the Rev. S. C. Buckwell, Ronald Evelyn Leslie Wingate, eldest son of Sir Reginald Wingate, to Mary Harpoth, daughter of Mrs. Vinogradoff, step-daughter of Professor Vinogradoff of Oxford.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.55; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Office and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

IN PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1916.

PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION.

If it were possible to have achieved neutrality of opinion, as distinct from neutrality of attitude, in regard to the war, there would appear to the person or country so minded to be cogent reasons for supposing that the time is ripe, or nearly ripe, for peace. Such a person or country, taking note only of the immediate causes which led to the outbreak of war and of the outstanding features of the struggle, would attribute the provocation to Germany, and would point out that the Central Powers must know by now that they cannot win. The Allies, on the other hand, would be reminded that the price of complete victory may well prove almost as disastrous as defeat. Could anything, therefore, be more in keeping with the spirit of what ought to be a pacific age than to counsel the belligerents to abandon their strife, in order that they may live and let live? There are indications that such a line of reasoning is appealing to gradually wider circles in America, not necessarily as an outcome of German intrigue, but in response to feelings which entire detachment from the war and its real causes engenders in a naturally peace-favouring nation. In Great Britain, too, as we know, there have been a few people whose obsession by the theory of peace has prevented them from giving sufficient play to their intelligence to enable them to discover all that lies behind the great Armageddon. In so far as these peace suggestions merit notice they are easily answered by a reference to the terms which have been declared officially to be the Allies' antecedent conditions to a termination of the struggle. These may be restated in Mr. Asquith's words: "We shall never sheathe the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium recovers in full measure all and more than all that she has sacrificed; until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation; and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed." But, although such a statement may silence the peace-mongers for the time being, it fails to carry conviction, for it is attributed to one cause or another which is held in the same circles to have no permanent weight; and the next time when a favourable opportunity is thought to have presented itself, the same well-meaning but misguided overtures will be forthcoming.

Behind all such peace talk at this juncture lies the failure to appreciate the actual causes which have brought about the war. If neutral opinion—so-called—is to rid itself of the idea, which from now onwards may become more prevalent, that mere lust of power or revenge is spurring the Allies on against the Central Powers, it must acquire some of the knowledge which underlies the Allies' determination not to stay their efforts "until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed." In this connection we may commend to such neutral opinion a new weekly publication, entitled *The New Europe*, which, although it deals with a subject that has formed the theme of much recent literature, has the advantage of being able to follow up the details of a very wide question in the light of current developments. To understand the real causes that led up to the war is to realize why there can be no talk of a settlement at the present moment. Peace entails reconstruction—a new Europe, in fact, which is to make a repetition of the upheaval of the old one an impossibility. The two go hand in hand, and anyone who wishes to discuss peace must be prepared to offer the

details of a reconstruction which, in regard to the Continent, will satisfy Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Montenegro, Roumania, Russia, and Serbia. It is not suggested that the public in the Entente countries have a clear appreciation of the precise form which reconstruction in Europe ought to assume after the war. They do not share a neutral's possible misgivings, and, apart from the actual causes of the war, they have all the object-lessons they want in Germany's conduct and methods of warfare to be resolved to see the struggle through, whatever it may cost, and to subscribe without reservation to the general principles of a settlement enunciated by the Allied Governments. But while the causes of the war and the question of reconstruction may have an interest for neutrals in helping them to understand the spirit now actuating the Allies, it becomes a duty imposed upon the thinking section in each of the Allied countries so to master the details of the whole problem that the peace which will finally be ratified shall detract nothing from the victory won at such a price. The public, therefore, will do well not to remain content with vague generalities, but to accustom itself to a consideration of definite schemes in order to strengthen the hands of the Government when it is called upon to collaborate with the Allies in the drafting of a programme of peace.

For readers of these pages the problem of the new Europe has a special interest, and it is inevitable that the greater part of the publication to which we have referred should be devoted to the Near East and its affairs. In a recent issue we are reminded that "the war broke out in the Balkans and for the Balkans. It is the sequel to the recent Balkan wars: it is a vital part and continuation of that historical process known to Western nations as the Eastern question." Germany's part in that perennial problem is realized more fully than it was before. The war, although of her own making, has forced her hand. She had been making her preparations to acquire in the Balkans and Turkey the additional resources which she considered necessary for her hegemony of the world. The war broke out before these plans had matured, and what there had not been time to accomplish by a gradual process had to be carried through in haste. Hence the rapid creation of the Central European Block—that solid phalanx of concentrated effort, stretching from the Baltic to Baghdad, which in the programme Germany had kept steadily before her was to be the agency of her world-dominion, and now in this war must serve as the rock on which the assaults of her enemies are to be shattered. There are indications that the scheme is arousing less enthusiasm among the other component parts of the Block than it does in Germany. This may be due to the fact that it had to be carried into force under pressure as a military necessity without being first preached as an academic proposition to open minds, or it may be due to defects in the German character. Be that as it may, the Allies cannot trust to the Block breaking up of its own accord. In so far as it is the pivot of Germany's ambitions, its perpetuation has to be prevented, and it will not be enough merely to detach the Turks by driving a wedge in between the Ottoman Empire and the Central Powers. The Turks, it is true, are the coping-stone, but the edifice rests on the substantial foundation which the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire offers to Germany. If the latter were to be left with the same nucleus for the gratification of similar ambitions in the future, the victory of the Allies could not be regarded as complete. The smaller nationalities, which, according to the Allied resolve, are "to be placed upon an unassailable foundation," are to a large extent to be found within the Dual Monarchy. Their liberation, therefore, has to be effected, and it becomes part of the problem which has to be solved in the terms of peace. The experience of the war has taught us that the interest taken by the public is likely to be the measure of the Government's knowledge of a subject. The Allies cannot afford to be robbed of the fruits of their victory, when it comes, by a makeshift or imperfect peace. We may welcome, therefore, every effort made to throw light on an intricate question, in the conviction that, if care and judgment are exercised in adjusting the affairs of the Near East, the rest of the new Europe will be capable of looking after itself.

THE ROUMANIAN FRONTIERS.

BY D. MITRANY.

Roumania's original offensive against Transylvania has been widely criticised and regarded as another addition to the list of strategic mistakes engendered by an over-emphasis of political considerations. Such considerations did, no doubt, weigh heavily in the decision; yet it is not too much to say that the move was worth attempting, even on purely military grounds. The remarkable stability shown by the Roumanian nation, notwithstanding an intensely troubled historical evolution, suggests a geographically well-conditioned homestead, and a glance at the map will prove this true. The region inhabited by the Roumanians centres in the natural fortress generally called the Transylvanian highland, the Roumanian plains extending round it, like a semi-circular glacis; while the rivers, the majority of which take their birth within that system and end at its limits, closely connect the physical features and emphasise the unity of the whole. The Transylvanian plateau has been of all times the refuge of the Roumanian people, whether they were avoiding the Tartar invaders coming from the north-east, or the Turks coming from the south. The wooded slopes of the Carpathians were not easily accessible to the enemy, while they offered to the Roumanians an always dominating position. Though at first sight possessed of formidable natural frontiers, the actual Roumanian kingdom has retained little of the invulnerability of the old Roumanian land. The shape of the country would allow a concentration in the northern half in the case of an invasion from the south, or in the southern half in the case of an invasion from the north; but it presents its greatest disadvantage in the case of a situation like the present one. Not only is the length of the frontier towards Austria out of proportion with the forces of the country, but the fact that it forms a re-entrant angle enables a successful offensive to disorganise the system of defence by cutting the country in two. The valleys of the Carpathians are all transversal, and have generally no connection with one another; the main lines of communication must, therefore, run at a considerable distance from the ridge of the mountains, and in so far as this gives greater free play to the initiative of the offensive, it renders more difficult the task of defence. Now, it is evident that a successful advance into Transylvania would have obviated all these drawbacks; moreover, by an offensive action Roumania had the opportunity of putting to use the one great advantage that she can derive from the nature of the Carpathian valleys—namely, that they converge all upon one and the same objective. That the enemy has been able to break the incipient offensive by a powerful concentration of artillery is a fact for which the Roumanians cannot be made alone responsible.

Roumania shows three comparatively well-defined regions, running parallel to the range of the Carpathians; that of the plain, which forms the arable area; that of the foot-hills, running up to a maximum height of 2,000 ft., and covered with meadows, vineyards, and orchards; and that of the mountains, reaching sometimes 7,500 ft., and bearing pastures and forests. The mountainous region forms a belt, covering on the average one-third of the total width of the country. It is accessible from Austria-Hungary through nine main passes, not all of which possess good roads, while only three are traversed by railways. From what has been said already it is clear that the three central passes—Toerzburg, Predeal, and Buzau—are the most important, because they are relatively near to one another and make possible a somewhat convergent action upon the heart of the country; also because their possession is necessary to secure the flank of the armies operating at the extremities of the country. The most important of all is, however, the Predeal pass. It leads into the rich valley of the Prahova, through which run the railway and the road forming the shortest direct connection with Bucharest, and in which, centring round the town of Ploesti, are situated the main oilfields of Roumania. Bearing in mind the fact that the question of transport is one of the main difficulties with which the Roumanian General Staff has to cope, it will be easily realised how vital is the possession of these oilfields to Roumania, if we consider that out of 888 engines running on the Roumanian railways in 1913-1914, 751 were using liquid fuel. The Roumanian railways are the largest consumers of petroleum residues,

accounting for 40 per cent. of the total consumption of liquid fuel in the country.

Next in importance are the northern group of passes, in Moldavia, the fall of which would threaten the contact between Russia and Roumania. The least vital sector is in Western Roumania, an invasion of which would only become serious should the enemy succeed in crossing the line of the Aluta River, and thus march on to Bucharest, while at the same time turning the Toerzburg, Predeal, and Buzau passes, where, despite strenuous efforts, he has yet failed to break through.

There have been up to now no important developments along the line of the Danube. The river forms a formidable obstacle, its value for the defence varying with the time of the year. During December, January, and February navigation on the Danube is generally interrupted on account of ice floating on a swift current, and during that period no military operation of any magnitude could be undertaken across it. Sometimes, though not often, the river is completely frozen, and then offers an easy and secure means of communication, not to be relied upon, however, for any length of time. The rise of the waters and the greatly-increased current render a crossing in the spring absolutely impossible. The most favourable period for such an operation is consequently that from July to October, when the waters are at their lowest. Even then the points where a crossing on a large scale is possible are not numerous, and are, generally speaking, those upon which roads and railways converge on either side of the river. An offensive from the south has the advantage that the right bank dominates the left along almost the whole line. On the other hand, as the river is constantly cutting into the Bulgarian shore, it has left on its northern side a terrace, dominating by 100-300 ft. the flood-plain which separates it from the water. This flood-plain reaches often a width of 12 kilometres, and as it is dotted with swamps, marshes, and canals, it reduces the number of possible crossing points and enhances the defensive value of the Danube. Moreover, Roumania controls the navigation on the lower Danube as long as she retains possession of both banks in the Dobruja.

The battles which have been fought out in that province have terminated, on the whole, unfavourably for the Roumanians. The Dobruja is, however, geographically distinct from the Roumanian kingdom. Its possession is valuable in so far as it obviates, in the case of an offensive against the Balkans, the necessity of forcing the obstacle of the Danube—though the destruction of the Cernavoda bridge, and hence of the only railway communication with Roumania proper, has somewhat reduced this advantage. In the hands of the enemy the Dobruja would not offer equal opportunities, as the enemy will still have the barrier of the Danube before him—a barrier the more effective as a crossing could only be attempted in the region of Silistria, at Hirsova, or in the region of Braila. It is not being unduly optimistic to say that even the loss of Constantza has not involved a serious inconvenience. It is of little use to the enemy, as Russia controls the Black Sea, while as long as the Dardanelles remain closed to the Allies Constantza's position must necessarily be a less than secondary one. The port was used for communication with Russia, but this was a connection which could not be regularly relied upon, and Sulina, at the mouth of the Danube, would prove a good substitute, if it had a railway connection with the interior. In the present state of affairs the connection will probably have to be kept up by Galatz and Braila, both points very convenient for reception and distribution. Navigation to these ports may be prevented, it is true, if the winter is severe; but in the case of such a winter the whole of the country, and especially the mountainous region, will lie deep in snow, and we may then expect to see activity on the Roumanian fronts reduced to a minimum.

It is reported that the Provisional Government of Greece at Salonika has a new set of stamps in preparation (says the *Daily Telegraph*). One of the denominations presents a portrait of the leader, M. Venizelos. Amongst the other vignettes to be used will be a group of portraits of the patriot leaders, M. Venizelos, Admiral Condouriotis, and General Danglis. During the recent Balkan wars several scores of new varieties of stamps were added to the lists of Greek issues, but the Hellenic stamp-makers have not been so busy during the present war. Only one notable issue has come out of Greece since the war began, and that was the British issue of "Levant" overprints made at the British Army printing office at Salonika.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

GREAT AGE
AND
BOUQUET.



KING GEORGE



KING OF SPAIN

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Monastir.

In a leading article, "The Recapture of Monastir," *The Times* remarks that the recapture of the city "is a heavy blow to the Bulgarians and to the Bulgaro-German alliance."

At the present advanced season of the year, with a Balkan winter already begun in the highlands and the passes, the event may not prove to be of great military importance. A successful advance by Prilep and the Babuna Pass might possibly succeed in outflanking the Bulgarians facing the British about Doiran, but the country to be traversed is very difficult and the pass very strong. . . . But it is not because of any military consequences which are immediately probable that the success of the Allies will exercise a profound effect throughout the Balkans. The possession of the second city in Macedonia has long been the object of Bulgaria's dearest ambitions, and the passionate desire to win it has been fiercest amongst the Macedonian desperadoes who have controlled her policy for many years and who have been responsible for its most sinister aspect. It was largely the expectation of gratifying this desire which led the Bulgarians to betray the other Balkan peoples who had fought so gallantly and so triumphantly beside them in the great uprising against the Turks. Their humiliation and their disappointment will be deep and angry when they see the fruit of their felony snatched from them after less than twelve months of enjoyment.

There is reason to believe, the article continues, that the internal situation in Bulgaria is "anything but rosy," though "German fictions, German authority, and, above all, German military prestige," have hitherto kept it in hand. When the Bulgarian peasants learn that the city they cherish has been snatched from them and their German patrons, and that the hated Serbians had a great part in the defeat, the situation is unlikely to improve.

Roumania's Difficulties.

Writing in the *Fortnightly Review* (November), "Politicus" is disposed to take a pessimistic view of "The Position of Roumania." Apparently, he writes, Roumania is being attacked by overwhelming forces, both north and south; "her position is serious, and perhaps critical." After considering in some detail the material benefits that Germany would gain by crushing Roumania, "Politicus" turns to the Allies' side of the question.

The destruction of Roumania's army would not merely have a most unfavourable effect on the economic and strategical position, but on the political position as well. Not only the Greeks, but other neutral States seem to be wavering. Some countries appear to be hesitating whether they should join in the war on one side or the other. Roumania's downfall would be a fearful blow to the prestige of the Allies. Neutrals would point the finger of scorn at that nation which, while professing to be the protector of the smaller nations, had not been able to prevent the destruction of Belgium, Serbia, and Roumania. Great Britain cannot be held responsible for Belgium's defeat, because that country was invaded by surprise before Great Britain had begun to create an army. Serbia's downfall is less excusable, because it happened after more than a year of war and in spite of the most solemn and most urgent warnings. Still, it might be urged that British statesmen did not think Bulgaria capable of stabbing Serbia in the back, of perpetrating an unparalleled act of treachery upon those to whom she owed her deliverance from the Turkish yoke. If Roumania should share Serbia's fate, history will hold the Allies responsible for her downfall. The experience of Germany's methods and the destruction of Belgium and Serbia should have made a third disaster impossible. There is a limit to excusable improvidence on the part of nations and their statesmen. Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy could scarcely complain if neutral nations, desirous of benefiting themselves, would conclude that it was dangerous to take the part of the Allies, that it was safer to join the Central European Alliance, and Germany would no doubt make the best use of that situation and force hesitating neutrals into the war at her side by her usual methods.

The Roumanians, "Politicus" fears, may be hopelessly outnumbered; and in modern guns they are at present certainly outranged.

Heavy guns, flying-machines, and machine-guns are of supreme importance. The Roumanians are as brave as the Serbians, but unfortunately they lack long-range guns, quick-firers, and aircraft. France and England are no doubt endeavouring to supply Roumania with all the modern arms which she requires, but as these have to be sent by lengthy, roundabout ways, they may come too late. We have been informed that Russia is pouring men into Roumania as rapidly as possible. However, heavy guns, machine-guns, and an abundance of ammunition are even more urgently needed than men. It is quite understandable that the Russian Supreme Command might hesitate to send to Roumania guns and ammunition from their reserves, which may not be over-large. The Russian generals may consider that these reserve guns and ammunition may be needed by the Russian armies in the West. Still, a withdrawal, or worse, of the

Russian Army would not be so disastrous to the Allies, and even to Russia herself, both morally and materially, as would be Roumania's downfall. The standstill of the Russian operations, and even the withdrawal of the Russian troops, would only be temporary, but it may be doubted whether Roumania's destruction would also be temporary. A large State can easily overcome lost battles and invasions. A small State is apt to disappear if invaded in force by a ruthless enemy.

An American View.

Equally pessimistic is the view expressed by the *Independent* (New York) of November 6, in an article headed "Roumania in Peril." We quote the opening and concluding paragraphs:—

Judging by the looks of things, Ferdinand of Roumania may soon have to decide whether he will stay in his capital and be captured or escape by the one railroad that is still open and join the other kings in exile, Albert of Belgium, Peter of Serbia, and Nicholas of Montenegro. The Roumanians seem helpless. The Russians have failed to come to their rescue and no other country can.

Apparently the Allies made a mistake in bringing Roumania into the war at this time. The hopes that were entertained a few weeks ago, that it would mean the conquest of Hungary, the crushing of Bulgaria, and the recovery of Serbia, have proved fallacious. Doubtless the entrance of Roumania did cause a weakening of the other fronts, and to this we may ascribe the gains of the British on the Somme, of the French at Verdun, and of the Italians at Gorizia. But these gains so far do not begin to compensate for what the Germans will gain if they carry out their present campaign to completion.

Two years ago, when the Allies were urging Roumania to join them, Premier Bratiano refused, saying that Roumania was too exposed to enter upon such an adventure without ample guarantees. He urged that his country was fortified only on the eastern side against Russia, that being allied with Austria-Hungary the Carpathians had never been put into a state of defence nor mountain troops developed, that the Roumanian army was dependent upon Austria and Germany for its war material, and that a successful offensive from Hungary would soon penetrate to the capital and would then cut the country in two.

These were certainly cogent arguments against entering the war, and one wonders what guarantees the Allies offered sufficiently strong to make him reverse his judgment, especially since the participation of Bulgaria has more than doubled the danger to Roumania.

Turkey and Her Allies.

On Monday the *Morning Post* published an article, headed "Germany's Asiatic Ally," by its Petrograd correspondent. The writer declares:—

There are not wanting signs that Germany is disposed to fling away like a sucked orange her Turkish ally. Hindenburg's plans clearly indicate the concentration of Germany's still very formidable strength upon the European fronts. Turkey has been drained of men for service under the German command. Therefore Turkey has lost value in German eyes, and will probably be left to her inevitable fate. The time seems ripe for an earnest diplomatic effort to detach from Germany her Asiatic Ally, whose present attitude indicates her recognition that the penultimate stage of the war has been reached.

"Who is It?"

In an article with the above heading, the *Evening Standard* asks who is responsible for the tenderness shown to King Constantine by the Entente. We quote the following passages:—

It is understood that certain influences in Russia, as well as in this country, were adverse to any dynastic changes in Greece. There must be, whatever the cost, no removal of King Constantine from the throne he has disgraced. That attitude might be understandable were not the interests at stake so enormous. But it is not the attitude of Germany. The Kaiser, we imagine, is as Royalist as most people. Yet he bombs the palace at Bucharest, and would, we may believe, have very little hesitation in dealing drastically with his Hohenzollern kinsmen on the Roumanian throne. There is a piquant contrast between our tenderness for the Kaiser's brother-in-law and the German treatment of King Albert of Belgium and King Ferdinand.

It is, we think, the duty of the House of Commons to insist on knowing who is responsible for the weak handling of the Greek situation and the extraordinary failure to act strongly against Bulgaria. If there are reasons so grave and dark that it is unsafe to let the people know, Parliament at least should be informed in secret session.

It would then be able to judge whether, in the circumstances, it is worth while to take what risks there may be in order to get rid of the Athens Court incubus. If, on the other hand, the only cause of our troubles is Viscount Grey's constitutional incapacity to come to a decision, the frank expression of Parliamentary opinion would probably suffice to get rid of that heavy handicap.

Gallant Roumanians.

In the *Daily Telegraph* (November 20), Mr. H. M. Donohoe describes "A Visit to the Roumanian Front." The Roumanian, he declares, "is a splendid soldier."

In the difficult passes of the Carpathians they have held back a powerful and well-organised enemy. They have defended their fatherland and at the same time fought the battle of our common

cause with a tenacity and heroism unequalled, perhaps, in the annals of history. Here is an edifying spectacle of a little nation, undaunted by the odds, exhibiting all the abnegations and resolution of the ancestral Romans, unhesitatingly shedding its blood that its sons might be saved from the humiliation of passing beneath the Prussian yoke.

And here is an extract which will show what manner of foe the Roumanian soldier has to face.

The humane treatment by the Roumanians of their wounded enemy is in marked contrast to the savage cruelty exhibited by the Hungarians when some Roumanians fell into their hands. In one hospital I saw two Roumanians, portions of whose tongues had been amputated by their Hungarian captors. These maltreated soldiers were captured by a patrol, and because they refused to give information of essential importance to the enemy the tips of their tongues were hacked off with sword-bayonets. They then set at liberty the victims, who are recovering from their terrible injuries, though they have lost the power of speech, and it is feared they may be dumb for life.

"Hoch" and "Hura."

The effect of the German "Hoch!" and the Roumanian "Hura" is amusingly contrasted by Mr. Donohoe. He writes:—

The prisoners more recently captured were Prussians—sturdy fellows, possessing a considerable but diminished quantity of national arrogance. They are for the most part frank as soldiers are who have fought and been vanquished. One Prussian of expansive girth and a face like a ripe apple said he had been told that the Roumanians were an untrained rabble, who were sure to run when the Germans appeared and shouted "Hoch!" but by that time personal contact with the previously despised enemy had inspired respect for the Roumanian soldier.

From chats with the prisoners I found it was the Roumanian bayonet which Bavarian and Prussian alike dreaded most. The Roumanian "Hura!" uttered by a charging line of infantry invariably produced a disquieting and oftentimes a demoralising effect among the Boche troops. In the base hospital I came across a Prussian who had been fighting since the war began. He had been on all the European fronts. Unbarring his arm, he showed a scar from a British bullet received at Ypres. Now he had come from the Russian front, and was laid low by Roumanian shrapnel in an attack through the Vulcan Pass. He was a philosophic chap, keen to seek any bright side lurking amidst all the dark horrors of war. He said laughingly that the amount of metal of one kind or another which he had carried in his body would be worth melting down.

Conditions in Bulgaria.

The *Evening Standard* published last Saturday an article by its Stockholm correspondent, setting forth the views expressed by a Bulgarian, a M. Dmitri Radistcheff, "a strong friend of the Entente, who was implicated in the original protest movement against King Ferdinand's betrayal. M. Radistcheff left Bulgaria a few hours before Roumania declared war on Austria, and he reports that at that time the Bulgarian Court and the whole Germanophile party were "discouraged and almost panic stricken."

Before his flight M. Radistcheff went all over Bulgaria. He found everywhere a lack of necessities. This results from the fact that when Bulgaria joined Germany the Radoslavoff Press proclaimed that peace would immediately follow Serbia's conquest. Two months would suffice. No economic preparations were made for a long war, and since last Christmas Germany and Austria have supplied nothing but munitions.

The following extracts from the article speak for themselves:—

During the past summer, reports M. Radistcheff, there has been a violent reaction against the war. In Sofia anti-war manifestations have taken place, and in August heads were broken close to the statue of the Czar Alexander II. . . . Chief centre of anti-war and pro-Entente feeling is Jamboli, an industrial town on the railway to Burghaz. "Jamboli," M. Radistcheff says, "has been against the war all along, and since the Entente's summer successes it has almost shaken off Sofia's rule. Thus one of the kingdom's largest towns is practically in a state of rebellion. The Jamboli anti-war party has a new leader, a young man named Theodoroff, whom the Government dares not touch, though he openly proclaimed that if Bulgaria is defeated the nation will hang King Ferdinand."

Thousands of Bulgarians, M. Radistcheff thinks, would rejoice to see Ferdinand's policy defeated, even if that involves defeat of the Bulgarian army. One hears that wish openly expressed everywhere; and the Germans know this and dread it. Sofia teems with Germans who profess to be helping in the sanitary service, but in fact are political agents with the mission of keeping Bulgaria in order. In the Military Governor's office are two German officers who direct what measures shall be taken against demonstrations and pro-Russians. In Philippopolis Germans in the same position made themselves so hated that their windows were smashed. In the hotels there is a great deal of demonstrative fraternising between the Germans and the anti-Russian minority of our officers, and there is much drinking or healths of the "Brother Doitchoes." The mass of the nation detests the "Doitchoes."

"In general," says M. Radistcheff, "we Bulgarians are sick of the war; and if the Entente Powers after a victory offer us

reasonable terms to detach us from 'Doitcho' tutelage, practically all Bulgaria will respond."

It is not surprising to be told that "King Ferdinand is in a fright both for his personal position and for the outcome of the war. He keeps very much to himself, and is trying to free himself from responsibility for the conduct of diplomacy and military operations. Sofia is not always allowed to know whether he is with the army, in his palace in the city, or at his farm on Mount Vitosch, close by."

Articles to Note.

"Roumania and the Danube," by H. Charles Woods; "Speculations on New Near-Eastern Frontiers After the War," by Lieut.-Colonel L. A. Waddell; "Armenian's Lullaby" (poem), by Archag Tchobanian; and "A Nestorian Bishop and His Commentaries," by Henri M. Leon, in the *Asiatic Review* (November 15).

"Turk and Armenian: A Chapter of Secret History," in the *Manchester Guardian* (November 16).

"Belgium-Poland-Roumania," by "Politicus," in the *Outlook* (November 18).

"A Personal View of Tsar Ferdinand," by M. C. Miyatovich, in the *Daily Mirror* (November 21).

THE SYRIANS IN AMERICA.

"A. S." writes:—*Al-Moustakbal* gives the Arabic text of the call of the Syrian Patriotic Association to its countrymen in America to come forward and volunteer for service with the Entente in defence of liberty and civilisation. The appeal takes three full columns, which would be equal, if translated into English or French, to six columns of *The Times*! For this no doubt those in Syria will have to pay to their present masters, Turks and Germans.

M. Lambrakis, acting chief editor of the *Patris*, was last week arrested on a charge of high treason in publishing the documents regarding the handing over of Fort Rupel to the Bulgarians, which have been reproduced in his paper.

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam, dated November 16, announces:—According to a telegram from Beyrout a war tribunal has sentenced to death in contumaciam Hussein Kemal Pasha—the Sultan of Egypt—on the ground that he placed under foreign rule constituent parts of the Ottoman Empire. The sentence has been confirmed by an Imperial Decree.

We have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck some specimens of their Christmas cards and booklets, calendars and postcards. These are all produced in the excellent style for which the firm is noted, and it is safe to say that, so long as British firms can, and will, provide such goods at the prices at which Messrs. Tuck put these articles on the market, there can never be any excuse for the importation of the "Printed-in-Bavaria" card or almanac. The same remark applies to the postcards. In this branch Messrs. Tuck have always more than held their own, and, judging by the specimens they have forwarded us, they are likely to continue to do so with ease. The picture postcard can be "a thing of beauty," but it is only too often a thing of unspeakable vulgarity. Messrs. Tuck provide the former, but not the latter, class, and they have also several series which are really "funny without being vulgar." One of these, depicting poultry in various amusing tableaux, is as good as anything we have seen. What may be called the "patriotic" card is well to the fore, and it is noteworthy that in the selection of wording excellent taste has been displayed. Such cards can give nothing but pleasure to the recipients, and are unlikely to jar on the feelings even at times like these, when the Christmas spirit cannot possibly be rollicking. The books for children, especially for the very tiny children, which Messrs. Tuck publish, are again far superior to those "printed in Germany." "Father Tuck's Annual," now in its nineteenth year, is sure to be popular in the nursery, and anyone looking for a book for the smallest boy or girl can make no mistake in choosing this old favourite.

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Persian Gulf Medals.

Nov. 15.

COLONEL YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether the medal granted to the officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Indian Marine for services in the gun-running operations in the Persian Gulf and adjacent countries during the years 1909 to 1914 had been granted to the troops employed at various places in the same operations; and, if not, would he take measures for the grant of this medal to the troops concerned?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The medal granted is a naval one. The question of the grant of a medal to the troops employed for the suppression of gun-running was fully considered in 1913 and 1914, and I see no ground for re-opening it.

The Allies in Greece.

Nov. 16.

MR. LYNCH asked if any definition was available of the limits of interference of the representatives of the Allies in the affairs of Greece on the mainland; whether their authority was exercised in preventing Greek soldiers from going over to the Germans; and whether, in view of the confusion arising from what was practically a dual régime in Greece, the Foreign Office would now advise the recognition of the Venizelos Government?

LORD R. CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. All proper steps will be taken to safeguard the military position of the Allied Forces. I can add nothing to what has already been said on the last part of the question.

SIR E. CORNWALL asked whether the noble Lord could give the House any information with regard to the activities of the Greek Royalist troops; and whether satisfactory assurances were being received from the Athens Government on the subject.

LORD R. CECIL: According to the decrees issued by the King of Greece, the Greek Army is to be reduced to a peace footing, and the 3rd and 4th Army Corps are to be removed from Thessaly to the Morea. The dispositions necessary to effect this movement were to have been initiated on the 12th inst., and I have not heard that any delay has occurred. I would add that the Allied Governments are at present considering the best means whereby all possibility of armed conflict between the Greek forces and the forces which have joined M. Venizelos can be avoided.

Imprisoned Venizelists.

Nov. 21.

SIR E. CORNWALL asked whether officers given leave by the Committee of National Defence at Salonika had been imprisoned by the orders of King Constantine on account of their anti-Bulgarian sentiments, and whether any steps had been taken to obtain their release.

LORD R. CECIL: The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

MR. MALCOLM asked whether it was officially known that about ninety British officers taken at Kut had been for many weeks put in close confinement at Yuzgat, in Asia Minor; if so, what steps were being taken to provide them with food and warm clothing; and whether any reliable information as to their treatment was available.

MR. HOPK: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative; the United States Ambassador has been requested to ask the United States Embassy at Constantinople by telegram for information on the points referred to. I would add that we have asked the United States Embassy at Constantinople to endeavour to secure the removal of our prisoners of war at this camp to some more suitable place of internment.

Relations with Provisional Government.

MR. R. M'NEILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that the Government had intimated to M. Venizelos that his Government is recognised by the Allies as the *de facto* authority in the districts where it was established, and of the importance to the Allied cause of his Majesty's Government being fully and accurately informed as to the policy, intentions, and wishes of M. Venizelos and the development of a situation that changed from day to day, whether he would invite M. Venizelos to accredit an official diplomatic representative of his Government to London and despatch an official diplomatic representative of his Majesty to Salonika.

LORD R. CECIL: His Majesty's Government are in constant communication with M. Venizelos through his Majesty's Consul-General at Salonika, and there does not appear on this ground to be any reason to depart from this method of communication, which has hitherto worked quite satisfactorily; nor could such a departure be made except in concert and agreement with the Allies.

SIR E. CARSON inquired whether any attempt had been made to interest the Allies in the question of bringing about here the appointment of a representative of M. Venizelos.

LORD R. CECIL: I hesitate to reply on the spur of the moment about any communications which may have passed between this country and our Allies, but I am sure they are fully conscious of the importance of the question.

MR. ASHLEY: Would it not be better to have a diplomatic representative of a friendly Greek Government rather than of a hostile Greek king?

Operations in "Asia Minor."

MR. BILLING asked leave to move the adjournment of the House to call attention to an "urgent matter of public importance," namely, the breakdown of the inland water transport operations, the despatch of the marine transport necessary for the operations in Asia Minor, and to the urgent and vital need of immediate

co-operation between the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Board of Trade for the transportation of these craft, so that present and future delay in their despatch should be avoided so as to prevent the failure of future military operations in Asia Minor.—The requisite number of members not supporting, leave to move was refused.

The Situation in Greece.

On the motion for the adjournment of the House, MR. LYNCH raised the question of the situation in Greece, which, he said, was impeding the proper carrying out of the campaign in the Balkans. The Greek Government—which was not a Government but a usurpation—was using all manner of force to the friends of the Allies.

The hon. member had been speaking five minutes when the House was "counted out."

LORD R. CECIL, replying to SIR E. CORNWALL, said: An arrangement has been come to between the Allied Powers and the Greek Government providing for the creation of a neutral zone between Thessaly and the districts of Southern Macedonia occupied by the forces of the Venizelist Government. The execution of this arrangement has been left to the French General Commanding-in-Chief the Allied Forces at Salonika. Lord R. Cecil added that the negotiations carried on in Athens by the Entente Powers were both direct with King Constantine and through the usual diplomatic channels. Replying to another question, whether King Constantine had asked the Allies for any promise or assurance that the Venizelist movement should not extend beyond its present limits, LORD R. CECIL said: I do not think it is possible consistently with the public interest to say anything at present about what King Constantine may have asked or what the Allies have replied about the matters alluded to in the question. It must also be borne in mind that all these questions about Greece relate to matters in which his Majesty's Government is acting in constant consultation and agreement with the Allies, and about which it is not always possible to make public statements except in consultation and agreement with them.

Gallipoli Graves.

MR. FORSTER, replying to MR. MALCOLM, said no report from the Apostolic delegate at Constantinople had been communicated to the British Government upon the state of English graves at Gallipoli. They were informed, however, that photographs of the graves had been taken, and that the Vatican would supply us with reproductions. He need hardly say that the Government very highly appreciated the Pope's solicitude in this matter.

M. Venizelos's Troops.

MR. FORSTER informed SIR E. CORNWALL that M. Venizelos's troops formed part of the Allied Army under the command of General Sarraill, and the question of the issue of separate *communiqués* with regard to their operations was not a matter for the British Government.

MR. LYNCH: Is it not a fact that the value of these forces is completely neutralised by reason of the efforts being made to prop up a pro-German Prince?

No answer was given.

COMFORTS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

In a letter to the Press, Lady Murray writes:—The work of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Fund has been merged with that of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund with a view to more economical organisation and more effectively supplying the troops in the various theatres of war. I venture to ask those who have previously contributed money and gifts in kind for our soldiers in Egypt and Salonika to continue their generous support of the Fund. During the coming winter comforts will be much needed, especially in the Balkans, where the weather is so severe. The following is an extract from a letter, dated October 9, from my husband, General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief in Egypt:—

"Owing to the great extremes of temperature experienced by the troops on the desert frontiers of Egypt, there is always an urgent need for additions to what is provided officially, good though this provision is. The troops under my command greatly appreciate the gifts they have received from the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Fund, and I hope the Fund will continue to find generous support."

Lieut.-General Milne, Commanding the Salonika Army, writes as follows under date October 11:—

"A considerable number of gifts have from time to time been received by me from the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Fund for distribution to the troops of this Army, and I am now in a position to place on record how thoroughly the articles sent out have been appreciated by all the recipients. The gifts have been well and wisely selected for their utility, and on behalf of the Salonika Army I wish to express our grateful thanks to the President and members of your Committee, as well as to all the donors of the articles we have received."

The things most appreciated by our soldiers are socks, handkerchiefs, towels (small bath), tobacco, sweets, matches, pipes, candles, soap, stationery, bootlaces (leather), cigarettes, tooth-brushes, indoor games, packs of cards, and any articles of warm clothing. Contributions of money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, cheques crossed Barclay and Co., and gifts in kind should be forwarded to Mrs. William Slater, Hon. Secretary, Q.A.F.F.F., 24A, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

The National Bank of Egypt, in its return of the note circulation, compiled up to September 30, shows that the total expanded during the month from £11,200,000 to £13,300,000. There was a slight increase in gold, which now stands at £6,300,400, while, on the authority of the Egyptian Government, £349,600 of British Treasury bills were deposited in lieu of metal, bringing the total of gold and Treasury bills combined up to £6,650,000—that is, 50 per cent. of the note issue. There are in hand, however, other securities of a like amount—namely, Egyptian Treasury bills £2,876,250; Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £609,060; and British Treasury bills, £3,164,690. Meanwhile activity in the cotton industry continues, and it is expected that a further expansion in the note issue will be disclosed in the returns for October when they are issued.

In my Notes of November 10 I referred to the report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt. A more extended summary of the document is published elsewhere in the present number of THE NEAR EAST, and I fear Allied bondholders, who hold rather more than 80 per cent. of the total debt, will not gain much consolation from it. It would seem that only 15 per cent. of the sum due to bondholders on account of the interest for the second half of 1915 has been paid, the fortunate recipients, needless to say, being Germans and Austrians, who, with the Turkish representatives, now constitute the Council of Administration. All that it is possible to say at the moment is that the elaborate international organisation designed to finance Turkey's debt has broken down completely, and that a new arrangement will have to be made when the war comes to an end. Meantime comment is superfluous.

Mr. H. A. Richardson, the chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, issued a grave warning to "speculators" in Egyptian cotton at the annual general meeting of the bank on Tuesday. The speculation that had been rampant in the cotton markets, he said, unless stopped by the new regulations adopted last week in the Liverpool Cotton Exchange, would make business as difficult as it would be dangerous for the remainder of the Egyptian season. The bank must do its share in financing the business; but however careful it might be, and however much alive to the situation, they could not be sure of immunity from loss. Reference to our Manchester report will show that the situation remains acute.

The uncomfortable situation in Roumania adds importance to the report of the International Institute of Agriculture, which states that on July 31, 1917, the world's surplus of wheat will be only 12,586,000 quintals. The world's annual consumption is 144,000,000 quintals. "This year," says the report, "the world has been borrowing from last year's crop over 94,000,000 quintals of wheat. If next year's harvest should be as poor as this all stocks will be exhausted, unless by then the Russian stock of wheat, now unexportable for military reasons, should

be available. The amount of this is now estimated at over 82,000,000 quintals."

In my notes last week I invited attention to an article in the *Fortnightly Review* in which the writer, "Politicus," dealt very faithfully with the question of Roumania. What he has to say about the country as a producer of wheat and cereals is very much to the point. It is not generally known that until recently the country was the third largest exporter of wheat in the world, coming immediately after the United States and Russia. She exports per year more wheat than does Canada, so that ("Politicus" continues) "by conquering Roumania Germany would conquer another Canada." How many British people realize this, I wonder?

In 1911 "Roumania exported more than 4,000,000 tons of grain, flour, etc. Roumania produces, as a rule, about 10,000,000 tons of grain of every kind. If Germany should succeed in subduing Roumania she would undoubtedly follow her traditional policy of confiscating foodstuffs right and left and starving the population." It comes to this, that by defeating Roumania Germany can provide herself with all the foodstuffs which she and her ally need so badly. That would mean, it ought not to be necessary to point out, that the British blockade which now has reached a high pitch of efficiency, would be nullified to a very grave extent, which, again, would mean that the enemy would be placed in a position to battle on indefinitely. For, it must be remembered, Germany would be able to acquire, not only materials and food, but also huge supplies of minerals, oils, and many other commodities useful in warfare.

I am glad to learn that commercial concerns interested in Mesopotamia have given a great lead to the Comforts Fund for the British troops in that country. In the first list of subscribers are to be found such names as Messrs. Grace, Bros. and Co., Ltd., the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Limited, the Ellerman Lines, Messrs. Strick, Scott and Co., the Strick Line, the Imperial Bank of Persia, the P. and O., Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie and Co., the Chartered Bank, Messrs. Lynch Bros., the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co., etc. The office of the Fund is at 15, Oldford Street, Mayfair, London, W.

For the benefit of those who have read statements to the contrary, I am able to state that the decision of the Government to organise another exhibition of Egyptian industries at Cairo has not been departed from in any way, nor has there ever been any proposal to defer the exhibition until after the war. It is proposed to hold the function about November, 1917, and the Department of Technical, Industrial and Commercial Education is now considering arrangements to that effect.

A supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal*, which was issued yesterday, contained complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported from Denmark, France (including Algeria), Greece, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands. This supplement also

contains a complete list of articles which are prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom. Recently there has been some confusion on these points, particularly in Britain, as to the restrictions imposed abroad, and it ought not to be necessary to point out that British merchants will do well to consult this "book of the ban."

Recently some American firms, induced thereto I have no doubt by the representations of the officers of the finely organised United States Consular service, have begun operations in some of the Turkish centres which, in times of peace, were controlled from the trade point of view by Allied subjects. The American campaign, I hear, is not popular with the Turks, who are said to have protested to Constantinople on the subject. News from Turkey is so precarious, both as to substance and reliability, however, that we shall probably have to wait a considerable time before we are able to learn the truth regarding the invasion.

The meat problem in Egypt, to which I referred a fortnight ago, continues to excite a great deal of attention. Prices, both in the Sudan and Egypt, seem to have advanced by anything between 25 per cent. and 40 per cent. An attempt has been made to saddle the Government with much of the responsibility for the present condition of affairs; it has also been stated that restrictions had been imposed upon the export of cattle from the Sudan—that "no export of cattle was allowed from the Sudan under £10,000"—but this statement has been characterized in well-informed quarters as "arrant nonsense." As a matter of fact, the Sudan trade is for the time being the principal source of supply from "abroad," with the exception of small imports from Cyprus. Regarding the other restrictions here is the case in their support as it was presented to a representative of the *Egyptian Gazette*:—"All cattle arriving are entrained at Shellal, and sent direct to Alexandria and Cairo quarantines to be slaughtered in adjacent abattoirs. Complete freedom cannot be allowed owing to the difficulty of diagnosing pleuro-pneumonia and detecting the very mild cases of cattle plague in the living animal. Apart from such measures which are necessary in the interest of public safety, the restrictions at present are remarkably light. There is, and can always be, plenty of meat obtainable at a price, and as far as Cairo is concerned, though higher prices do obtain, the 'crisis' is largely a figment of the butchers' imagination." The facts appear to be that there is a shortage, that prices are unusually high, but that the imports of Sudan cattle will increase considerably as there is an inexhaustible supply of live stock there without a market for local consumption.

I hear that American growers and exporters of fruit are making a big bid for the trade in South Germany, which formerly went to Bosnia, Serbia, and other Balkan countries. Before the war the nationals of these little States did thriving and prosperous business, notably in plums, and were able to do so because they could sell at rock-bottom prices fruit which possessed a finer aroma than even the famous "Santa Clara" plum.

COMMENTATOR.

Labour Problem in Busreh.

2,000 Indian Convict Volunteers from the Prisons of the Punjab.

It was not surprising that one of the earliest problems which confronted those to whom had been entrusted the civil administration of the occupied territory north of Busreh should have been connected with labour. The indigenous population, for various reasons, did not offer much scope for recruiting operations, and the authorities, many of whom received their appointments from India, naturally enough regarded that country as a promising source of supply.

Unfortunately, however, India has labour problems of her own. There is scarcely an industry that is not crying its troubles aloud, from Assam to the Punjab, and it was evident that the usual type of Indian labourer was not available for export. Then somebody had a brain wave: why not try convict labour? Indian prisoners as a whole are pretty docile, they are a healthy class—when they have been long enough in prison to reap the benefit of official medical attention—and are excellent labourers.

First Batch of 800 Men.

To the Government of India, then, the idea was suggested, and with unusual promptness—probably because of the urgency of the problem—consideration was given to it, with the result that on October 18, the first batch of 800 men left Lahore for Karachi, en route to the Persian Gulf. The initial "corps" has been taken from the great central prison at Lahore—the criminal population there at the time the selection was made numbered 3,000—and its members hail from all parts of the Punjab. The "non-commissioned officers" were chosen from the Indian paid warders, and the mates from the convict overseers, a class specially selected for good conduct. The men themselves were chosen from among volunteers by the military authorities and they are, for the most part, prisoners serving sentences not exceeding five years. The former will receive Rs. 30 (£2) per mensem, the latter Rs. 15 (£1), and the rank and file Rs. 10 (13s. 4d.). In every case the men will receive free kit and rations. On the day before they left Lahore all ranks received three months' pay in advance.

When the men were first informed of the scheme, and invited to volunteer, many were dubious; but we are told that the idea was reconsidered, taken up with enthusiasm, and volunteers were many. As a matter of fact when the selection was made the successful candidates were delighted. The chance was a great one, for a promise of release from the date of embarkation at Karachi was made to all who enlisted, conditional of course on their good behaviour and satisfactory work during the period of their employment. The majority of the men selected were imprisoned for offences not altogether serious; indeed, the corps was recruited largely from among these. A young officer of the Indian Army Reserve, and a warrant officer, have gone with the first corps and they are the only Europeans attached to it. The Civil authorities have provided four subordinate officers of the provincial civil service to act as general supervisors. The first corps, which also has its own doctor and clerical staff, will be known as the Sixth Porter Corps, and it is intended for service in unloading steamers at Busreh.

Three days after the despatch of the first party a second corps, known as the Tenth Labour Corps, was raised. This consisted of about 1,200 men, including about 100 skilled artisans of the carpenter, blacksmith and mason classes. This second unit was re-

cruited from the Lahore, Multan and Montgomery Central Jails, and were despatched under the personal supervision of the Inspector-General of Prisons of the Punjab. It may be mentioned that apart from these two corps some 800 volunteers of the "sweeper" (scavenger) class left for Mesopotamia some months ago.

Salvation Army Enterprise.

These do not exhaust all possibilities, however. The Salvation Army, led in India by Commissioner Booth Tucker, a former member of the Indian Civil Service in the Punjab, has interested itself in labour questions very largely during the last ten years. Beginning first as an entirely religious body, the Army discovered that if it was to be successful it would have to go down to the underworld: its work amongst the great and numerous criminal tribes followed in every province in the country. Whole communities, of which the police had washed their hands, except to round them up and to incarcerate them—the tribes were a serious menace to law and order and to the peace of the countryside which they infested—were handed over to the spiritual and social care of the Salvation Army. To-day thousands of these criminals have been converted into honest labourers and citizens, and from amongst these the Army would be able to recruit any quantity of good reliable labour. Already the organisation has sent detachments of porters to Busreh under European officers, and we need have no doubt that the movement will make for the industrial good of the occupied territory.

The assumption is, therefore, that the labour problem in and around Busreh will not present insurmountable difficulties in its solution.

Persian Labour.

So far as indigenous labour is concerned, the office of the Controller of Native Labour at Busreh has been opened at the mouth of the Ashar Creek. The following notification has been issued:—

"It is hereby notified that the military authorities have ordered that all Persian labourers and hammals must register themselves at the office of the Controller of Native Labour which has been opened at the mouth of the Ashar Creek. They will be provided free of cost with an armet which they must wear at all times. No charge will be made for this armet or for registration. Any Persian labourer or hammal found working for the Government or for private persons after November 1 who has not been registered and is not in the possession of a badge will be liable to imprisonment and fine."

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

Apropos the report of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Co., Limited, Mr. Hugh Reeves writes to the *Financial Times*:—"One has only to look at the balance-sheet to apprehend that the assets, particularly the ships in their improved condition, stand at a very low figure. Those who know the company's freehold properties in Alexandria and Suez will also realise that the figure upheld is far below intrinsic or commercial value."

"The national position of this undertaking, too, should not be lost sight of. For many years it has been the principal British shipping company in Egypt, providing services from time to time required by the Egyptian Government, and among these the important annual pilgrim service for the natives. It is a fact that these services were not too well remunerated, and the expansion of general Mediterranean trading was hampered by the stiff competition of the Austrian Lloyd and other various services."

"It is to be hoped that after the war this purely British company will be made the centre of local shipping development in the interests both of the Protectorate and the British Empire."

TRADE IN LIBYA.

American Activity in Italy's North African Colony.

Attention has been drawn frequently in these columns to the thoroughgoing manner in which the American Consular Service watches and nurses foreign markets; British merchants tell us that they are doing so to some purpose, and that since the war began American manufacturers and shippers have been able to open up new markets and to extend their influence in others.

A case in point seems to be Libya, the Italian North African colony. From a consular report published recently we learn that although war conditions were felt severely in the colony in 1915, American imports increased in value from \$137,625 in 1914 to \$216,300, or rather more than 57 per cent. The Consul adds to his report: "The result clearly demonstrates how necessity is causing the flow of American products to remote fields, even to fields in which no American effort is put forth." Judging from the facts and figures of this report, we are not so sure as to the absence of "effort."

Of the future the Consul writes:—"The chance of any general improvement in commerce before the close of the war in Europe is remote, although engagements in some lines would be accelerated meanwhile if intercourse with the interior could be resumed. Necessity will turn inquiry to American products even more than in 1915, and if they are stocked in Italy further increases should be registered in 1916. . . . The special endeavour should be made in Italy. Conditions render the imposition of the middleman of that country between the American exporter and the Tripoli buyer a necessity in all but a few cases. This is particularly true of tools, hardware, electric fittings, cutlery, hosiery, and other small wares."

British manufacturers and merchant shippers may be glad to know what are the more important of the lines in which the Americans trade in the country. They are:

Cameras and photographic supplies, camp beds, canned goods, flour, dried fruit, electric fittings, agricultural implements, hardware and cutlery, safety razors, tools, typewriters, boots and shoes, saddlery, trunks, etc., benzine, cottonseed, fuel, lubricating, petroleum, fountain pens, pork products, pumps and windmills, roofing materials, rubber shoes, toilet articles, furniture and lumber.

Discussing export activities the Consul says that in 1914 the declared exports to the United States totalled \$57,042, in value, and included Sudan-tanned goat-skins worth \$56,871; ostrich feathers, \$163; and dates, \$8. In 1915 only Sudan-tanned goatskins were invoiced, their value being \$44,483, a decrease of nearly 22 per cent. This business was retarded by the general decree forbidding exports to foreign countries. Later, on representations made to the local authorities, the decree was modified to allow the sale in non-enemy countries of such skins as might not be required in Italy, a special permit being necessary for each intended shipment. Business continues on these terms, but few contracts are being entered into. Present-day freights on the long sea haul from Lagos to Tripoli, via Liverpool, have doubtless prevented the usual numbers reaching this city for sorting and repacking.

Direct communications between Tripoli and the United States are being discussed. "There is no question that direct steamer communication between Tripoli and the United States would quicken the interest in American goods," says the Consul. "It is not anticipated, however, that such a service will be feasible until some company with American freights for Moroccan, Algerian, Tunisian, Maltese, Egyptian, and other Levantine ports, consents to make calls at this port, which lies some 225 miles off the marine highway that leads from the Straits of Gibraltar, passing between Tunis and the Island of Sicily and on to Alexandria and Port Said. The initial calls would not be profitable, but any loss made could not materially affect the income from the voyage as a whole, while one of the greatest obstacles to first-hand intercourse between American exporter and Tripoli importer would be removed."

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA PROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

OTTOMAN DEBT.

Report by Enemy Members of the Council.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has received a copy of the report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt (consisting at present of the German, Austrian and Turkish members) covering the period from March, 1914, to March, 1915, of which we were able to publish a summary in our issue of November 10.

The gross receipts in 1914-15 from all sources showed a decrease of 33.40 per cent., as compared with 1913-14, viz.:—

1913-14	£T. 5,378,782
1914-15	3,581,434

Decrease..... 1,797,438

It must be remembered, however, that in 1913-14 the receipts were the largest on record. In 1912-13 they amounted to £T4,536,605.

The falling off in the revenues is, of course, chiefly due to the disturbance caused by the war, into which Turkey entered in November, 1914. But, in addition to this, the Turkish Government in 1914-15 failed to pay to the Debt Council the sums agreed upon in substitution of (1) the Eastern Roumelian annuity, viz., £T114,000, and (2) the Cyprus tribute from the surplus of the tobacco tithes, viz., £T129,000. Default was also made in payment of the second half-yearly instalment of the Tumbeki revenue, amounting to £T25,000. These debts, aggregating £T268,000, were carried forward to the current year.

The expenditure of the Debt Administration was as follows:—

1913-14	£T. 681,656
1914-15	619,094

Decrease..... 62,562

After crediting the gross receipts with £T30,611 brought forward from the previous account, and debiting them with the above £T619,094 and miscellaneous charges amounting to £T104,863, there remained a net receipt of £T2,888,088, as against £T4,385,914 in 1913-14 and £T3,743,335 in 1912-13.

The annuity required for the service of the Unified Debt and Lottery bonds being £T2,157,375, there was a surplus of £T730,712, of which 75 per cent., or £T538,034, was paid to the Turkish Government, the remaining 25 per cent., or £T182,678, which is applicable to extraordinary sinking fund, being carried forward to the following financial year.

It appears from the report that, with the exception of the non-payment of the above-mentioned Annuities, the provisions of the Decree of Mouharrem have been respected by the Turkish Government.

Of the amount required to pay the half-yearly interest on the bonds of the Unified Debt outstanding on September 1-14, 1914, only a little over 15 per cent. was actually expended. If this percentage represents the amount of the Unified Debt held by the subjects of the Central Powers and by neutrals there would remain 85 per cent. in the hands of nationals of the Entente, who, under existing circumstances, are unable to encash their coupons. No amortisation of the bonds is mentioned in the report as having taken place during the second half of 1914-15.

According to a statement said to have been made at a meeting of the Debt Council in March last the revenues collected by the council for the service of loans outside of the Decree of Mouharrem and on account of railway guarantees fell from £T3,228,041 in 1913-14 to £T1,308,110 in 1914-15. It was also stated that the receipts of the Debt Administration for 1915-16 showed a considerable falling off

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce have been informed by the Cotton Export Committee that that body will not consider any application made on or after November 22 instant in which all-cotton goods are included with other goods. Separate applications in respect of all-cotton goods must be made. It would be advisable in the case of mixed orders for the all-cotton goods to be packed separately.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market this week has been notable for wild fluctuations in raw cotton rates. Many ups and downs have occurred in American descriptions, but most violent changes have transpired in Egyptian futures. On Tuesday last, in a little over an hour, there was a drop of 2½d. a lb. in Liverpool. It seems quite evident that the new regulations of the Liverpool Cotton Association to check speculation have proved futile. If any further move is made in this direction it is suggested that business should only be done for cash, with a settlement each day. In yarn and piece goods business has been very adversely affected by the uncertain outlook. There is undoubtedly increased nervousness amongst traders as to what may happen in the near future. Under the circumstances, producers have not been at all anxious to sell, and buyers have limited their purchases as much as possible.

Encouraging letters and telegrams continue to be received as to clearances of cloth in Egypt, and although demand here has tapered off somewhat, it is believed that there is still a considerable business yet to be done. Merchants recently have paid very high prices, and it is hoped that there will not be any depreciation in values until such goods are distributed abroad. India has given much less support than last week, there being fewer offers from abroad and less disposition on the part of exporters to anticipate future requirements. Rather more favourable news has come through from China, but most of the bids, especially in grey shirtings, have been too far out for trade of any importance to be done.

The South American markets have been generally quieter. Numerous manufacturers of cloth continue independent, and are now in a position to choose their customers, and only deal with firms of the highest standing. Business in yarn has been disorganised by the raw cotton situation. Many spinners have tried to avoid selling, and have quoted prohibitive rates.

Amongst Egyptian spinners quotations have been withdrawn, and sellers now simply wait for offers to be made. Further developments have taken place in connection with the application of the card-room operatives for an advance in wages, and both masters and men have received the support of the rank and file in their action. We may reach a crisis before the end of the month, but if no settlement is reached, it is pretty certain the Government will intervene and give a decision on the point in question, and they have plenty of powers to force the two sides to come to terms.

GAMBLING IN COTTON FUTURES.

We take the following from the *Manchester Guardian* of November 18:—

The Liverpool gamblers in Egyptian cotton do not seem to be much impressed by the scheme which was to put the closure on them next Monday, for they sent prices bounding up yesterday—futures 60 to 73 and spot 100 to 125 points. However, the scheme is going on, and details of it were issued yesterday in the form of a circular to the members of the Liverpool Cotton Association. Members wishing to trade in Egyptian futures will have to apply to the Control Committee (the president, vice-president, Mr. W. R. Glazebrook, Mr. A. A. Patron, and Mr. R. Q. Wilson), at least one of whom will be available daily. The committee has discretionary power to fix on every transaction the amount of a margin not exceeding £10 per bale. This must be done before a transaction is carried through, and the margin must be paid into the clearing-house at the first clearing on the day following the execution of the order.

Applications for permits for the closing of contracts must be made as in the case of new business. If a written notification of the closing of a contract is sent to the clearing-house before 5 p.m. the same day the margin will be released and credited to the firm on the following day. Interest at 4 per cent. per annum, as allowed by the bank, will be credited to the firm's account at the end of each quarter. When a broker pays a margin

on behalf of a client the client must be charged interest at ½ per cent. over bank rate, with a minimum of 5 per cent., less the amount allowed by the bank. Members are permitted to job or deal in quantities not exceeding 500 bales, on condition the account is closed not later than a week from the date of the permit. Thus, the owner of the permit can sell or buy the 500 bales as often as he likes during the week, provided he is neither "long" nor "short" at any one time more than the amount stated on his permit. On permits of this kind a margin of £1 per bale will be required.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tarbushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10.)

The Director of Stores, Coast Guard Administration, Arsenal, invites tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required by the service at Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez during year 1917. (December 1, 1915.)

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply to Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, of iron, steel, etc., required for the financial year 1917. (December 22.)

THE BRITISH BLACK LIST.

By an Order in Council, dated November 10, the names of the following firms in foreign countries have been added to the list of firms with whom trading is prohibited:—

GREECE.

Achaia Wine Co. (Société Vinicole Allemande), Gutland, Patras; Akif, Hassan, and Co., Salonika; Asseo, Jacob, Yildiz Han II., Salonika.

Charamis, Panayiotis, Piræus; Cohen, Mor-doh, and Company, Kasmindji Han, Salonika; Cohen, Simando, Piræus.

Fabrique de Tabacs et Cigarettes Macedoniennes, Salonika; Fenyves, Philip, Teldji Han, 18, Salonika.

International Magnesit Werken, Gerekari, Euboea.

Maroulis, Alexander, and Company, Salonika; Mayer and Company, Salonika; Maz-zino, A. J., Syra; Miceli, E., and C. B. Xanthos, 20, Place de la Liberté, Athens.

Société Anonyme d'Entreprises Commerciales, Kolokotronis Street, Piræus; Stein's Oriental Stores, Limited, Salonika; Stuermer, Max, Candia, Crete.

Zachariou, John, Rethymo, Crete; Zachariou, Peter, and Son, Rethymo, Crete; Zirini Brothers (John, Basil, and George Zirini), Xanthi.

PERSIA.

Ghaffar Bonakdar, Ispahan; Ghaffar Itadalieh, Ispahan.

Intadalieh, Ispahan.

The following names to be removed from the list:—

MOROCCO.

Afergan David, Larache.

Benizri, Rafael, Larache.

PERSIA.

Sadie, Afshar, Yezd.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, November 23.

There is undoubtedly a more active demand in the dried fruit market generally for the various kinds of fruit, but owing, apparently, to the high range of prices and uncertainty as to the future, there is a tendency to make orders small and more frequent, which means that under the circumstances, a hand-to-mouth policy is preferred.

Currants.

The demand continues good, and prices are showing a slight turn in buyers' favour for medium and better grades.

Sultanas.

A fair amount of business has been done this past week, mostly in Afghan and new Australian. Newly-arrived Greek fruit is offered at prices which buyers evidently are not willing to pay, hence only very small business has been done.

Figs and Dates.

Business in these articles is being done at late rates, and there is nothing particular to report.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer and dearer, with a better demand, London-Calcutta spot and afloat being quoted at 100s.; Nov.-Dec., 101s. 6d.;

Dec.-Jan., 102s.; Bombay ordinary, Nov.-Dec., 101s. 6d.; small grain, ditto, 100s. 6d. Rapeseed remains firm for Toria, Nov.-Dec., at 83s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore at 82s. Cotton-seed is very strong, London-Sakelariades, afloat, £19 per ton. Rangoon beans are steady at £36 to £37 per ton for spot lots. For forward shipment quotations are a little higher. Canary seed—Morocco descriptions especially—remains steady at the recent advance.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm and dearer. Spot prices, landed, offered at £50 15s.; barrels, ditto, £51 15s. Rape oil is also firm; ordinary brown, naked, £50 to £51. English refined, barrels, £54 to £56. Cotton oil is in good demand and firmer. Crude spot, in pipes, £47 to £48; refined pale pipes, £50; barrels, sweet, £54 to £56, as to make. Olive oil is quiet, but prices quoted last week are well maintained.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Parcels of Egyptian of recent arrival find a ready sale at £12 5s. 6d. ex ship, or £12 10s. 6d. ex quay, while afloat and Nov.-Dec. shipments are offered at about the same price. English makes are quoted at £12 12s. 6d. to £12 15s. 6d. per ton. Linseed Cakes.—There is only a small demand, but owing, apparently, to the continued short supplies, prices are firmly main-

tained. Best London makes are quoted £15 15s. to £16, while American are offered at £15 5s. to £15 10s. per ton ex stores. Maize meal of foreign origin is not obtainable for prompt delivery, while English makes are quoted at £14 15s. to £15 per ton.

TURKISH INSURANCE BUSINESS.

According to the *Lloyd Ottoman*, the Minister of Finance has issued the following notification:—

Since the year 1331 a "temettu" tax on insurance business has been levied. This tax, in the case of life insurance, is at the rate of 2 per mille of the insured capital, payable in one sum for each policy, and in the case of other insurances 2 per mille on the premiums charged, which, with the various surcharges, amounts to 3 piastres 40 centimes per cent. Although a special law grants to insurance companies the right to raise the premiums in accordance with the amount of the tax for insurance business not previously liable to taxation, the inspection recently made has shown that insurance companies have raised the premiums by 6 per cent., charging 2 piastres 60 centimes more than what they pay the Government. As the companies are legally entitled to charge only the amount of the tax paid to the Government, all concerned are free to pay the difference or not, as they please.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

BRITISH TRADE IN EGYPT.**Important Action by the Chamber of Commerce.**

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt has issued a circular to members to the effect that since the publication in April, 1915, of the report on openings for British trade in Egypt, the Alexandria and Cairo Committees have had under study many questions of general reform and interest for the improvement and development of British trade conditions. Among these may be cited the following:—

Mixed Tribunal Reform; dishonoured, but properly accepted bills; trade mark abuses; Bankruptcy Laws; party costs; fire risks to archives in Mixed Tribunals; abuse of word "British" in Egypt; reform of English Company Law; foreigners trading under English name; Customs overcharges; formation of Permanent Trade Commission; commercial attachés at Consulate; railway and steamship preferential facilities to commercial travellers; appointment of British agents; unduly long credits; more extended use of parcel post and cash on delivery system; catalogue system.

The particular object of the circular is to invite the views of members on questions connected with their own business which from their experience they consider might usefully be studied with the view of remedying difficulties and tend to the development of British trade in Egypt.

THE "MEROE'S" CARGO.**7,392 Bales of Egyptian Cotton on Board.**

The following details of the cargo of the Moss liner Meroe, which was torpedoed and sunk during her voyage from Alexandria to Liverpool on October 18, are available:—

Bales of cotton:—B. Messina, 5; A. Adda, 350; M. Melachrinis, 60; S. R. Barda e figli, 86; V. Toriel et fils, 344; Sasson Israel and Co., 75; E. R. Carcas, 173; C. Gregusci and Co., 125; B. Barki and Co., 800; D. Pasquinielli, 50; Peel and Co., 1,250; And. Barsoum and Co., 718; J. Planta and Co., 300; Pinto and Co., 115; Alex. Cotton Co., 669; Sidi Cicurel and Co., 200; Tamvaco, Choremis and Co., 137; Carver Bros. and Co., 150; C. Zizinia, 62; Th. Mitarachi, 383; Choremis, Benachi and Co., 990; J. Rolo and Co., 300; A. Alby and Co., 50. Total, 7,392.

Cases of eggs:—S. Goldrei, 150; N. Zoechi, 50; Hadjes and Co., 281; G. D. Pappa and Co., 14; Continental Eggs Co., 275; R. Forti and Co., 50; J. Dimitriou, 50; S. Gordon, 50; L. Onofrio, 75; J. Sedbon, 30; Brook William, 100; Goschalk and Co., 127; A. M. Ades, 9; J. Pilpel and Son, 1; Ali Attia, 85. Total, 1,348.

Cases of dates:—L. Onofrio, 750; B. C. Thomaidis, 446. Total, 1,196.

Sundries:—Eight packages.

MALTA POTATO EXPORTS.

A recent *communiqué* by the acting Lieutenant-Governor of Malta states:—

"Attention is drawn to the present prohibition of the export of potatoes to all destinations; it is, however, notified for general information that in the event of the spring potato crop of 1917 being in excess of the requirements of the Army and Navy and of the civil population, the Government will be prepared to consider applications for the export of potatoes to approved destinations. The principal observed, however, is that local needs must have the first consideration, and farmers will therefore be acting in their own interests as well as doing a service to their country if they allot as large an area as possible for the sowing of potatoes. It is also notified that the Government does not propose to fix a maximum price for the sale of potatoes grown in these islands unless there is evidence that the potato trade is being directly or indirectly exploited to the prejudice of the general community."

It has also been notified that the exportation of cummin seed is for the present prohibited to all destinations.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.**The Authorities and the Boll Worms Law.**

From the Bulletin concerning the condition of certain crops in Egypt during the month of October, 1916, issued by the Minister of Agriculture, we take the following interesting abstract which is summarised from reports received from Inspectors of the Ministry:—

"The relatively cold weather as well as the frequent occurrence of morning fogs has checked to a certain extent the ripening of immature bolls in many parts of the country. Picking has nevertheless made good progress. The first picking has been entirely completed and the second picking is considerably advanced. In most localities no third picking is expected to be taken; in any case where it will be taken its value will be of little importance.

"As was foreshadowed in last month's bulletin, the bolls that are gathered show a considerable increase of pink seed worm attack, as is borne out by the result of the examination made by the Entomological Section of the Ministry of some 20,000 bolls received from all parts of the country between September 25 and October 24. A corresponding increase has also taken place in the spread of the ordinary boll worm (*carias*), but the attack remains, nevertheless, comparatively insignificant.

"With the pains that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken to bring home to cultivators, big and small alike, the vital importance of conforming with the Boll Worms Law, an earnest attempt is being made in many parts of the country to remove and destroy the bolls remaining after the picking, although unfortunately ignorant cultivators very frequently try to smuggle bolls or uncleaned cotton sticks into the dwellings of the villages. Large numbers of contraventions are being committed, and it is feared that unless the generality of cultivators, the large landed-proprietors and Dairas taking the lead, attend more seriously to the task of collecting and destroying the remaining bolls before the dates fixed in the recently published Ministerial *Arrêtés*, a still larger number of contraventions will have to be dealt with, and large quantities of cotton sticks will be destroyed in a year when the sticks constitute a really valuable addition to the income of the farmer. A still worse result would take place, namely, the frustration of the efforts of the Government to control and gradually stamp out this pest from the country.

"The forecasts made in previous bulletins as to the disappointing result of the crop have now been confirmed, the factors in play being those already set forth in last month's bulletin.

"The figures given in this month's bulletin, however, constitute the final result of the observation of the crop in the field; but the ultimate crop estimate* cannot be published until some days after the appearance of this bulletin, owing to the fact that adjustments require to be made with respect to the decrease in ginning outturn (proportion of lint to seed by weight in the field *qantâr*)."

[*The estimate has since been published.]

FIRES IN TOBACCO CARGOES.

In addition to the numerous reports of wrecks, there was news from Alexandria that the Dutch liner Riouw, of 7,500 tons, had put in there while bound from Batavia for Amsterdam, with a fire in No. 2 hold. The significance of the incident (writes *The Times*) for the insurance market lies in the fact that she would have been carrying valuable consignments of tobacco and that this is the second casualty of the class to have occurred within the past few days. Last Wednesday a very serious fire was reported from Alexandria in the Dutch liner Djember, of 7,000 tons, also bound from the Dutch East Indies. No. 3 hold, containing 2,000 packages of tobacco, had to be flooded, and cargo in No. 3 hold was also badly damaged. It was understood some time ago that, in response to the representations of underwriters, measures were being adopted by the Dutch shippers to ensure that only tobacco which had been thoroughly fermented was shipped.

ROUMANIAN OIL INDUSTRY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, October 20.

At the meeting of the newly-created Commission for the Control of the Petroleum Industry on September 28 several important decisions were reached regarding the production, transport, and fabrication of petrol. The Commission decided that for internal consumption alone 350 wagons are required weekly, 325 of non-paraffin, and 25 wagons of paraffin. It was decided also that the reserve stock for three months—fixed at 15,000 wagons of residue, 150 wagons of refined oil, and 170 of distilled oil, is practically exhausted and requires renewal.

As regards the exploitation, the Commission divided the works into three groups. Those of Moreia, Baicoi, Campina, and other localities in these neighbourhoods will furnish the petroleum necessary for the weekly consumption, being under State control. The second group, including the works in Moldavia, form a reserve, being more distant from the refining centres. The third group includes small isolated works, and will supply local requirements, always under State control.

As regards sales in the interior of the country, these will be under the control of the Société de Distribution, which equally, for the time being, comes under State control.

All transport of petroleum will be under State control.

GALICIAN OIL TRUST.**Sequel to Liquidation of the Company.**

On November 17 the case of Iredell v. the General Securities Corporation, Ltd., came before the Court of Appeal, consisting of Lords Justices Swinfen Eady and Banks and Mr. Justice A. T. Lawrence, upon the appeal of the plaintiff, Lieut.-General Iredell, retired, from the judgment of Mr. Justice Rowlatt in favour of the company.

The plaintiff brought the action to recover £107 8s. from the company as money paid on a consideration which had failed, or on a contract which had become impossible of performance. He asked alternatively for damages for breach of contract and for a declaration that no valid transfer of certain shares had been made to him. It appeared that the plaintiff bought 600 shares in the Galician Oil Trust from the defendant company to be delivered on May 29, 1914. The contract was carried over from that date to August 28, 1914, on plaintiff paying a certain sum in accordance with an arrangement between the parties. In July of that year the Galician Oil Trust went into liquidation. On September 3 the defendant company offered to the plaintiff bearer certificates representing the shares, but the plaintiff refused to accept them, on the ground that he was entitled to registered share certificates. The defendant company could not hand over registered certificates on account of the refusal of the liquidator to recognise transfers. At the trial evidence was given by a member of the Stock Exchange that share warrants to bearer would not be considered a good delivery on the Stock Exchange and that there was often a difference in value between bearer shares and registered shares. Mr. Justice Rowlatt held that, although the defendant company did offer to make a bad delivery, it did not definitely and permanently refuse to make a good delivery, and the plaintiff, instead of asking for a good delivery, merely wrote that he understood that, owing to the liquidation, the whole transaction was void. So both parties took up a wrong attitude. He accordingly held that the action failed and he dismissed it, with costs. The plaintiff appealed.

At the conclusion of the arguments their Lordships held that the tender by the company of share warrants to bearer was not a "good delivery" under the contract, according to the custom of the Stock Exchange. They therefore held that the plaintiff was entitled to the return of £107 8s. which he had paid the company. The appeal was accordingly allowed and judgment entered for that sum for the plaintiff, with costs in the Court below and of the appeal.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Threshing Machines.

It is reported that a considerable quantity of this year's wheat crop in the Near East has been damaged or destroyed by rain and bad weather. The more serious damage has, apparently, been done to sheaves which, stacked in the field, were waiting for threshing. The delay was exceptionally prolonged this year, especially for proprietors who depended either upon the hiring of threshing machines, or on the employment of the local team of horses which are still being used for trampling the stalks on the archaic circular threshing-floor. But it appears that none of these means were easily obtained. The threshing machines were monopolised by well-to-do landowners, while horses and other draught animals were on "war service." Thus, the small farmers, who form the bulk of wheat growers, were the chief sufferers in this case. We have already had occasion to mention similar difficulties surrounding the work and efforts of the Oriental farmer; and to point out that it is not always want of means or lack of energy that keeps him from adopting modern machinery and methods. It is rather want of information how to find the manufacturers of the machinery, or implements that he may require.

Americans and Germans.

In this respect American and German manufacturers have helped him in recent years with results satisfactory to the firms. They have studied the small farmer's wants, and he knows how to find them. At the present time, light and cheap harvesting and threshing machines cannot be procured, as before the war, from Germany or Austria-Hungary; and as such machines are manufactured in Scotland and Ireland on lines that fully meet the requirements of small farmers in the East it would be worth the while of any makers to introduce them into those markets while the troubles of last season are still fresh in the farmers' minds; many of them are undoubtedly contemplating the purchase of such machines. A type of small threshing machine, for instance, which would be suitable for a great number of small farmers in the Near East is a machine which, we believe, can be obtained in two sizes, £22 the one, and £24 the other. The former has a steel-pegged beater drum, and will thresh from eighteen to twenty bushels per hour, while the latter will deal with from twenty-two to twenty-four bushels. In each case an adjustable concave or breast is fitted as well as crank shakers, a fan and riddles, the corn, cleaned of all light grain, chaff, sand, etc., being delivered from the side. This type of machine may be driven by horse, water, steam, or oil-engine power.

Substitute for Asphalt.

A mixture of 50 per cent. sand, powdered stone, etc.; 40 per cent. paraffin, beeswax, or ozokerit; 10 per cent. carnauba wax, and vegetable black to colour the composition is used, according to a recent patent, as a substitute for asphalt for floors, walls, etc. The sand or powdered stone is warmed, molten wax is poured over it, and the whole stirred until the particles are thoroughly coated. The composition is cut into slabs, and, when required for use, reheated and spread over the required surface.

Renovating Files.

Now that economy is the order of the day, it may be of interest to some who are using files, in some way or other, to know that that useful tool can be renovated in the following way. Clean the file thoroughly with a wire brush, or "file-card," and then immerse it for a short time in diluted sulphuric acid. This sharpens the worn teeth and gives the file a considerable further lease of life. The cost is quite negligible.

Flax Machinery.

Another class of agriculturists in the Near East, as elsewhere, that has, according to reports, sustained unusual losses through the scarcity of labour this year, is that of flax-growers. Large quantities of linseed, besides the fibre of flax, have been damaged or lost because harvesting and threshing could not be accomplished in time and properly owing to the difficulty of finding the necessary field-hands. As a rule, both these processes are carried out, in most parts of the East, by manual labour, and comparatively few are able to procure special machinery for the purpose. Of this special machinery mention was made some time ago in these columns, but farmers who are not in possession of such machines, and who still depend on manual labour, may be glad to know that an ordinary reaping machine requires very little adjustment to harvest a flax crop satisfactorily. The sheaves, in such case, should be made up small, so as to allow drying to proceed rapidly, and these then should be shocked together in the ordinary way. Except when the weather is very dry it is best to turn the shocks so as to make sure of the whole being thoroughly dry before being carted and stacked. A little more careful handling is necessary with the linseed crop when it is to be machined than with other grain, because the seed bolls become entangled, and are easily detached from the straw. With regard to threshing, the usual type of threshing machine will deal effectually with linseed; but growers should note that about two-thirds of the cavings riddle ought to be covered with sacking to prevent any large amount of the cavings falling through the riddle along with the seed and chaff. Unless the drum of the machine is set close, and a high speed is maintained, and the straw carefully fed into the machine, the straw may have to be put through a second time to remove all the seed; and only the finest riddles should be employed, owing to the smallness of the seed. To free the seed from chaff and clean it thoroughly, all that is necessary is to pass it through a winnowing machine fitted with the finest riddles. The above suggestions that the ordinary type of harvesting and threshing machines can also deal effectually with flax may perhaps encourage farmers in the East to procure such machines, since there will then be more work for them in the farm and consequently prove more profitable.

Safeguards against Shipwreck.

In view of the many shipwrecks that occurred during last week's gale it is to be wondered why all ships should not be equipped with the new devices which give a warning when near a dangerous coast. As is generally known, sound travels much more rapidly through water than through air. Therefore the sounds given off by a submerged bell would afford an effective warning of a dangerous coast. In practical test it has been found that bell signals from five to eight miles distant are clearly and distinctly heard through the microphone receiver on ship-board, and in view of this success a number of the lightships on the North Atlantic coast and some of the North Sea ports have been fitted with submerged bells, while several British and American lines have equipped their vessels with receivers.

ALEXANDRIA'S HARBOUR WORKS.

When Sir Murdoch MacDonald arrived at Alexandria from Cairo recently he received formally from the contractors the western part of the breakwater they have constructed in the Eastern harbour for the Municipality.

The Municipal Delegation has decided to give the contract to a European contractor for the necessary repairs to the breakwater, which has just been completed, for the sum of about £E8,900. The question of the eastern part of the breakwater has been shelved for the time being.—*Egyptian Gazette.*

AMERICAN TRADE METHODS.

Allegations of Bad Faith in Morocco.

American manufacturers and shippers will become unpopular in Morocco if they do not mend their ways. The attempts made at the beginning of the war to boom United States trade in the Shereefian Empire do not appear to have been successful. Difficulties connected with indirect communication, delayed deliveries, and high freights are partly responsible for this; but, so we learn from an official document, American manufacturers and shippers are partly responsible. Indeed, charges of bad faith have been made, as the following instances will show:—

"A motor-car company in a circular letter recently invited applications for the appointment of an agent for Morocco, although it had an agency contract already in force covering this territory. This information gave the actual agent a bad impression, and the incident illustrates one of the unfortunate results of indiscriminate circularization, a form of advertising that seldom produces tangible results.

"A large flour milling establishment, after making arrangements for a local selling agency and having agreed upon the special terms of sale current in this market, withdrew from its engagement when business, as a result of the agent's efforts, was on the point of materializing, thus placing the agent in a false and embarrassing position with his customers and discouraging further endeavours on his part.

"A typewriter company shortly before the outbreak of the war appointed an agent in Morocco. The company desired this agent to place a specified number of machines per month, but owing to the undeveloped conditions of the market agreed that the agent could not be expected to undertake any liability in respect to the minimum limit of sales. The outbreak of hostilities temporarily rendered impossible any business in this direction. When, however, during the first months of the war the agent had succeeded in placing an order for a certain number of machines, the company then stated that it would supply his orders only upon the condition that he undertook to sell double the number of machines per month previously agreed upon. The company in imposing such terms caused the agent entirely to abandon his connection with this company.

"Another typewriter company had granted a general agency, covering the territory of North Africa, to a firm in Spain, which in turn appointed an agent for Morocco. The Paris office of the company has also appointed a separate agent for Morocco, with the result that neither of the local rival agents can now be induced to push sales."

And here is an instance of sheer business ineptitude:—"A large hardware concern requested information as to what special articles might be sold in Morocco. This information was conveyed to it under the practical form of an order for about twenty tons of goods from the largest hardware dealer in the country. Not even an acknowledgment of the order was ever received."

The Carlow Castle, which is being built by the Northumberland Shipbuilding Company, Limited, on the Tyne, for the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, has been successfully launched. The Carlow Castle—about 4,500 tons gross—is practically a sister ship to the Carlisle Castle, at present engaged in the trade between this country and South Africa, and it is hoped that she will be delivered early in the new year.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 177. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHARBY.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 3066.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLA-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan."
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

COMPANY MEETING.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

At the bank's premises, 27, Clement's Lane, London, E.C., on Tuesday last was held the thirtieth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the chairman, Mr. Henry Adair Richardson, presiding. After the secretary, Mr. G. H. Soul, had read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman addressed the shareholders, reviewing the position of the bank, the conditions prevalent in Egypt, and the state and prospects of the cotton trade in the country.

Mr. Richardson said that, considering the times we were living in, it was highly satisfactory to the directors to be able to put before the shareholders the exceptionally strong balance-sheet which they asked them to pass that day, nor, he took it, would it require a long address from him to commend the profit and loss account to their approval. The result was due mainly to the satisfactory growth of over £2,000,000 in their deposits. The past season's cotton crop was 4,615,000 cantars, grown on an area of 1,100,000 feddans, or, say, two-thirds of the average area planted. It was all sold, and realised some £3,000,000 more than the previous crop, which was at least 2,000,000 cantars larger. The cereal crops had been good, and had realised very high prices. There had been an exceptional crop of maize, which had left an important surplus available for export. Up to July 31 some £800,000 worth in value had been exported, as against £250,000 in the previous year, and nothing before the war. Until recently everything pointed to a 7,000,000 to 7,500,000 cantar crop of cotton for the present season, but unfortunately the worm had appeared, and now it was expected that they would not get more than 6,000,000 cantars. The high price of cotton might amply compensate the fellaheen for the reduction in the amount of the crop this year, but a small Egyptian crop coinciding with the short American supply was a misfortune for the world. During the year the bank closed its branch in Paris, as the board saw little prospect of working the branch at a profit.

Dealing with the principal items in the balance-sheet, he pointed out that the deposits, etc., were nearly £2,250,000 up—good evidence of the high credit which the bank enjoyed, but part of these deposits must be regarded as war-time money, and they must be prepared to lose some of them when the war was over. On the credit side cash was up £500,000 at £1,786,000, a large amount to have lying idle, but, as bankers to the Army in Egypt and the Treasury in Malta and Gibraltar, it was essential to keep large cash balances on the spot to meet the heavy demands that are made upon them. Investments, standing at £776,000, included £600,000 of Four-and-a-Half per Cent. War Loan. The balance was largely in short-time Indian Railway debentures; depreciation had been provided for in full. Bills receivable showed an increase of £2,000,000. This item, added to the amount of cash they held, represented fully 100 per cent. of their total demand liabilities. Turning to the profit and loss account, he thought they might congratulate themselves on the result, for, although one effect of the war had been to raise interest rates to the benefit of the bank, another effect had been to depreciate securities, add to their bad and doubtful debt

accounts, and increase largely their working expenses, so shareholders would not be surprised that, although the gross profits were £23,000 more than last year, the net profits were only £10,000 more. He trusted the shareholders would approve the appropriation the board had made of the surplus profits. The bonus to staff, he was sure, would be unanimously approved—(hear, hear)—and, in the bonus to the shareholders, he wanted them to recognise that the directors had taken the first opportunity of doing something to compensate them for the deduction of income-tax in payment of dividends which the war forced upon them two years ago.

As regards the current year, he was not going to prophesy. So far they were doing well, but the sudden and rapid rise in cotton came at an unfortunate time, and must have caused loss to many merchants and dealers, while the speculation that had been rampant in the cotton markets, unless stopped by the new regulations adopted last week in the Liverpool Cotton Exchange to check speculation, would make business as difficult as it would be dangerous for the remainder of the Egyptian season. They must do their share of financing the business, but, however careful they might be and however much alive they were to the situation, they could not be sure of immunity from loss. The staff had done splendidly, as well for the country as for the bank. All of military age that could be spared had joined the forces, and it was with much regret that he had to report that three of them had been killed during the year. He spoke in appreciative terms of the willing and loyal services rendered by what remained of their old staff, and said that the ladies in the London office had done excellent work. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Alan Richardson seconded the motion, and after Mr. Tomkinson had expressed satisfaction with the results of the year's working, the resolution was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. R. A. Foa, a dividend at the rate of 10s. per share, less income-tax, and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free of income-tax, was declared, payable on December 1; and Mr. H. A. Richardson, the director retiring by rotation, was unanimously re-elected on the motion of Mr. E. Pusch, seconded by Sir M. F. Reid, C.I.E.

COMPANY REPORTS.

London and Maikop.

The report of the London and Maikop Oil Corporation for the year to July 13, 1916 (June 30, O.S.), states that operations on the Maikop oilfield have been retarded, or entirely arrested, by the general mobilisation throughout Russia, which has depleted the drilling staffs, increased greatly the cost of labour and materials, and delayed or prevented the transport of indispensable machinery and plant. In spite of these difficulties the general output from the field during the year amounted approximately to 52,000 tons, making a total of over half a million tons since 1909, of which about 475,000 tons have been delivered by the Maikop Pipeline Co. These figures show the existence of oil-bearing strata, and support the opinion of experts familiar with the developments of other fields that stronger and

more permanent sources still await discovery. Under present conditions, however, there have been no new developments. The efforts of the staff on the field have been devoted to the assistance of the Maikop Orient Oil Co., in which this company has a very large interest. Owing to the difficulties already referred to the directors of the Maikop Orient Co. decided to concentrate work upon one additional well on Plot 435 A, and this has reached a depth of 1,120 ft. It was hoped that this well would have been completed before this date, but operations have been delayed by the shortage of men and the long delays in obtaining and bringing the necessary supplies to the plot. The promising prospects at this point have encouraged development work in the vicinity.

Traian Roumanian.

The report of the Traian Roumanian Oil Co. for the year ended April 30 shows a loss of £2,677, and after deducting the credit balance of £669 brought forward a debit balance of £2,008 remains to be carried forward.

COMPANY NOTES.

New Company.

Overseas Agencies, Ltd.—Registered by Jordan and Sons, Ltd., 116-17, Chancery Lane, W.C. Capital £5,000 (£1). Business: Manufacturers, merchants, factors, and contractors of rolling stock and general railway equipment of all kinds, equipment for coal, gold, diamond, and other mines, forgings, stampings, castings, and constructional iron and steel work, iron and steel and non-ferrous metals of all kinds, to act as agents and representatives, particularly in Africa, the United Kingdom, Russia, and elsewhere, for manufacturers of the above-mentioned manufactures, and generally to endeavour to divert trade hitherto done by Germany and Austria into British channels. Private company.

Meetings.

Land Bank of Egypt.—December 5, 1916, at Alexandria.

London and Maikop.—November 29, 1916, noon, at 20, Cophall Avenue, London, E.C.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 24 tons; last week, 18 tons. Hurgada production for week, 3,751 tons; last week, 4,517 tons. Hurgada well No. 8 plugged itself on November 15, and is now being cleaned.

Baku Russian.—Week ended November 11, 80,600 poods; November 16, 81,700 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended November 5, 53,400 poods (861 tons).

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended November 11, 22,341 poods (360 tons); 18th, 21,604 poods.

European.—Week ended November 12, 76,000 poods; 19th, 77,700 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended November 11, 16,916 poods (273 tons); 18th, 17,723 poods.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport Company.—Week ended November 18, 95,819 poods (1,545 tons).

North Caucasian Oil Fields.—Week ended November 1 (14), 539,519 poods (8,702 tons).

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended November 11, 60,100 poods; 18th, 61,800 poods.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skopje (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focsani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Pleshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000.

Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298-05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

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

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.,

Wednesday Evening.

The market in Egyptian shares has continued fairly active throughout the week, and much more business would have been done had it not been for the comparative scarcity of sellers. Egypt has continued to inquire for various shares on this side, and the result has been a fair amount of local buying.

National Banks gradually advanced from 13½ to 13¾, and to-day have had a big jump to 14½. Agriculturals have risen 5-32 to 5 1-16, and Anglo-Egyptians are ½ up at 12¾. Land Banks have jumped ½ to 5½, and Delta Light have changed hands round 5½, at about which price they are probably one of the best lock-up purchases for after the war.

Aboukirs have improved 9d. to 15s. 9d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trust, on the appreciation in their holdings, are about 1s. higher at 6s. 6d. New Egyptians are fractionally firmer at 9s. 3d., and Sidi Salems have further improved about 2s. to 10s. 3d.

There has been a steady demand for Union Foncières, which has carried them up 3s. 6d. to 24s. 9d. Markets and Salts have been firm, but Khedivial Mail ordinary have reacted 1s. 6d. to 35s. on profit taking; whilst the preference are ½ higher at 31 3-16.

Greek stocks continue very firm. Both Monopoly and Larissa are ½ up at 50½ and 54 respectively; whilst Greek Currant bonds have changed hands at 90.

Balkan Oil Shares.

Roumanian Consols were again badly affected by the war news and further fell 9d. to 11s. 3d. Spies were easier at 12s. 9d., and Ural Caspians and North Caucasians were dull, but unaltered. Maikop Pipe Lines receded to 3s. 9d.

GHARBIH LAND COMPANY.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Meeting of the Holders of the 5 per cent. First Mortgage Debentures of the above-named Company secured by trust deed dated December 23, 1910, in favour of George Pearce Foaden and Charles Robert Beasley as trustees will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, London, E.C., on Wednesday, November 29, 1916, at noon for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing any extraordinary resolutions, pursuant to the provisions of the second schedule to the said trust deed, resolutions to the following effect, namely:—

(1) Suspending the rights of all the Debenture-holders so far as necessary to postpone until December 31, 1916, at the latest the payment of the Coupon on the said Debentures due on December 15, 1915, and to postpone until December 31, 1917, at the latest the payment of the Coupons on the said Debentures due and to become due on June 15, 1916, and December 15, 1916, provided that the Company agrees to pay interest on such Coupons at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from the original due date of such Coupons respectively until the actual date of payment, and provided that the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company agrees to pay to the Trustees for the Debenture-holders the amount of these Coupons and such interest as aforesaid on the dates above mentioned and secures such payment in manner set forth in a Deed of Hypothecation in the French language and made in Egypt in accordance with the local law on October 17, 1916, between the Gharbi Land Company of the first part, the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company of the second part, and Charles Robert Beasley and George Pearce Foaden as Trustees for the Debenture-holders of the Gharbi Land Company of the third part.

(2) Approving of the above-mentioned Deed of Hypothecation and authorizing the Trustees to carry the same into effect.

This Notice is issued pursuant to the provisions of the Second Schedule to the above-mentioned Trust Deed to the intent that any resolutions passed at the Meeting shall be binding upon all Debenture-holders whether present or not at the Meeting.

A copy of the Deed of Hypothecation referred to in paragraph No. 2 above can be seen by any Debenture-holder during usual business hours at any time prior to the meeting at the following addresses:—viz., Messrs. Linklater and Co., 2, Bond Court, Walbrook, London, E.C.; the Trustees' Solicitors; the Offices of the Company, 7, Sharia Gameh Sherkass, Cairo, Egypt; and the Office of the Investment Registry, Limited, 2, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.

Dated 3rd November, 1916.
GEORGE P. FOADEN,
C. R. BEASLEY,
The Trustees for the Debenture-holders.

"THE EXPORT WORLD
AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price.	Price Nov. 17.	Present Price.
July 27, 1915.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	72
Do. 4½ do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	47
Do. 4½ do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	76½
City of Constantinople 5% Bds	96	62½	67½
Egypt Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	71½	69
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	79½	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	68½	68½
Do. Ins. Bk., 1890	82½	65	63
Do. 4½ State Domain, 1878	80½	75	68
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	57	54	51
Greek 5%, 1881	56	54	50
Do. 5%, 1884	49	50	50½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	45	43	42
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	46	53½	54
Do. 5%, 1890	64	50	50
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	77	65	63
Do. 4% Rente, Loan, 1902	74	90	90
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	90	75	73
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	82½	55	50½
Montenegro 5% Loan	91	72½	75
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	92	77½	67½
Roumania 4½ Gd. Ln. 1913, So., £600	67	42	—
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	103	85	77½
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	94½	76	76
Do. 4%, 1891	84	65½	66
Do. 3½ Eg. Trb. Bonds, 1894	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	79	54	54
Do. 4% Unified	65½	37	36
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	69	37	34
Do. 4%, 1909	—	—	—

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	44½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	64	65½
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	63½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12½	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	2½	2½	2½
Bank of Athens	8½	8½	8½
Bank of Roumania	8½	80½	78½
Eastern Bank	11	6½	6½
Imperial Bank of Persia	11	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	3½	3½	3½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	13½	13½	14½
National Bank of Egypt	—	—	—

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ C.P.	8	5	5 1/4
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	88½	80
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	—
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	10	11½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	11½	12½
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	59½	57
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	55	59½
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10½	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½	90	74	74
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	55½	55

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	15/-	16/-
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	92
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	—	—
Do. Do. Def.	8½	6½	6½
Bahera Co.	4½	3½	62½
Do. Pref.	2½	2½	2½
Daira Sanieh	2½	7½	7½
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9½	9½	8½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	86	86½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	5½	5½	6½
Do. Do. Foreign Trust	1½	14½	14½
Gharbi Land Co.	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	96	97
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	98	7½	7½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	97	76	75
Do. 4½ 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97½	91½	94½
New Egyptian Co.	1½	1½	1½
Sidi Saleh Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands	1½	1½	1½

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12½	100	100
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	12½	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	—	25½	25½
Do. 4½ 1st Mtg. Deb.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	24½	24½
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	96	95	97
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	36½	35½	35½
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	30	34½	34½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	30	84½	89
Do. do. Pref.	—	—	—
Do. do. 4½ 1st Mt.	—	—	—
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81½	81½
Upper Egypt Hotels	22	12	12

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	12/6	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Persian	20/6	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields	3/9	3/3	3/3
Roumanian	13/6	11/2	11/2

PARIS BOURSE.

Banque Imperiale Ottomane	450	448.25	448.25
Canal de Suez	4200	4.060	4.060
Credit Foncier Egyptien	660	662.50	662.50
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.05	87.50	87.50
Serbian, 1895	63	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON NOVEMBER 10.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	£ 86	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11½	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	£ 5½	—	—
priv.	£ 3½	—	—
Notes Turcs, oblig.	£ 128	—	—
Bons de Panama	£ 104	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	£ 69½	—	—
Privilegiée	£ 95	—	—
Cheikh Fadl	£ 75	—	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2½	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£ 2½	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ 4	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£ 4	—	—
Société des Immeubles	£ 4	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	£ 4½	—	—
Unifiée	£ 80½	—	—
Privilegiée	£ 69½	ex coup.	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4	—	—
Fondateur	£ 23	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 29½	—	—
Nungovitch Hotels	£ 2½	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½	—	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 32	—	—
Ord.	£ 26½	—	—
Alex. and Ramlieh Railway	£ 4½	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£ 104	—	—
Jouissance	£ 155	—	—
Egyptian Markets	£ 26½	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	£ 225	—	—
Div.	£ 155	—	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	£ 200	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£ 216	—	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	£ 590	—	—
1886 Oblig.	£ 326	—	—
1903	£ 252	—	—
1911	£ 258	—	—
Delta Lands	£ 35½	—	—
Port Said Salt	£ 8½	—	—
Cotton Ginners	£ 8½	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	£ 4½	—	—
United Lands	£ 28½	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	£ 180½	—	—
Fond	£ 180½	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Septembre, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	£ 7,826,266
Titres divers	245,109
Comptes-Courants	339,502
Avances sur Marchandises	325,975
Avances sur Titres	1,175,211
Avances sur d'autres garanties	819,974
Effets sur l'Etranger	886,309
Effets sur l'Egypte	170,347
Immeubles et mobilier	235,746
Placements à courte échéance	867,750
Comptes Banques	1,117,534
Gouvernement du Soudan	488,244
Comptes Divers	288,666
Encaisse:	
Billets de Banque	£ 902,676
Or	£ 122,815
Argent, nickel, etc.	£ 179,616
	1,205,107
Capital (300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement libérées)	2,925,000
Réserve Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	6,341,544
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,376,995
Gouvern. Egyptien	2,628,397
Comptes Banques	572,294
Chèques et effets à payer	159,047
Comptes Divers	660,961
	£ 15,931,738

Capital (300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement libérées)	2,925,000
Réserve Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	6,341,544
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,376,995
Gouvern. Egyptien	2,628,397
Comptes Banques	572,294
Chèques et effets à payer	159,047
Comptes Divers	660,961
	£ 15,931,738

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Or	£ 6,650,000
Titres	6,650,000
Billets émis	£ 13,300,000
	£ 13,300,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.	1916.
	Week ended Nov. 11.	Week ended Nov. 9.
Cattle markets	783	945
General markets	382	379
Cattle markets closed	1	2
Receipts (£)	1,165	1,324
Total from commencement of year (£)	43,815	45,888

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING

MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoth, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 291.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	97	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Diplomacy and Strategy ..	108	Notes and News	113
Port Said	100	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	104	How the American Govern- ment Assists Exporters ..	114
Khartoum	100	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Shipping Notes.. ..	114
Athens	101	War Sketches in the Balkans	103	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	115
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		A Russian Primer	103	Trade Notes	115
Recent Conditions in Pales- tine	101	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	106	Produce Report	116
Monastir (Dr. T. Georgevitch)	102	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	110	Russo-British Trade	117
"Young Turk" v. Arab ..	102	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	105	Engineering Notes	118
British Pioneers in Turkey ..	103			On 'Change	120
				Stock and Share List ..	120

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The situation in Roumania has undergone rapid changes within the short space of a week. In our last issue we recorded the fall of Craiova, and suggested that the Roumanians in their hurried withdrawal would have had difficulty in extricating the whole of the force stationed in the Orsova-Turnu-Severin district. The rearguard of that body had to be left to its fate, and has since been maintaining a plucky stand on the lowest of the spurs of the Carpathian foothills, which bend back for a short distance in a south-easterly direction from Turnu-Severin. On November 24 von Mackensen succeeded in sending forces across the Danube at several points between Calafat, opposite Vidin, and Simnitza, opposite Sistova. This move rendered the whole of Western Roumania untenable for our Allies, and there was nothing for it but to fall back on to the immediate defences of Bucharest.

The absence of any claims on the enemy's part to large captures, either of men or material, points to an ordered retirement of the Roumanians, and we are forcibly reminded of Russia's experience last year, when a shortage of munitions prevented her from offering any real resistance to the Austro-German forces. Roumania's plight is understood to be the same, and until it is known when an adequate supply of guns and munitions can reach her it is impossible to tell where the enemy's advance can be checked. So far, all the efforts of von Falkenhayn to advance along the Prahova Valley and down the Törzburg Pass beyond Dragoslavele have failed, and the Roumanian hold at this point has proved invaluable. But the enemy has already reached Curtea d'Argesh, which lies to the south-west of Campulung, and the position of the latter only a few miles south of Dragoslavele becomes gravely compromised. An equally grave menace is the occupation of Giurgevo, the Danube port opposite Rustchuk, barely forty miles from Bucharest. Until this town was seized there seemed some chance that the Roumanians would delay the enemy's advance along the River Vedeia, in spite of his claim to have captured Alexandria, which stands on this river at a distance of some twenty miles from the Danube. This line, however, has now been turned, and unless help is immediately forthcoming the next opportunity for a Roumanian stand is offered by the River Argesh, which flows within ten miles of the capital. At Curtea d'Argesh the Austro-German forces are already astride this small river, but Piteshti, an important railway junction, unless already lost, should stand our Allies in good stead at this stage. Without

munitions, however, neither generalship nor positions avail.

As long as Piteshti and the railway line from Campulung to Goleshti, five miles east of Piteshti, are held by the Roumanians the enemy are still outside the oilfields, which must be their main objective. Not until the next branch line running through Tirgovishte to Titu, on the main Bucharest railway, is reached will these fields be threatened. Hence the importance of our Allies being able to retain their hold on Predelus and Törzburg Passes immediately to the north of the oil district. If the railway from Verciorova has been adequately destroyed, some time must elapse before it can serve the Austro-Germans as a feeder for their advance. With the control of the Danube in his hands, von Mackensen has the best possible channel for supplies, and to a certain extent may be able to make up to von Falkenhayn some of the facilities which the latter has lacked since he advanced beyond the Hungarian railway system. Sooner or later the military position in Roumania will turn on the relative advantages of the contending forces in regard to supplies. Although in possession of a large stretch of Roumania's fertile plains, the enemy is unlikely to have captured any considerable stores of grain, as the greater part of these are to be found in the eastern districts. Apart, therefore, from the painful position in which the Roumanians find themselves placed, the Austro-German forces have still much to accomplish before they have fulfilled their mission in Roumania.

It is possible now to see—and to admire—the method of Germany's campaign against Roumania. By attacking the Dobruja first, von Mackensen has not only deflected Russian reinforcements to that quarter; but, owing to the configuration of the country, he has been able to confine the Russo-Roumanian troops in such a way that he has himself to occupy the shortest possible line—that between Cernavoda and Constantza. In this northern part of the Dobruja the Allies are powerless to affect the operations along the Danube from Silistria upwards. Had this latter town remained in the hands of the Roumanians, von Mackensen would have had much less chance of threatening Bucharest from the south. At the least expense to himself, he has temporarily immobilized a comparatively large Russo-Roumanian force, quite apart from the value of Constantza to our Allies as the main port of entry for supplies. A further attempt is now being made to encircle Bucharest by effecting a crossing at Oltenitza. But this move brings von Mackensen's force very close to the region where it is to be hoped the Roumanians will be able to make a stand in

defence of Bucharest, an earnest of which, perhaps, may be seen in the attack now launched by the Russians in the Carpathians where the Roumanian and Bukovina frontiers meet.

In Macedonia the Allies' next objective will be Prilep, north of Monastir, beyond which lie the famous Babuna Heights. On a broad front, stretching from Lake Prespa to the Vardar a steady pressure is now being exercised on the enemy. One of the latest communiqués reports a successful attack by British troops south-west of Doiran. In view of the nature of the country confronting that part of the Allied line which is operating north of Monastir, the work that the wings will now be called upon to perform becomes more important than it has been hitherto. The capture of Monastir straightens out the Allies' battle front, except where it faces east along the Struma. On the extreme west the Italians continue to make good progress, and are now north-west of Monastir. Provided General Sarraill's orders are "Full steam ahead," and he finds himself adequately supported by the Allied Governments, it may still be possible to achieve some measure of success in this region. The Bulgarians, with the further demands that the invasion of Wallachia will make upon them, must now be committed almost up to the limit of their resources. A determined attack from the south at a number of points could hardly fail to add to von Mackensen's embarrassments. The invasion of Roumania is good business from the German point of view, but will offer poor compensation to the Bulgarians for the loss of Monastir.

King Constantine and his Government have refused to accede to the Allies' demand to surrender artillery and munitions corresponding to the amount handed over to the Bulgarians at the time when the Fourth Army Corps allowed itself to be removed to Germany. The demand was presented in the form of an ultimatum which was to expire on December 1, by which date ten batteries of mountain guns were to be handed over. After having returned a negative answer, the King has sought to entrench himself behind an appeal to neutral States and the decisions of a Crown Council. The latter, as was to be expected, supported the refusal already given. In the meantime, Admiral du Fournet, the Allies' executive officer in Athens, has had an audience of King Constantine, and has informed him that there can be no modification of the original demand. It now remains to be seen how the Allies will set about to get possession of the artillery demanded.

The situation may shortly become critical. On the one hand there would seem to have been a good deal of oath-taking among a number of officers, who are pledged to resist the surrender of the arms at all costs. These are the people for whom active service against the traditional enemies of their country, the Bulgarians and Turks, has no attraction, but they are fully resolved to die in the last ditch, if they cannot get behind it, rather than give a proof that their country's undertaking of neutrality will be duly honoured. If the Greek military authorities have taken advantage of the few days' grace given them to distribute the artillery and munitions demanded by the Allies—or at least some of it—about the country, these recalcitrant officers may be capable of mischief. The standard of the opposition the Allies have to expect is indicated by the actions of the Reservists, who claim to be under King Constantine's special protection. These stalwarts hope to thwart the Allies by carrying out a campaign of intimidation against those of their fellow-countrymen who are supporters of M. Venizelos and have remained in Athens. On the night of November 25 all the shops belonging to Venizelists in one of the principal business streets of Athens were marked with a sign in red paint, and the public has been informed that the shops so marked and the houses of leading Venizelists are to be fired and pillaged. If the Greeks had not lost the saving grace of humour, we might have heard that the houses of all Reservists and officers of the Athens command, the Palace next excepted, had been daubed with similar signs. Instead of pursuing this

course, the intended victims persuaded Admiral du Fournet to inspect the ominous marks and to promise them protection.

It is to be feared that the general situation has been allowed to go from bad to worse, until it has become practically impossible to avoid a forcible settlement. The course of events in Roumania is calculated to encourage the King and his party in their opposition, and unless the Allies score some decisive success in the Near East they must look for recalcitrancy in Greece at every turn. By adopting a policy of protracted negotiations the Entente Powers have made it possible for King Constantine to collect a substantial following in the country—those who are jealous of M. Venizelos's political power, as well as the military bravados, who have more stomach for looting than fighting, and all who hope to batten on the Royal favour. It is, therefore, no longer a question of bringing one person to reason, but a whole country. How the problem is to be settled can be determined only by those on the spot.

Speaking on behalf of the Government, Lord Robert Cecil was not able to throw much light on the situation in Greece, nor can it be said that he made out a good case for British diplomacy. He reminded the House of Commons that the British Government did not want to take any action which might cause friction and trouble among the Allies. Our Allies, we feel confident, are actuated by the same motive. We are, therefore, left wondering why, when a palpably stupid course of action is suggested, the British Government should not insist upon a wise one being adopted, and leave the avoidance of "friction and trouble" to others for that occasion. Perhaps the most disconcerting passage in Lord Robert Cecil's speech on November 27 was his categorical denial that the Allies' policy was dictated by dynastic considerations. Such a statement, he declared, was "absolutely untrue. There is not a word, particle or syllable of truth in it." The suggestion, improbable as it was, at least offered an explanation of an anomaly. Now that it is ruled out of court, the British Government is left admitting that it deliberately acquiesced in a suicidal policy, either because it had no better one to suggest, or because in the Allies' councils, we are asked to suppose, the mention of an alternative policy implies "friction and trouble." Lord Robert Cecil will hardly expect the country to accept this second proposition. Rather will it be tempted to draw the inference that, as things are, Great Britain, who is doing so much in the field and at sea, is not pulling her weight in the councils of the Allies.

A telegram from Sofia reports that the tunnel through the Taurus Range was completed on November 15. If this information be correct, it constitutes an important landmark in the history of German expansion in Asia Minor. In passing, however, we may point out that the news comes from Sofia. Its importance, if it were correct, would justify special references both in Constantinople and Berlin. The tunnel was not expected to be completed at such an early date, and perhaps the doubt is justified whether the reference is to the final opening of the tunnel to traffic or merely to the piercing of the mountain. On the other hand, the urgency of the work in the furtherance of Germany's plans and the amount of labour available under Germany's organisation may have caused the Germans to concentrate their efforts on the early completion of the tunnel. Last year the tunnel through the Amanus Range was completed. That was three miles in length. The Taurus Tunnel, or, rather, series of tunnels, is distributed over a stretch of twenty miles, eleven of which will have called for boring operations.

If it be true that the tunnel is in working order, the existence of through railway communication from Haidar Pasha to Medina and to Nisibin, or wherever the railhead may be at present in the direction of Mosul, will materially assist Turco-German military operations on four fronts. But apart from facilitating the movement of troops and supplies it will visibly affect the

rate at which the further construction of the railway is being undertaken. The Germans will also hope that it will bring nearer and more rapidly to their doors some of the vast resources of Asia Minor. In regard to this point, however, the Allies have little need to be uneasy. The capacity of the railway is likely to be taxed to the utmost in trying to cope with military requirements.

Although the Red Cross has achieved a record in the collection of funds which eliminates all comparisons, we venture to think that, apart from it, the success of none of the many charitable schemes supported in Great Britain is more gratifying than that of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund. It started late in the day; but the particular appeal which the fortunes or misfortunes of the Mesopotamian Expedition made on a charitable public has come with irresistible force, with the result shown in the subscription lists published in this issue. Splendid as the response for subscriptions has been, the need is specially great, and the Fund has still much ground to cover to meet the immediate demands upon it. The British troops serving in Mesopotamia deserve all that an appreciative public can send them, and much more. Little indeed can be done for them in comparison with the sufferings and hardships they have had to endure in the past. We may, therefore, hope that the response to the Committee's appeal will be immediate and overwhelming.

We publish on another page an interesting document sent by a correspondent in Cairo, throwing light on the origin of the Mecca rising. Reference has already been made in these columns to the view held by the Young Turk extremists that the Arabs stood in the way of Turkey's realization of her true destiny. For this reason the Arabs as well as the other races forming the Ottoman Empire were to be Turkified, if possible, or exterminated if they proved intractable. It was recognized that the Arab problem presented certain difficulties in view of the prominent part played by this people in the religious as well as in the political sphere. Accordingly, special methods for dealing with them were to be adopted, among others their hold on Islam and on Turkish literature was to be steadily undermined. In such circumstances the Grand Shereef of Mecca naturally became the personification of all that was objectionable in the Arab world to the Turkish mind. The letter which we are able to publish shows that as long ago as 1912 the Young Turks were preparing their plans for dealing with the Arabs. It was, therefore, no sudden craze or treacherous design on the part of the Grand Shereef that prompted him to throw down a challenge to Constantinople. He had either to face a struggle as soon as the Turks might feel themselves free to cope with him, or to make good his defences by establishing an independent State when Turkey's preoccupations would put him on more equal terms in a declaration of war.

The official veil which has obscured the doings of the German mission sent as long ago as the spring of 1915 to stir up dissatisfaction in Afghanistan has at last been lifted by the Secretary of State for India. Mr. Chamberlain's narrative is of sufficient interest to be reproduced here in full. He said: In the spring of 1915 the German Government decided to send a mission to Afghanistan, and for this purpose they selected from among a number of Indian anarchists in Berlin a young landowner from Oudh, who posed to them as a ruling chief, and as such was received in audience by the Emperor. This person was accompanied by a party of German officers, some Turks, and another Indian anarchist—a Moslem. The principal German officer, Lieutenant von Hentig, was the bearer of a letter from the German Chancellor to the Amir, in which the latter was invited to advise the pretended Raja how best India might be liberated from British tyranny. Von Hentig was also charged to make important revelations to the Amir regarding the relations which the German Government hoped would in future exist between Afghanistan, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey.

The mission, continued Mr. Chamberlain, broke up in Persia, and succeeded in making its way in small parties into Afghanistan in the late summer. They were arrested on arrival, and eventually conveyed to Kabul towards the end of the year. There is reason to believe that the Amir and his people quickly appraised these Germans and the Indian adventurers by whom they were accompanied at their true value. It is true that the intervention of Turkey under German influence created a complication, and placed his Majesty in an exceedingly difficult position. But at the outbreak of the war his Majesty gave the Viceroy the most solemn assurances of his intention to preserve the neutrality of his country, and it is with great satisfaction that I acknowledge on behalf of his Majesty's Government the loyalty of the Amir to his pledged word—as sacred to the true Moslem as to ourselves. His Majesty has firmly refused the inducements—as seductive as they are unrealizable—held out to him to induce him to forsake his Ally, and has used his influence to prevent disturbances on the frontier. The Amir dismissed the mission in May last. It would not be in the public interest to state what has become of the various members; but some of them have been captured by the Russians and the British after leaving Afghanistan. The estates of the Indian landowner have been sequestered by the Government of India. Letters were also addressed by the German Chancellor to a number of Ruling Chiefs.

ENGLISH LAW AND MUSSULMAN LAW.

The Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali has just delivered two lectures at University College on the relations between English and Mussulman law. In the first (delivered on November 21) he pointed out that Mussulmans formed nearly a quarter of the inhabitants of the British Empire, and that it was impossible to govern that Empire by rulers who had no acquaintance whatever with their laws and institutions. The Mussulman Law of Status, he said, was of the utmost importance, because modern conditions had brought about a mingling of the Moslem people with other sections of the Empire's population. With regard to marriage (the foundation of human society), this was held in as much sanctity under Mussulman law as it was in Christendom, and it was a mistake to suppose that polygamy was the rule—one sect, the Mutazali, held exactly the same conception with regard to plurality of wives as the monogamous communities of the West.

In the second address, delivered last Tuesday, the lecturer said that, with the exception of certain principles, the operation of which was necessarily confined to the territorial limits of Islam, the Moslem law was generally a personal law. Its incidents remained attached to the individual Moslem, whatsoever his domicile, so long as he continued even outwardly faithful; and this was not the case with born Moslems alone, for as soon as a person belonging to a different persuasion accepted the religion of Mohammed all the civil obligations and duties which the Mussulman law imposed, and the rights and privileges which it gave, attached to the new proselyte. A mere change of domicile effected no alteration in the status or legal capacity of Mussulmans. Owing to the state of belligerency which existed originally between the Islamic Commonwealth and the hostile nations of the East and West, early Moslem jurists divided the civilised world into the "territories of war" and the "territories of peace." In this they were not more bigoted or exclusive than contemporary Christian jurists, such as Grotius and Puffendorff. In process of time more amicable relations sprang up, under which, by mutual agreement, Moslems and non-Moslems acquired reciprocal rights in friendly States; and the conditions of modern times, when millions of Mohammedans were subject to non-Moslem government, and were protected in the enjoyment of their civil rights and privileges, had also materially affected the ancient view of the Mussulman law.

The lecturer discussed at some length the legal situation which arose with regard to marriages in this country where one or both the parties were Mohammedans. He concluded that the time had now arrived when the complicated questions involved should be dealt with by legislation conceived in a broad and liberal spirit. The dicta of judges had established beyond question that marriages between two unmarried persons, one domiciled abroad and the other in England, were valid in this country, and the English Court should be empowered to determine all matrimonial questions arising in England from such a marriage. No remedy or relief should be refused on technical grounds, such as difference of domicile, faith or communion. He further suggested that when a man with a non-English domicile sought to marry a woman domiciled in England, and applied to the Registrar for a licence, that officer should in the first place transmit a notice of the intended marriage to the family of the applicant, and no marriage should be allowed to take place within a certain fixed period. This would enable people who had objections to prefer them before the ceremony was performed. Such a provision, he thought, would prevent the difficulties that arose when young foreigners married girls domiciled in England without complying with the formalities of their personal laws.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, November 10.

Sir R. Wingate's Transfer.

By far the most interesting incident of the week has been the announcement of the transfer of General Sir R. Wingate to Egypt. The first feeling of the natives on hearing the news was one of consternation at the loss of one to whom they have looked for so many years for unfailing sympathy and assistance. It would be difficult to exaggerate the strong feelings of personal attachment that are felt by the people of the Sudan for Sir R. Wingate. His kindness and accessibility are equally well known, and his knowledge of the native customs and language is profound. Above all, he is personally known to, and the friend of, all the notable natives in the country. Although, then, they acquiesce in his transfer to a wider field of activity, to which they admit his duty calls him, their regret is very deep, and they are only solaced by the fact that Egypt is, after all, only a little way off, and thus they hope to see him and not to lose touch with him altogether.

By those who have worked more directly with Sir R. Wingate in the development and administration of the Sudan, the loss is as keenly felt as by the natives, if not so vociferously expressed. The condition of the Sudan during the war is by itself sufficient evidence of the success of his administration. The Sudan Government, however, will continue to enjoy his supervision from afar, and will be proud to carry on the traditions that he has started for it of efficiency in all things.

The 'Remnants.'

Organised amusements are rare in Khartoum, and the first performance of the "Remnants" was very well attended. It fully justified the anxiety to see it. It would be invidious to particularise where every number was so fully appreciated, but possibly the greatest success of the evening was achieved by Sergt. Toovey. The inhabitants of Khartoum owe a debt of gratitude to Capt. Heriot-Hill for his untiring work both as stage manager and as a performer, and to Mr. E. More, the Governor of Khartoum, under whose auspices the performance was got up. The audience was gratified to hear that another "Remnant Sale" would be held in a month.

AMERICANS AND THE ROUMANIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

By way of showing their goodwill for the cause of the Allies the American circle of the Lyceum Club in Piccadilly gave an entertainment last Thursday. The Roumanian Minister, with his wife and daughters, Prince Bibesco, and the Countess of Bessborough were among those who were present. Afternoon tea and a musical programme were followed by an address by Mrs. Arthur Inkersley, the widow of a former American ambassador at Bucharest. Mrs. Inkersley appeared in the coronation robe worn by Queen Elizabeth of Roumania ("Carmen Sylva"), which, she explained, was a gift from the Queen herself, as were also the lantern slides with which the lecture was illustrated. Some of these pictured Roumanian scenery, others were connected with the home-life of the Roumanian Court. Mrs. Inkersley explained the circumstances under which the robe and the slides were given her. The gift was due to the Queen's sympathy with the blind. She wished Mrs. Inkersley to take up their cause, and gave her the robe and the slides so as to make the lectures more attractive. In this connection the lecturer said that Carmen Sylva was one of the most remarkable women of her time; she was a painter and musician as well as an authoress; but it was not by any of these things that she wished to be remembered; what she chiefly wished was to be remembered as a friend of the blind.

Sir George Anderson proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was heartily accorded, and a collection was made on behalf of the Roumanian Red Cross Society. The amount taken up at the time, with what was promised, will, it is hoped, realise fifty pounds, and, if this sum is reached, a friend has promised to add another fifty, making one hundred pounds altogether realised in one afternoon.

A word of praise is due to the committee of ladies who organised this successful demonstration of American goodwill for the cause of the Allies. They were: Mrs. E. Hatheway Turnbull, the President of the American circle, who, we may say, is doing a great deal of work for our blinded soldiers and sailors, Mrs. Degen, Mrs. Verco, and Mrs. Myers.

THE LOSS OF THE ARABIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PORT SAID, November 14.

Ninety passengers, together with nine European and forty native members of the P. and O. s.s. Arabia's crew arrived here late on the night of Wednesday, the 8th, in the s.s. City of Marseilles, by which they were picked up shortly after the ill-fated vessel had, without warning, been torpedoed in the Mediterranean about two days out from Port Said. They were met on arrival by the naval authorities and the P. and O. Company's agents, and were taken off in a special tender to the quay, where a procession of service motor-cars, under the able direction of the Base Commandant, rapidly conveyed the passengers and crew to the two principal hotels, where they were comfortably housed. For shipwrecked passengers one could not imagine a more cheery crowd.

When the ship was struck somewhere aft of midships, under the first-class smoking-room, all on board were partaking of the morning savoury cup of beef tea, and shortly afterwards they were lunching comfortably on the City of Marseilles, bound eastward, without money, kit, or passports, but still full of pluck. A rollicking concert was held that evening on the rescuing steamer, in which everyone joined.

The general conduct on board when the ship was struck appears from all accounts to have been excellent. The passengers mustered calmly to their appointed stations, and the boats were launched without any sign of panic. No time was lost in getting clear of the ship, and all were safely away and in view of the rescuing vessels before the Arabia took her final plunge.

The passengers are unanimous in their praise of the conduct of officers and men on board at the time when none could tell how long the vessel would remain afloat. The necessary orders were given and carried out with the calmness and method of a boat drill, and the fact that not a single passenger felt the damp of salt water is in itself a tribute to the discipline and courage of the able men to whose care so many precious lives were entrusted.

The P. and O. Company's agency here arranged for the passengers to continue their journey to London in the Messageries Maritimes steamer Paul Lecat, which sailed on Saturday, the 11th, and the passengers will be taken overland by special train from Marseilles. With the exception of a few who were suffering from shock, the whole of those landed here left on Saturday. All displayed a plucky determination to "see it through," and the courageous decision of the passengers—a large percentage of whom were women—will give the Hun an excellent idea of the moral value to him of these cowardly attacks on civilians.

A branch of the Paris Czech Press Bureau was opened on Monday at Thanet House, Strand.

On November 2, we learn from the *Egyptian Gazette*, a new daily newspaper made its first appearance in Cairo. It is named the *Egyptian Star*, and is a four-page journal.

A Reuter's message from Washington, dated November 29, reports:—The United States Ambassador in Constantinople has informed the State Department that Turkey cannot permit several hundred Americans, native and naturalised, to leave Turkey via Jaffa, owing to military necessity. In rescinding its previous consent to permit the departure of these Americans, Turkey says that the official who entered into the agreement had no authority to do so. The Government is greatly irritated by this information.

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

ATHENS LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, November 12.

The Allies and the Government.

The past week has seen Greece, or the "State of Athens," obliged to submit to further demands on the part of Admiral du Fournet. The Government, as usual, replied in the negative to the Admiral's Note demanding the delivery of the light craft of the Greek Navy, and sent in the usual protest after the Admiral had taken possession of the arsenal and of the destroyers and torpedo boats. The tricolor now flies from these vessels; they are manned by French crews, and will be used for patrolling the Greek coasts. On the same day Sir Francis Elliot and M. Guillemin had a lengthy interview with the President of the Council, who subsequently conferred for some time with the King. The exact object of that meeting has not been made known by the newspapers, and there has been much speculation as to the nature of the further demands which, it is generally believed, the Allies have made, but the most probable of the many rumours which are in circulation appears to be that they related to the transfer to the Allies of the Greek artillery, etc. This matter, as well as the question of transferring the Greek troops from Thessaly, was doubtless discussed when the King received Admiral du Fournet on Thursday. In the meantime the Admiral is asking for more trucks from the Larissa railway; and it is rumoured that the French marines will be withdrawn from the Zappion Park, where their band entertains Athenian society, when the Greek army has been removed from Thessaly.

In the midst of all these pre-occupations the gallant Admiral still finds time for social functions. A short time ago official visits were exchanged between him and the Mayor of the Piræus, and yesterday the Mayor of Athens and a delegation from the Municipal Council visited the flagship *Provence*, with the usual ceremonies. This visit is to be returned in a few days.

A Significant Incident.

The following incident seems to have excited some attention, and is an illustration of the tactics of the anti-Venizelists. A motor-car conveying some French, Italian, and Serbian officials, and military men from Arta to Yanina was stopped on the way by some armed men, who said they would not allow the Italians to proceed; whereupon the whole party returned to Arta. The band was evidently organized as a demonstration against the presence of Italians in Epirus. The usual apologies, promises of punishment, etc., are, of course, forthcoming.

A Railway Strike.

Strikes seem to be the order of the day just now, and as soon as one is disposed of another is announced. The seamen's strike came to an end on Wednesday, the Government having arranged to indemnify the families of the victims of the Angelike and the Kiki-Issaia, which were torpedoed outside the Piræus. The coastal navigation has therefore been resumed, and Admiral Fournet has promised to convoy vessels proceeding to Salonika with Venizelist recruits. It is now the turn of the men of the Attica railway to vent their grievances, and, their efforts to obtain an increase of wages having failed, they have gone on strike; and the train services to Laurium and to the fashionable country place, Kephissia, have been suspended since Friday.

The "Benzine Deputy."

Some excitement has been caused by a raid on the residence of Mr. Callimassiotis, a member of the Greek Chamber, by the French police. There was some resistance from the house, and Mr. Callimassiotis got away. He is one of the gang who have been giving supplies to German submarines, and a number of letters are in the possession of the Anglo-French police proving his culpability. These letters are being published in some of the papers, and the Public Prosecutor has now opened an inquiry. In the meantime, the "Benzine Deputy" appears to be in hiding.

RECENT CONDITIONS IN PALESTINE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Another summer and autumn of increasing suffering, want, and privation have passed over the heads of the unfortunate population of Southern Palestine. Although there has been no repetition of the plague of locusts of 1915, and the harvest was a good one, the country has derived hardly any benefit from this, for all the grain has been monopolised by the Government authorities. They use it, first, to supply the army, the military institutions, and the households of the officials, and then the people are allowed to purchase what remains, but only in very limited quantities and at exorbitantly high prices.

Earlier than the harvest came the Government introduction of paper money. This brought with it great difficulties, as only £T5 and £T1 notes were available in Jerusalem, and no one would supply change at anything like the value of the note; whilst the Government forbade the notes being passed under less than their full value at heavy penalties! People were reduced to the direst straits, for no shopkeeper would change a £1 note. Change was only to be obtained secretly and at a heavy loss to the owner of the paper money; while at the same time both parties to the transaction, if discovered, were liable to heavy fines and imprisonment! When the harvest time came the Bedouin, the usual carriers of wheat from the Hauran to Jerusalem, absolutely refused to sell in exchange for paper money; they would have gold or silver, or else bring no supplies. Wheat, then, became so scarce that at last even the Government had to arrange for a supply of gold to be sent to the east of the Jordan to satisfy the Bedouin. But from that time all the grain supply was in the authorities' hands. The wheat grown in Palestine itself was seized on the threshing floors, and the Government monopoly was established. The peasants in the villages, though their condition is bad, suffer a little less than the townsfolk, as they are still able to dispose of some of their produce, and also to hide a little for their own use.

Happily the fig-trees yielded well this year, though the grape crop was very poor, and grapes were scarce and expensive. The figs helped to some extent to satisfy the natural craving for something sweet, as sugar has long been unobtainable by any except the very wealthiest.

But the greatest suffering of all is caused by the want of fuel and of lighting; and this is but too likely to be much increased as the winter draws on. The cold in Jerusalem during January and February is often severe, and now it is difficult to have a fire even to cook a meal with. Petroleum, formerly brought in abundance from the Russian oilfields at Batoum and Baku, as well as from American sources, is not to be had. Coal used to be brought from France and from Cardiff; but the coal which was in the country in November, 1914, was seized by the Government on the declaration of war. This has long been used up, and, of course, no more can be brought in because of the blockade. The only fuel remaining is wood, and of this very little indeed is to be had, and that at a very high price. Even before the war the wood supply was growing scantier every year, owing to the neglect of afforestation and the lack of forest laws. Even fruit trees have been cut down for wood, which is needed for the engines of the trains, now run for military purposes only.

The destitution and exhaustion of the whole land are terrible. Probably no other country, except those which have been the scene of actual fighting, has suffered so greatly from the effects of the war as have Palestine and Syria. And over all hangs the haunting dread that any incautious word or aspiration overheard and reported by a spy may be interpreted as showing "pro-Ally" feeling, thus leading to the speaker being dragged before the authorities, who will give him short shrift. Those who have relatives in Egypt are especially in danger, and this class embraces all the more intelligent part of the Christian population, as the better prospects in Egypt during the last ten years have led to an increasing stream of educated young men, and even young women, going to that land from Palestine, whilst their parents generally remained at home. Hundreds of families in Jerusalem and the other towns of Palestine have thus been, since the war, completely severed from each other. Not only are they unable to communicate the one with the other, but also those in Palestine are in personal danger if there is ever any suspicion that news from Egypt reaches them.

Abdul Damid Zehravi, a Turkish Senator, has, according to the German papers, been sentenced to death by a Court-martial, and has already been executed for alleged conspiracy against Turkey by attempting to make Syria an independent Arabian principality.

MONASTIR.

A Historical Note.

By Dr. T. GEORGEVITCH.

In the south-west of Macedonia, to the west of the spacious and fertile plain of Pelagonia, situated on a slope of the banks of the rapid and turbulent Dragor, lies the large Serbian town of Monastir, with a population of about 60,000 inhabitants. After Belgrade and Skoplje, it is the largest town in Serbia. The name "Monastir," which has become known throughout the whole of the world in consequence of the campaign taking place in the south-eastern European theatre of war, is of ancient Greek origin. The Serbian name for the town is Bitolj, which derives its origin from the Serbian word *obitelj*, meaning "monastery."

In Roman times it was in the middle of the celebrated Roman road, Via Egnatia, which connected the Adriatic with the White Sea from Durazzo to Salonika. At the end of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh centuries the Slav Emperors of Macedonia had their palaces in Monastir. It was also the seat of a bishop under the Ochrida Archbishopric. The old Roman road from Durazzo to Salonika remained through the whole of the Middle Ages the only road from the Adriatic to the White Sea; and Monastir was, therefore, a prominent town and market on that road.

During the Middle Ages Monastir is not mentioned very frequently in history. Other towns in the vicinity, with which were connected the most famous traditions of ancient Slav and Serbian history, were Monastir's powerful competitors, and they prevented her from becoming famous. Ochrida, seventy kilometres distant, was the centre of the well-known Ochrida bishopric, established in the tenth century by St. Clement, one of the first preachers of Christianity among the Slavs of the Balkan Peninsula. Later on, prior to the Turkish conquest, Ochrida was the royal residence of the great Serbian Voyvode, Branko Mladenovitch, founder of the Serbian dynasty of Brankovitch. Prespa, 35 kilometres from Monastir, was the royal residence of the independent Slav Empire of Macedonia in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and before the Turkish conquests it was the royal residence of the Serbian Voyvode, Novak. Prilep, also 35 kilometres from Monastir, was one of the royal residences of the Serbian Tsar Dushan (1331-1355), and the permanent royal residence of King Vukashin (1366-1371) and King Marko (1371-1394). Beside such important places Monastir was necessarily hampered in its progress.

The importance of Monastir really dates from Turkish times. When the Turks wrested Macedonia from the Serbs they destroyed all the old Serbian centres, and chose Monastir, in Western Macedonia, to take their place. Under the Turks the city became one of the centres of Turkish administration, and was the capital of the whole of the vilayet of Monastir and the principal town of Western Macedonia. Since that time all the records of Monastir speak of it as a large, beautiful, wealthy, and progressive town.

During the Turkish rule the importance of Monastir was a large factor in Serbian history. In the seventeenth century, in Komorn, north of Budapest, there was among Serbian emigrants the famous family of Monastirlija, which had migrated thither from Monastir. From this family, in 1698, the whole of the Serbs in Austria chose for their under-leader (*vice-dux nationis Serbicae*) Jovan Monastirlija. On April 11, 1691, the Austrian Emperor, Leopold I., was compelled, much against his will, to recognise him as such. Filled with hate against the Turks, who had driven out his ancestors from their homes, Jovan Monastirlija heroically led the Serbian nation into battle against the Turks. On his death he left to the Serbs the most glorious memories.

At the very beginning of the nineteenth century Monastir was also for a while the residence of the well-known Ali Pasha of Yanina.

After the liberation of Serbia from the Turks at the beginning of the same century the town was closely connected with Serbia. A large number of people from

Monastir found in Serbia, among their liberated brothers, a warm welcome.

Since Monastir was connected up with Salonika by the railway it has become one of the first markets of the Balkan Peninsula. All of South-Western Macedonia and a great part of Southern Albania bring their goods to the market of Monastir, and from there the goods are despatched to Salonika and elsewhere.

On November 19, 1912, the Serbs wrested Monastir from the Turks. On the same day in 1916 they captured it from the Bulgars.

"YOUNG TURK" v. ARAB.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 17.

Some little time ago some important documents came into the possession of a gentleman enjoying the confidence of the Emir Hussein, the Grand Shereef. At the time it would have been injudicious to make them public, although they redound to the credit of the Shereef and his supporters; but now that conditions have changed, no harm can be done by giving them publicity. Among them is an extract from a letter sent to the Grand Shereef by the well-known deputy for Busreh, Taleb Bey el Nakib, which reveals in a glaring light the treacherous designs that the Unionists were harbouring against Arabia and the Arabs as far back as 1912. The interest attaching to the letter is enhanced if we recall the circumstances under which it was written.

In previous notes a brief account was given of the incident between the Shereef and the Unionist Vali of the Hejaz who arrived in Mecca with his paramour, who, dressed as a Moslem lady, accompanied him constantly during his sojourn in his summer residence at Taieff as well as in the course of his tours to Medina and Jeddah, both indulging, the while, in insolent defiance of sacred traditions, in drinking, and much unseemly conduct in general. Now, this Vali was Wahib Bey; and when, after being driven out of the country by the Shereef, he arrived at Constantinople, great indignation prevailed among the Unionists, who forthwith set about devising means of revenge. Some of them met in the palace, at Beshiktash, of Taleb Bey el Nakib; and the proceedings at this meeting are dealt with in the extract from the letter mentioned above, of which the following is a faithful translation:—

Know, oh my Master (*Sayyed*) that the enemies of our language and race have, in their unanimous rancour, decided to divest you of the Emirship, and to confer it on their henchman Shereef Ali Haidar [a rank Unionist, and an ex-Senator and Director of Wakfs]. They are now plotting for your downfall, after Wahib Bey had related to them all that took place between you and him. I wish you could condescend to treat these folks with leniency and indulgence until the time comes for us to rid ourselves of their tyranny and odious arrogance, especially as you well know, oh my *Sayyed*, that the Empire has fallen into their claws, and the helm of Government is entirely in their hands; and so they hold the people by the neck, destroying those whom they wish, although this is calculated to lead to the destruction of the people. They declared before me—and that fanatic Khalil Bey was at their head—that we, the Arabs, have not submitted to their will; and that, therefore, there was nothing left for them but to hang us on the gibbet, so that they should be left free and unhampered. The echo of this threat has, oh my *Sayyed*, reached the ears of all the Arab deputies here, and caused consternation in their ranks, and provoked loud protests on their part; and the meetings in the house broke up that day in this fashion; and your honourable son, Shereef Abdullah, will describe to you the roughness and high-handedness of these low upstarts. I always remember what the *Tanin*—which is their mouthpiece—has never ceased to write about the Arabs, tearing away with vile claws their honour, not sparing even the tombs of the holy dead. Did it not say that they were the cradle of corruption and the birthplace of wrong conceptions, finally going to the length of attacking the Holy Places, which it qualified as the land of brigandage and barbarism? One could read between the lines the devout wish on its part that the Arabs might be wiped out leaf and root. Forget not, oh Shereef, my *Sayyed*, all this, and know that all the Arab deputies here uphold you with their tongues and their hearts, and gratefully acknowledge all that the Hejaz owes to you since you assumed the rule over it. Aye, they acknowledge your love of your faith, and your solicitude for the welfare of your nation, threatened as it now is by its enemies. If you rise up to uphold the Arabs and save them from tyranny and slavery, we shall all rise up with you. And I now address to your honourable person along with this a letter signed by every Arab deputy here who does not fear to

work for his Faith and his nation, after signs of aggression have appeared on the part of those folks in regard to your rights; and this as an expression of their feelings towards you and an acknowledgement, on their part, of your right to be the Khalif of the Prophet, and the person responsible to all the Arab lands. They do so, unmindful of what may result. And peace be on you.

Here follows the letter, signed by thirty-three Arab deputies, whose names the Grand Shereef did not wish to divulge. It is couched in the following moving terms:—

To the great *Sayyed* and noble Shereef, Hussein Pasha, Emir of Mecca: may Allah preserve him.

We, the Arab deputies, in the Mejliss El Mabouthan [Parliament], recognise thee as the Emir of Mecca, and acknowledge thee as the sole spiritual chief of all the Arab lands; for thou art the pure descendant of the House of the Prophet (may the peace and prayer of Allah be on him), and this our collective solemn declaration is recorded on behalf of the people of our country, and shall be openly proclaimed when necessity arises. May Allah preserve thee to thy nation, and help thee to repel evil from thy faith.

These are undeniable documentary proofs of the fact that the Shereef's action is not the mere outcome of a manoeuvre, as some would have the world believe, engineered by outside influences, but the result of a deep-seated national movement, which has long been fermenting, and to which the turn of events, after the war, gave open expression. Of course, sympathy and encouragement on the part of the Powers interested in the destinies of Islam, and pledged to the freedom of the smaller nations, were bound to be given to such a movement.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WAR SKETCHES IN THE BALKANS.*

The title of this book is somewhat of a misnomer. It is neither a political history nor a military treatise, but a series of sketches in the rear of the Eastern front—never of actual battles, sometimes humorous, often tragic, and even horrible, but always alive. Originally written for an American magazine, they are here, very wisely, collected in a single volume. The Englishman to-day has so learned to identify himself with his allies that the detached and critical air of this American journalist may at times seem wanting in sympathy, but that is because the cause of each nation with us is now our cause and its misfortunes are our own. For seven months during 1915 the author, generally with the artist, wandered behind the Eastern front gathering impressions. He pictures—an awful account—Serbia before its last invasion, ravaged by typhus, and laid waste in parts by the earlier Austro-Hungarian invaders:—

Shabatatz contained twenty-five hundred houses. Some had been destroyed by guns, twice as many more were wantonly burned, and all of them had been broken into and looted. One walked along miles and miles of streets; every house was gutted. The invaders had taken linen, pictures, children's playthings, furniture, and what was too heavy or cumbersome to move they had wrecked with axes. They had stabled their horses in the bedrooms of fine houses. In private libraries all the books lay scattered in filth on the floor, carefully ripped from their covers. Not simply a few houses had been so treated—every house.

At Lechnitz more than a hundred women and children were chained together, their heads struck off, and were lying in a separate heap. At Kravitz old men, women, and children were tortured and fiendishly outraged, then butchered. At Yvremovatz fifty people were herded into a cellar and burned alive. And so on. The same old tale of Belgium, but here the work of Hungarians, who "reverted to their savage ancestors, the Huns"! Since this was written the poor Serbians have had an even worse dose of the twentieth century "cultured" Hun of Western Europe.

From Serbia the author passed to Russia, when, amidst many racily told adventures, he witnessed Russia's blackest hour—the great retreat. He tells of the appalling lack of guns and ammunition. Reserves in trenches behind the front line with no rifles at all, depending entirely upon picking up those of the fallen. His commentary on what he saw is, "Everywhere, utter disorganization," and prodigal waste of human life.

Of Russian life he says:—

It takes hold of the minds of men because it is the most comfortable, the most liberal way of life. Russian ideas are the most exhilarating, Russian thought the freest, Russian art the most exuberant, and Russian food and drink are to me the best, and Russians themselves are, perhaps, the most interesting human beings that exist.

For the account of many adventures, including arrest and imprisonment which led him from the rear of the armies to Petrograd, and thence through Moscow to Constantinople, the reader must read the book itself. It will well repay

* "The War in Eastern Europe." By John Reed. With Illustrations by B. Robinson. (Evelyn Nash Company, Limited. 10s. 6d. net.)

perusal, and at such a time as this it should have a large circulation. Of Constantinople itself and the Turks, the author writes pleasantly and picturesquely, but there is little new. English readers would like to hear more—what he says is much to the point—upon German rule in Turkey. Of the Roumanians, then weighing their decision in the balance, the writer has nothing good to say, but—like most of us in pre-war days—he greatly admires the Bulgarians. Their allying themselves against us is one of the great national tragedies of the war.

There was still a majority against the Germans when Bulgaria went to war. . . . Bulgarian statesmen . . . play the game of personal ambition and personal profit. . . . King Ferdinand is a regular romantic Balkan King. He perpetually sees himself riding into Constantinople on a white horse—the Tear of an immense, belligerent Empire. And as I write this he has again hurled his people against their will into a war from which they cannot emerge except as losers.

When ending his tour at Greece he summarizes his impressions of the Balkan peoples: "The Roumanians are gay and graceful; the Bulgars, honest and friendly; the Serbs, witty, brave, and charming; and after these the Greeks seem a stunted, unfriendly people, without any flavour!"

The forty-eight full pages of sketches greatly add to the value of the book; many are extraordinarily interesting, being happily reproduced almost untouched from the original sketch book. The impression of the "chanting legions" of Russians in Lemberg is one not easily forgotten.

A MODEL RUSSIAN PRIMER.*

Mr. Nevill Forbes, who has succeeded the late Mr. Morfill as Reader in Russian in the University of Oxford, is responsible for a most useful primer, in the guise of a collection of Russian fables. Each story has the Russian text, a phonetic transcription, and a word-for-word translation juxtaposed. His booklet will enable beginners to read and pronounce the most difficult of European languages with a fair degree of fluency; it is a marvel of labour-saving ingenuity. The stories thus treated are interesting as illustrations of the national genius; and the following is a fair sample, rendered in colloquial English:—

A peasant made great friends with a bear, and they agreed to sow turnips together. The peasant said: "I'll take the roots, and your share, Michael, shall be the tops." In course of time a fine crop came up, and was divided under the working agreement. Michael grumbled a bit on getting his share, but there was no help for it. When the following year's crop was discussed, the bear said: "This time you must take the tops and give me the roots." "Right you are," replied the peasant, and sowed wheat! So poor Michael was again cheated; and since that harvest the pair have not been on speaking terms.

Russians are blessed with a sense of humour which is utterly lacking in Teutondom, and a greater capacity for co-operation than is seen in the "individualist" communities of Western Europe. Hence their fortitude under adverse conditions, and their vast cohesive strength, which is proof against the severest external pressure.

F. H. S.

BOOK NOTES.

Miss Estelle Blyth, whose name is so well known to our regular readers, is the author of "Warrior Saints." Messrs. Harrap are the publishers of the little book, and its price is 1s. net.

We regret that by a printer's error the name of the publishers of "A Balkan Freebooter," which appeared last week in our list of books received, was given as "Smith, Lever, and Co." It should, of course, have been Smith, Elder, and Co.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have published recently "The Black Hole of the Desert," the diary of a yeoman-signaller, one of the survivors of H.M.S. Tara (1s. net), and "Malta, the Nurse of the Mediterranean," by the Rev. A. G. Mackinnon (2s. 6d. net).

BOOK RECEIVED.

Armenian Legends and Poems. Illustrated and compiled by Zabelle C. Boyajian. (J. M. Dent and Sons. 21s. net.)

* "Word-for-Word Russian Story Book." By Nevill Forbes, M.A., Oxford, B. H. Blackwell, Broad Street, 1916. Price 1s.



**THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT**

may be obtained in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Lecsoums, Nalwa,
Samias, &c.

Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am indebted to a correspondent in Salonika for two curious newspaper clippings. The first, which is taken from the "Stop Press" column of the *Balkan News* a long time ago—May 5, to be precise—reads:—

A Zeppelin had survoled the port of Salonika this morning at 2 o'clock, but was destructed by the guns of the Fleet at 3 o'clock.

That was certainly an item worth stopping the press for. I am curious to know what form of frightfulness "survoling" a port indicates, but it is satisfactory, even now, to read that the monster was destructed within an hour of its arrival. The second clipping is from the *Independant*, and runs:—

UNE CURIEUSE ADHESION.

Parmi les officiers et soldats arrivés hier d'Athènes, se trouve également le commandant Mavroudis qui est le signataire du fameux protocole de la reddition de Ruppel. Il vient lui aussi, en compagnie d'autres officiers, adhérer au mouvement de la Défense Nationale.

The record of the new recruit, or what we are told of it, seems to render his adherence to the National Defence movement a cause for some surprise. My correspondent, who does not appear to be an admirer of the Fort Roupel incident, adds no fewer than four marks of exclamation to the title. The number does not strike me as excessive.

It seems to be established beyond question that there are a number of women in the world at least as ready to fight as many of the men. Last week one of our tribunals received a letter from one of these women, urging that she should be enrolled and sent to the front, and assuring them of her fitness in all respects for fighting. Then, we know that at least one of our countrywomen has attained to the rank of sergeant in the Serbian Army. And apart from these single cases there have been—so I understand—offers from large bodies of women, who have declared themselves ready to go anywhere and do anything. In the past, also, there have been fairly numerous examples of women serving as soldiers—and sailors—and serving remarkably well, too. As to the pluck of all these women, there can be little doubt. Their sisters in other fields of activity have shown us that courage is by no means a monopoly of the rougher sex. We are proud of our women, and with good reason.

All these cases, however, are those of voluntary service, or offers of service; and when we were told a short time ago that the Germans were contemplating the mobilisation of their women for war service—though not, of course, for employment in the firing line—the idea must have struck most of us as utterly repellent. Very few Englishmen would deny to-day that to compel any man to serve his country in whatever way he can best do so is perfectly legitimate. But with regard to women, we can hardly feel so sure; and certainly the notion of forcing any woman to take part in the actual fighting must be obnoxious in the extreme.

That, however, is exactly what a correspondent in Bucharest informs me that the Austrians have been doing. He writes:—"It appears that the Austrians, having in mind the exploits of the Amazons, are now enrolling women in the ranks of their army, so hard pressed are they for soldiers. These unfortunates are given a month and a half's training and are then sent to the trenches. But, careful for the lot of their 'Wäsch Mäd' and others of Vienna, they enrol only Roumanian women. One of these poor creatures, who had already obtained a sergeant's stripes, has managed to escape, and, her own wounds being now healed, is acting as a nurse at the Colza Hospital in Bucharest, where she goes by the nickname of 'Sergeant Rose.'" The story is circumstantial, and my correspondent is, I believe, trustworthy. Nevertheless, I cannot help hoping that there is a mistake somewhere.

A correspondent informs me that an Egyptian journalist has been taking THE NEAR EAST'S Cyprus Correspondent to task for writing of "the appointment of Fuad Bey and Khalid Bey as 'Turkish Judges' at Nicosia and Limassol respectively." "Can anyone explain this to me?" asks the scribe referred to, who appears to be labouring under the delusion that he has caught THE NEAR EAST—or its Cyprus Correspondent—napping. The explanation is, however, perfectly simple; and though my personal acquaintance with the island is not very extensive, I believe I can enlighten the bewildered pressman.

In each of the six Districts in Cyprus the Court is presided over by a British lawyer, and there is also a "Greek" judge and a "Turkish" judge. The latter two legal luminaries either sit with the President as a "full court" or

separately, as "magistrates"; and by British residents they are invariably spoken of as the "native judges." Equally naturally an Englishman would speak (or write) of them individually as "the Turkish judge" and "the Greek judge." These "Turkish judges" must, of course, not be confused with the officials of the *Mehkemeh Sherië*, which is presided over by a *Kadi*, and, under the terms of the Convention, deals with cases of a purely Moslem religious character. This, I hope, will satisfy the inquiring gentleman's thirst for information, and explain to him how it came about that, even though Cyprus *does* now belong to England—and may it always do so, in spite of the agitators in both islands!—THE NEAR EAST'S Correspondent, whose knowledge of Cyprus is extensive, wrote as he did.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Hints for King Constantine.

Nov. 23.

Mr. R. McNEILL asked whether the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs was aware that the Treaty of 1863, which established the Dyrasty to which the present King of Greece belongs upon the Greek Throne, contained an article asserting that under the guarantee of Great Britain, France, and Russia Greece forms a constitutional State, and that this article was framed in consequence of the events of 1862, when King Otto, a German Prince, was deposed from the Greek Throne for having over-ridden the Constitution, and was removed on board a British ship, a provisional Government being set up in Greece, supported by an army of national defence; and whether he would instruct the British Minister at Athens to call the attention of King Constantine to this precedent?

Lord R. CECIL: Yes, sir; I am aware of the article to which my hon. friend refers. If King Constantine has forgotten it, no doubt my hon. friend's question will remind him of it.

Mr. LYNCH: Is it the case that the anomalies of the Greek situation really conceal something which the Foreign Office dares not convey to this House?

Lord R. CECIL: No, sir; I am not only not aware of it, but I know it to be utterly untrue.

Commander BELLAIRS asked whether his Majesty's Government would take measures to see that the followers of M. Venizelos inhabiting towns in Old Greece or towns to the south of the neutral zone now established would be allowed to cross the neutral zone, to the jurisdiction of M. Venizelos.

Lord R. CECIL: The decision of all such matters rests with the Allied Governments, and I cannot say more than that these matters are receiving and will continue to receive the attention of those Governments. To say more than this one way or the other would necessarily give the impression that we were trying to impose our will on the Allies by making a public statement designed to force their hands.

The Arrest of a Greek Editor.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL asked the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs whether the attention of the Secretary of State had been directed to the arrest, on a charge of high treason, in Athens, of M. Tambruhis, the acting chief editor of the *Patris*, a journal which was in favour of the policy of M. Venizelos; whether the alleged high treason consisted in publishing documents regarding the handing over of Fort Rupel to the Bulgarians in obedience to official documents, signed by M. Skouloudis himself and the War Minister, in his Cabinet, by which the commander of Fort Rupel was authorised to allow the fort to be occupied by Germans and Bulgarians, but not by the Allies; whether the publication by the *Patris* of these official documents, signed by M. Skouloudis, the Greek Prime Minister of the day, showed that when he, as Prime Minister, declared in the Greek Chamber that he knew nothing of, and had given no order for, the surrender of the fort he was guilty of a deliberate public falsehood, having regard to the fact that he had given the order for its surrender two months previously; and whether his Majesty's Government would take adequate measures to prevent the infliction of that penalty of high treason or any other penalty on M. Tambruhis for the exposure of an act of treachery or looseness on the part of M. Skouloudis to the Allies, towards whom his Government was assuming the guise of neutrality, while endeavouring to counteract their policy in German and Bulgarian interests.

Lord R. CECIL said his Majesty's Minister at Athens had been asked to furnish a report on the incident. As he (Lord Robert) had already pointed out, it was not for the Allies and not for H.M. Government alone to take measures in connection with this and other like occurrences.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

The Situation in Greece.

Nov. 27.

Mr. ELLIS GRIFFITH asked whether it was true that his Majesty's Government for the last two years had been pressing on Greece and Roumania the duty of neutrality. Since M. Venizelos had formed a Provisional Government and declared war in the name of that Government upon Germany, what was the position of his Majesty's Government? The Government ought to make up their minds as to who was their friend—King Constantine or M. Venizelos. M. Venizelos was their friend not only in profession but in practice and sacrifice, and the least his Majesty's Government could do was to stand by him. The Allies had declared a neutral zone in Greece, and what our friends in Greece said was that in that neutral zone there was no passage for Greeks who wished to join the Venizelos party. Was that true or not?—because if it were true the sooner we relaxed these restrictions the better. It was also alleged that those who had joined the Venizelist party were being prosecuted and condemned for high treason. There was a vast amount of alarm and disquiet in this country about our attitude towards Greece. He asked for an assurance that the Government would not only recognise M. Venizelos as *de facto* ruler but in every possible way as a friend and ally, and as a man we were prepared to back up with all the resources of our Empire.

Mr. DILLON said it was a discredit to the House that when this burning question was raised a few nights ago an organised count-out should have taken place. The House had remained silent far too long concerning the attitude of the Government towards M. Venizelos. An idea fatal to this nation was spreading abroad that whatever nation or body of men on the Continent declared itself friendly to this country was bound to suffer. He hoped that before long an opportunity would be claimed for a debate concerning the Balkans and the disasters which were taking place. It might be argued plausibly but not successfully that in the cases of Serbia and Roumania we were unable to aid; but that plea could not be urged in regard to M. Venizelos and those who spoke for the majority of the people of Greece. Surely we had not too many friends that we should turn our backs on M. Venizelos.

Mr. J. M. HENDERSON considered that this was eminently a case where we must work with our Allies. Do not let us hide from ourselves what was manifest—namely, that there was a large section of Greece which did not want to fight.

Commander BELLAIRS said there could be no doubt that there was great alarm and disquiet throughout the country about the attitude of the Government. No member of the House expected separate action to be taken by his Majesty's Government in Greece, but it was desired that the case should be put as strongly as possible for M. Venizelos. There was an idea that his Majesty's Government had been rather a drag on the progress of matters in Greece. His Majesty's Government should lead the way and clear up a situation which ought not to have existed for more than a week.

Mr. R. M'NEILL said that his view—and it was one widely held in the House and outside it—was that the situation in Greece was only one of many illustrations which showed that almost all the troubles, disasters, and disappointments we had suffered in the war were due to the inveterate tendency of the Foreign Office to do things which discouraged our friends. Nothing could be more absurd than the policy of recognising two Governments in Greece, one the *de jure* Government in Athens, our enemy, and the other the *de facto* Government at Salonika under M. Venizelos, our friend. Even districts in New Greece which the evidence of elections showed were supporters of M. Venizelos were subjected to the terrorism and persecution of the Court at Athens, and the adherents of M. Venizelos looked in vain for help to his Majesty's Government or to any of the Allies. In 1862 King Otto was deposed by the protecting Powers of Greece because he had overridden the Constitution, and was taken away in a British battleship. That was a precedent which his Majesty's Government might bring to the attention of the King.

Sir H. DALZIEL said the opinion was widely held in France that this country was responsible for the state of things in the Balkans. That, he thought, was a reason why the Government ought to make a full and clear statement of their policy to the world.

Lord R. CECIL said it had been suggested more than once in debate that in this matter his Majesty's Government ought to give a lead to the Allies. What did that mean? Supposing that the British Government had a view different from that of one or more of its Allies, was the representative of that Government to come down to the House of Commons and say: "We think so and so, but our Allies do not agree." Would that be treating our Allies honestly or fairly? They would say that we were changing the position, and that the discussion between us was no longer being carried on upon equal terms. When hon. members really reflected, he could not think that they would wish the British Government to behave in such a way. An alliance in war was not easy to carry on under the circumstances, but this alliance had been carried on with an amazing want of friction, with a smoothness and general agreement which had no precedent in history. We wanted it to remain in that position, and we did not want to take any action which might cause friction and trouble. In these circumstances it was absolutely essential that we should show discretion and even reserve in dealing with every question relating to diplomatic affairs. He did not want it to be understood for a moment that in this case we advocated any particular policy which our Allies would not follow, or that they advocated a policy with which we did not agree. He had only been speaking quite generally, and, so far as he was aware, we had agreed on every point. His Majesty's Government had been criticised because they had recognised the *de facto* Government of M. Venizelos in the districts in which it was established, and at the same time had recognised the *de jure* Government of the King in Athens. He understood that M.

Venizelos governed in the name of the King, and that he was carrying on the Government of the King on lines of his own in that part of Greece where he exercised control.

Mr. PRINGLE: Is the declaration of war in the name of the King?

Lord R. CECIL: I do not know. That being so, it is plain that the *de jure* Government in Greece must be the Government of the King, and it is equally plain that we should not be recognising facts as they actually are if we did not recognise M. Venizelos' Government as the actual body which has the administration of the country in the districts which he controls. For the life of me, I do not see what other course was open to us. As to the neutral zone, what happened was this: The forces of M. Venizelos and the forces of the King came into collision at a place called Ekaterina, and it was felt that, from every point of view, there was nothing to be gained, and much to be lost, from an outbreak of civil war in Greece. The question was: How is that to be prevented? The device hit upon was that a neutral zone should be established between the two forces, and that neither should be allowed to enter it.

Mr. R. M'NEILL: Why could not you have said that you would throw your whole weight on the side of M. Venizelos?

Lord R. CECIL: That would have been another policy. The policy the Allies adopted was the one I am endeavouring to describe; for the moment I am not discussing whether the policy was good or bad. Having decided that this was the best way of avoiding a collision between the two forces, the Allies entrusted the French military authorities with the execution of that policy, and the French authorities have occupied that zone. It is said that we were there for dynastic reasons, and that our policy was dictated by dynastic considerations. That is absolutely untrue. The idea that we are bolstering up the King for some private or personal reason is absolutely untrue. The policy of the Allies is simply to do what they think is best in their belligerent interests and in the interests of Greece, and nothing else. It is equally untrue to say that we are prepared or are willing to throw over M. Venizelos. We recognise the services he has rendered not only to Greece but to ourselves. We shall never abandon M. Venizelos.

Roumania and the Allies.

Nov. 28.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary for War whether, before the end of August, 1916, the military and political position in Eastern Europe, and especially of Roumania, was reported on by the Intelligence Department of the War Office; if so, whether such report held out the prospect that an adequate supply of material of war was secured for the Roumanian Army, and that sufficient Allied support was forthcoming, with which the Roumanian Army could meet any possible enemy attack; and, if so, who was the officer responsible for this report; and what steps were being taken to restore the military position of our Roumanian Ally.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said it was not advisable to give information on that subject in answer to a question.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Prime Minister at what date the War Council decided to give the utmost assistance possible to Roumania, and whether there were any reports or minutes, the substance of which he could give to the House, which were made by the advisers of the Government as to the policy which should be followed in support of Roumania.

Mr. BONAR LAW, who replied, said: It would not be in the public interest to answer the questions put by the hon. member, but he may be assured that the Allies are rendering all assistance in their power.

Release of Venizelists.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs what results had followed the steps taken by the Allies to obtain the release of Greek officers who were imprisoned by the order of King Constantine on the ground of their anti-Bulgarian sentiments.

Lord R. CECIL: Three officers have been released, and the Greek Prime Minister has undertaken to take immediate action in the case of the remainder, a list of whom has been furnished to him.

The Dardanelles Commission.

Nov. 29.

Mr. BONAR LAW informed Commander BELLAIRS that the Dardanelles Commission were considering the desirability of issuing an interim report, but they could not name a date for its publication should this be decided on. The Mesopotamia Commission did not think it would be possible for them to issue an interim report before Christmas.

Greece and the Powers.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked whether the port of Piræus was regarded as being under the jurisdiction of the Provisional Government of Salonika, having regard to the fact that the inhabitants were Venizelist in sympathy.

Mr. J. F. HOPE: M. Venizelos was informed that the Allied Powers would recognise his *de facto* authority in those districts and islands which accepted his Government and officials. These conditions are not present in the case of the Piræus, so that the suggestion contained in the last part of the question does not arise.

Mr. HOPE, replying to Sir E. CORNWALL, who asked whether the Boulogne Conference decided to introduce any new principle into the procedure governing the action of the Allied Powers in Greece; and, if so, whether the privileged status of the protecting Powers, England, France, and Russia, was thereby affected, said:—It is not possible for me to make statements in this House regarding what passed between the Allied Powers at the Conference of Boulogne without consulting those Powers, except that there was complete agreement as to the steps then to be taken with regard to Greece; but I can assure the hon. gentleman that the status of the guaranteeing Powers was in no way affected by any decisions come to at that Conference.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style)	Julian (Old Style)		Moslem	Jewish
1916.	1916.		1335.	5677.
Dec.	Nov.		Safar	Kislev
1	18	Friday	5	6
2	19	Saturday	6	7
3	20	Sunday	7	8
4	21	Monday	8	9
5	22	Tuesday	9	10
6	23	Wednesday ..	10	11
7	24	Thursday	11	12

To-day is the birthday of Queen Alexandra.

Sunday is the birthday of Prince Peter of Greece, son of Prince George and Princess Marie, who was born in Paris in 1908.

Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia has telegraphed, conveying his thanks to the Serbian Relief Fund for their congratulations on the fall of Monastir. At the same time he expresses his renewed thanks for all that the Serbian Relief Fund have done and are doing for the Serbian soldiers and the Serbian people.

Prince Cantacuzene arrived in Petrograd from London last week.

Lady Bland-Sutton, who has recently undergone an operation, is for the present unable to conduct her correspondence in connection with her Red Cross work.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister was one of the visitors to the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

Count de Salis, the new British Minister to the Holy See, arrived in Rome on Tuesday.

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Earl of Ronaldshay, M.P., to be Governor of Bengal, in succession to Lord Carmichael of Stirling, whose term of office will expire in April next.

Lord Ronaldshay, who was born in 1876, is the second, but elder surviving, son of the Marquess of Zetland. He has travelled in Persia as well as in India and Ceylon, and is the author of two well-known books of travel in the Middle East: "Sport and Politics Under an Eastern Sky," which appeared in 1902, and "On the Outskirts of Empire in Asia," published in 1904. He was for a short time A.D.C. on the Viceroy's Staff in India, and he is a Major in the Yorkshire Regiment. In 1907 he was elected as Member of Parliament for Hornsey, and the same year married Miss Cicely Archdale, daughter of Colonel Mervyn Archdale.

Sir William Henry Hoare Vincent, I.C.S., who was chairman of the Commission sent to Mesopotamia to investigate the defects in the medical arrangements, has been appointed an Ordinary Member of the Executive Council of the Viceroy of India, in succession to Sir Reginald Craddock, whose tenure of the appointment will expire next April.

Lieutenant-Colonel Adrian Carton de Wiart, Dragoon Guards, had the honour of being received at Buckingham Palace on

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

Wednesday by the King, who conferred upon him the V.C. recently awarded to him.

In the special supplement to the *London Gazette* issued on November 23, containing the "List of Honours and Promotions awarded to officers of the Army for services in the field" we note with pleasure the name of Temporary Lieutenant Hugh Whittall, General List, formerly R.N., who has been awarded the D.S.O. Lieutenant Whittall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. H. Whittall, late of Constantinople.

We are glad to learn that Lieutenant Edward La Fontaine, son of Mr. Sidney La Fontaine, of Smyrna, has been awarded the French Military Cross in recognition of the services he has rendered as an *officier de liaison*. The Cross was presented recently, with the usual ceremony, and the brigade orders contained a fine tribute to Lieutenant La Fontaine's courage and devotion.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports:—The appointment of M. Mihailovitch as first Serbian Minister to the United States causes satisfaction to his many Roman friends. M. Mihailovitch was Consul-General at Monastir and Chargé d'Affaires here during both Balkan wars and until last year, subsequently becoming Minister to Montenegro, where he was when Locen fell. He is a very genial man, with a frank manner, and his forecasts about Albania have been signally verified.

An engagement is announced between William George Moultrie Gay, Lieutenant The Buffs, elder son of William Gay, Crowhurst Park, Battle, Sussex, and Katharine Josephine (Kitty), widow of the late Frederick Wood Collins Moss, Barrister-at-Law, of Alexandria, Egypt.

The marriage of Brigadier-General Montague Grant Wilkinson, late King's Own Scottish Borderers, and Miss Lina Florence Dick, eldest daughter of the late Captain Lennard Dick, R.N., was solemnised at St. Michael's Church, Leicester Square, on Thursday afternoon of last week. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. B. Dowding, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, and Major Spencer, of the bridegroom's regiment, acted as best man.

Our Roumanian Correspondent writes from Bucharest, October 20:—"The members of the Roumanian Missions from Turkey and Bulgaria have now arrived in Roumania. M. Langa Rashcano, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, and Colonel Frantomir, the Military Attaché, have, with the other members of the Legation, arrived at Bucharest. M. and Madame Derussi, with the staff from Sofia, are still at Jassy. The Missions from Berlin and Vienna should arrive in a day or two.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of November 11 reports the safe arrival in Egypt from England of Mr. McGillivray, General Manager of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. Mr. McGillivray left Cairo for the Sudan on the 9th ult.

Dr. Abraham Galante, of Constantinople, who has studied in England, has been appointed Chief Rabbi of the Oriental and Levantine Jews, numbering about fifteen thousand, in New York.

On Tuesday afternoon, at the Jehangier Hall (London University), South Kensington, Canon Parfit delivered a lecture on "Baghdad and German Intrigue."

Apropos of the appointment of Viscount Errington, Lord Cromer's son and heir, to be an Equerry-in-Ordinary and an Assistant-Private Secretary to the King, the *World* remarks:—"The latter appointment is significant—coming events cast their shadows before. Viscount Errington has had a brilliant record. Only thirty-nine, he has been in the Diplomatic Service since 1900, and has served abroad at Cairo, Teheran, and Petrograd. In 1907 he came back to the Foreign Office, and gave secretarial assistance both to Lord Hardinge and Sir A. Nicholson. In 1911 he

left Downing Street and associated himself with a leading financial house in the City, but when the war broke out he was again in the service of the State, and went to India, where he saw much of his old chief, Lord Hardinge, then the Viceroy. He is very cultured, very tactful, and very accessible—the ideal Private Secretary to Royalty. He is said to inherit some of his father's literary ability."

The Office of Works announces that the Trustees under the will of the late Lord Kitchener have recently deposited on loan two valuable examples of the armourer's craft. One of these is a pair of saddle-steels, richly embossed, engraved, silvered and gilt in the third and last style of Lucio Piccinino, the celebrated Italian armourer of the end of the Sixteenth Century. They form part of the equipment of Philip III. of Spain. The other exhibit is a Japanese sword blade made by the master, Masamutsu, about the year 1390. The metal is after over five hundred years in precisely the same state of perfection as it came from the maker's hands.

Apropos of the death of the Marquis de Vogüé, reported in these columns recently, the *Building News* publishes an interesting note, from which we take the following particulars:—The Marquis de Vogüé, the well-known diplomatist, historian, explorer, and archaeologist, had for many years been the *doyen* of the Royal Gold Medallists of the R.I.B.A., of which body he had been an hon. corresponding member since 1865. He began his work as an archaeologist lecturer in 1849 and 1851, when he was attached to the French Embassy at Petrograd, and his essays on "The Ancient Art of Russia" were published in the latter year. In 1853-4 he visited Greece, Syria, and Egypt, the results of his investigations being summarised in his work on "The Churches of the Holy Land." In 1861 M. de Vogüé joined his friend M. Waddington in an exploration of Syria, and afterwards he published "La Syrie Centrale," a work filled with accurate architectural drawings by the author and E. Duthoit, an architect of distinction, and another on "The Temple of Jerusalem."

The *Scotsman* reports that Miss Olive Smith, of the Serbian Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and formerly head teacher of physical training under the Glasgow Provincial Committee, who died in Macedonia from a malignant type of malaria on October 5, was buried in the Serbian portion of the Allies' cemetery at Salonika. The service was conducted by a Church of England chaplain from one of the British hospitals, and a funeral oration was delivered by Captain Stepanovitch, secretary to the Director of the Medical Service of the Serbian Army. Beautiful flowers were sent from the Serbian authorities—a wreath from the Third Serbian Army, as well as from the Serbian Service de Santé, and from the Serbian Director of Medical Service.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

A Reuter's message from Petrograd, dated November 23, reports: The Russian Minister in Bucharest has been recalled. General Mosoloff, Chief of the Chancellery of the Ministry of the Court, temporarily assumes charge of the Legation, with the title of Minister.

Colonel de Cumont has arrived at Bucharest as Military Attaché to the Belgian Legation.

M. Milan Gavrilovitch, the new Secretary of the Serbian Legation, and Madame Gavrilovitch arrived in London last week. M. Gavrilovitch has entered upon the duties of his post.

Captain A. Innes, R.A.M.C., Captain H. S. Smiley, Royal Fusiliers, Captain E. Chester-Master, Royal Fusiliers, and Lieutenant A. M. Ryan, 5th Light Horse Regiment, Australian Overseas Contingent, have been taken on the Egyptian Army as Special Reserve Officers, with the rank of Bimbashi, and attached, the first to the Medical Corps, the third to the 9th Sudanese, and the 2nd and 4th to the Transport.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick J. Saunders, D.S.O., R.M.L.I., who fell on November 12, aged 40, was the fifth and youngest son of Mr. William Saunders, of Sydenham. He joined the R.M.L.I. in 1895, and saw much service in South Africa, when he was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the D.S.O. He was Brigade Major of the 2nd Royal Naval Division in Gallipoli, and was mentioned in General Monro's dispatch for distinguished service during the evacuation.

Commander F. A. Brookes has died at Bath at the age of sixty-six years. He saw service during the Ashanti War of 1873-4 and during the Egyptian War of 1882. He received the Ashanti medal, the Egyptian medal, and the Khedive's Bronze Star.

Sir Ralph Frankland Payne-Gallwey, the well-known sportsman and writer on sport, died last Friday night at his residence, Thirkleby Park, Thirsk, after an illness of several months. He was an authority on ancient weapons, and the *Morning Post* remarks that his "researches on Turkish and other Oriental bows led to some curious results. The Turks, he said, were accustomed to wear a thin horn groove on the thumb of the left hand, which added considerably to the length of the arrow's flight. By way of testing the point he shot from a Turkish bow twelve arrows, each weighing about 3oz. in weight and 28½ in. in length. They flew an average of 275 yards. He then reduced the same arrows by three inches, to a weight of a half-ounce each, shot them from the same bow, wearing the horn groove, and they travelled on an average 360 yards."

The death took place, on the 24th ult., at Hagley, Worcestershire, of Colonel E. H. Fenn, C.I.E. Born in 1850, and educated at Sherborne, he joined the Army Medical Staff in 1875, and accompanied Lord Roberts's Relief Force to Kandahar, being mentioned in despatches. He took part in the Sudan Campaign in 1885, and eight years later was with Sir Mortimer Durand in his mission to Kabul, and received the thanks of the Government of India. He afterwards served on the Staffs of Lord Lansdowne and Lord Curzon in India.

SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.

SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

List of Donations received or promised to November 25, 1916:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged...	2,925	5	0
The Bradford Dyers' Association, Limited	250	0	0
Messrs. Joshua Hoyle and Sons	250	0	0
The Calico Printers' Association, Limited	105	0	0
Messrs. Richard Heworth and Co.	105	0	0
Messrs. Barlow and Jones, Limited	100	0	0
The Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Limited	100	0	0
Messrs. James Dilworth and Son	100	0	0
Messrs. Richard Fitton and Co., Ltd.	100	0	0
The Hollins Mill Co., Ltd.	100	0	0
The Cunard Steamship Co.	52	10	0
Imperial Ottoman Bank (Manchester Branch)	52	10	0
Messrs. Frederick Leyland and Co.	52	10	0
Messrs. James Moss Ltd.	52	10	0
Messrs. Pappayanni and Co.	52	10	0
Messrs. Ashton Bros. and Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. Robert Barclay and Co.	50	0	0
A. Herbert Dixon, Esq.	50	0	0
Sam Luke, Esq.	50	0	0
Messrs. Charles Macintosh and Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
The Rt. Hon. Sir William Mather, LL.D.	50	0	0
"A Syrian"	50	0	0
Messrs. Tunstall Bros.	50	0	0
The Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. Fred Taylor and Sons	50	0	0
Messrs. E. Altaras, Sons, and Co., Ltd.	31	10	0
Charles Duckworth, Esq.	30	0	0
F. Farah, Esq.	25	0	0
John H. Grafton, Esq.	25	0	0
Sir George W. Macalpine	25	0	0

Messrs. A. H. Midwood and Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. Peter Bury and Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Colonel W. W. Clapham	25	0	0
Messrs. E. S. Davis, Sons, and Co.	25	0	0
H. J. Goldschmidt, Esq.	25	0	0
Mrs. Charles Heywood	25	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Kessler	20	0	0
Messrs. Duckworth and Eddleston	20	0	0
Messrs. Benjamin Thornber and Sons, Ltd.	20	0	0
Edward Pilkington, Esq.	20	0	0
Robert Thomson, Esq.	20	0	0
Messrs. Henry Simon, Ltd.	20	0	0
Messrs. J. H. Greenhow and Co., Ltd.	20	0	0
A. Kibrite, Esq.	20	0	0
Mark Bakirjian, Esq.	10	10	0
Miss M. and J. Btoah	10	10	0
C. T. Needham, Esq., M.P.	10	10	0
H. L. Rothband, Esq.	10	10	0
James Marchanton, Esq.	10	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Brookbank	10	10	0
Messrs. E. Gribbon and Sons, Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs. Heyn, Franc and Co.	10	10	0
Samuel McLardy, Esq.	10	10	0
Messrs. Noah Rostron, Ltd.	10	0	0
Percy Green Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. Wm. O'Hanlon and Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. A. Burgen and Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. J. and H. Goodwin, Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. Greenwood Bros., Ltd.	10	0	0
John H. Earl, Esq.	10	0	0
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	10	0	0
Messrs. T. N. Griffiths, Ltd.	10	0	0
Thos. Harrison, Esq.	10	0	0
Misses Barnes	10	0	0
Messrs. John Grey, Ltd.	10	0	0
Joseph Duckworth, Esq.	10	0	0
Charles Pilkington, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. Simpson and Godlee, Ltd.	10	0	0
A. Hanmer, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. Armitage and Rigby	10	0	0
Evan S. Macpherson, Esq.	10	0	0
F. C. Lamb, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. Ashton, Whitworth, and Co.	10	0	0
The Hindley Twist Co. Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. J. B. Lees, Son, and Roberts	10	0	0
Anonymous	10	0	0
Bennett's Packing Warehouse, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Eli Heyworth and Sons, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. E. H. Young and Co.	5	5	0
Messrs. J. H. Kerry and Carrier, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Halifa, Sachs, and Son	5	5	0
W. Henry Hunter, Esq.	5	5	0
The Greenfield Mill Co. (Darwen), Ltd.	5	5	0
The Manchester Velvet Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. David Dickson and Co.	5	5	0
R. P. Hewitt, Esq.	5	5	0
A. Burgen, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Jackson and Steeple, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Wilson, Knowles and Co.	5	5	0
Wm. Hay, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. the South British Insurance Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Beatty, Altgeldt, and Co.	5	5	0
Henry Collins, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Halliday and Co.	5	5	0
Messrs. Samuel Martin and Co.	5	0	0
Messrs. George Owen and Co.	5	0	0
E. C. Hulme, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss R. C. Wood	5	0	0
George Edward Anson, Esq.	5	0	0
The Misses Kenyon	5	0	0
Messrs. G. Goodman, Ltd.	5	0	0
O. G. Goodman, Esq.	5	0	0
M. G.	5	0	0
Messrs. John Williams and Sons, Ltd.	5	0	0
Herman Briggs, Esq.	5	0	0
W. Welsh, Esq.	5	0	0
M. Kayat, Esq.	5	0	0
C. J. W.	5	0	0
John Walton, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hampson	5	0	0
Miss Mary E. Hall	5	0	0
The Right Hon. Viscount L. Bryce	5	0	0
Mrs. Emilie Beer	5	0	0
H. E. Gaddum, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss Longridge	5	0	0
Mrs. Gromme	5	0	0
Thomas Barningham, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Hanson and Clugston	5	0	0
F. G. Angel, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. M. S. S. David and U. J. Shishoua	5	0	0
Alexander Mansour, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Parr, Andrew, and Co.	5	0	0
Sums under £5	230	11	0
Total	£6,133	16	0

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

FAWKES.—On November 23, at Riverside, Lechlade, the wife of Rupert E. F. Fawkes, Sudan Civil Service, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

SHAKOOR—RIDINGS.—On November 25, at St. Faith's, Havant, by the Rev. A. G. Musgrave, rector, Trevor M. Shakoar, son of the late M. Shakoar Bey, to Maud, fourth daughter of the late W. G. Ridings, D.I.G., Royal Navy.

DEATHS.

BASILIADES.—On November 25, at his residence, 227, Archway Road, Highgate, N., after a long illness, Constantine G. Basiliades, aged 62.

GOULD.—On the 16th ult., at Higher Knowle, Lustleigh, South Devon, after a short illness, Edward Blencowe Gould, I.S.O., late H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria, Egypt. Eastern and Egyptian papers, please copy.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.55; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.18; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Office and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1916.

DIPLOMACY AND STRATEGY.

It is difficult to explain away the position in Roumania. The Allies will be better advised to face it, whether it is on the eve of improvement or about to become even more critical, and to take to heart what lessons can be derived from it. When there was a tendency to blame Roumania for delaying her intervention it was pointed out in these columns that it would be worse than useless for her to enter the war at a time when she could be overwhelmed by the enemy and might disorganize the strategy of the Allies by compelling them to abandon other plans in order to come to her rescue. This is exactly what has happened. But the discomfiture of Roumania has been so rapid and sensational that it points to something more than a mere under-estimate of the enemy's strength on the part of the Allies. We are tempted to read into it a condition of things which, if not remedied at once, may continue to prove a serious handicap to the Allied cause. The manner of Roumania's intervention argues either complete failure, not confined to the Roumanians themselves, to profit by the experience of a two years' struggle, or a possible lack of co-ordination among the Allied Governments and their General Staffs. It is incredible that the Allies should have had any other plans in the Near East than a desire to detach Bulgaria and Turkey as soon as possible from the Central Powers. In such circumstances Roumania's duty was to remain on the defensive in the Carpathians, and to throw her main strength against Bulgaria. As everyone knows, she would naturally prefer to reverse this strategy, but few people were prepared to find the Allies acquiesce in such a scheme. The idea of the Roumanian Government pitting its views against the deliberate counsel of the Allied Powers may conform with the actual facts of the case, but we venture to think that it implies hesitating diplomacy and a sad lack of conviction. It was all-important to the Allies that Roumania's intervention should achieve its maximum effect, and that there should be no dissipation of her military efforts. If the Allied General Staffs can be supposed not to have been ignorant of the salient factors in the situation, we are left to wonder whether the fault lies with the military authorities for failing to apprise their Governments fully on the subject, or with the Governments for not conveying their knowledge to Roumania with such insistence that it would have been impossible for her to ignore their advice. In either case a state of affairs exists which calls for closer co-ordination among the Allies.

If the analysis of the situation could be carried still further, we should probably find that both the military authorities and the Governments had done their duty in a mild and ineffective manner, and that the former had failed to carry conviction with the latter, because they themselves were divided in opinion. It is no secret that one school of military thought is so obsessed with the idea that a decision must be reached in the West that it has been unable to contemplate a campaign not confined to a series of sanguinary frontal attacks. Attempts to out-flank the enemy in order to weaken the strength of his main position are denounced; scorn is heaped upon them as side-shows, and sermons are preached on the dissipation of military strength. In view of the fact that the Salonika expedition was the subject of anxious deliberation among the Allies, it is regrettable that, after Great Britain gave her consent to the French view, there should seem to be the least hesitation on her part to throw herself heart and soul into the undertaking. There

can be no suggestion of the British Government having failed to carry out, according to the letter, its part of the bargain; but the impression left on the public mind by the course of events in the Near East is that the demon of half-heartedness has brooded over the operations. A more active policy, even if a general advance could not be attempted, would have kept the enemy more on the alert, would have prevented him from reducing his containing army to a minimum, and from throwing strong forces, first into the Dobruja, and now across the Danube. It is not enough to urge that the Allies have done all that was possible with the resources at their disposal. For behind that claim lies the omission in at least one of the Allied countries to utilize the resources that lay to hand from failure to appreciate the military situation.

Far too late in the day the Allies have had brought home to them the fact that Germany does not share their views of the comparative unimportance of the Near East. Recent events have shown that our enemies are prepared to contemplate with more or less indifference several hundreds of thousands of casualties along the Western front, and the loss of many square miles of territory, provided they can retain their hold on the resources of Roumania and the Balkans. For it must be borne in mind that no losses on the Somme have deterred the Germans from their scheme for overrunning Roumania. We shall do well not to credit our enemy with too much folly. He may be seeking easy triumphs, and he may have sworn vengeance on the Roumanians; but the fact that he is facing a number of unpleasant experiences elsewhere in order to get possession of Roumania suggests that he sets greater store on replenishing his stocks of grain and oil than on conserving his resources of man-power. In other words, despite the arguments of military experts in the Allied countries, the Germans, with their full knowledge of their own position, have decided for themselves that they are at present more vulnerable in the Near East than they are in the West. To challenge such a position seems little short of madness; to accept it would mean for the Allies the prosecution of the war in the Near East on a scale that has so far not been attempted. Unfortunately, such efforts cannot be easily improvised. If von Falkenhayn's and von Mackensen's advance can be arrested before the greater part of Roumania is overrun, it may still be possible for the Allies to turn to their own advantage the sudden extension of the enemy's line of battle. The Roumanian Army has yielded ground without, so far as is known, any heavy losses. Its immediate need must be for munitions rather than for reinforcements, and the former are the more difficult to supply. But the capacity of Russia for heroic measures has been proved before in this war, and it may not be without significance that a number of prominent Roumanians should choose this moment to testify to feelings of gratitude to Russia. In the words of M. Take Jonescu: "Russia has not only been loyal; she has been generous. The help given to Roumania already exceeds what was contemplated when we entered the war." That help stemmed the tide in the Dobruja, although it did not avail to prevent von Mackensen from crossing the Danube. It has now to make its presence felt in a different direction, and to achieve its purpose it must be forthcoming without delay. Even when Roumania has been saved the need for closer co-ordination in counsel and effort on the part of the Allies will still exist. Their experience in the Near East, we may hope, will sweep away any false sentiment which in the past may have paralysed either their military actions or their joint diplomacy.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

BRITISH PIONEERS IN TURKEY.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LEVANT COMPANY'S RECORDS.

By the kindness of a correspondent, we are able to publish below some extracts from the records of the Levant Company, which will, we think, prove extremely interesting to our readers. For the greater part the extracts speak for themselves but, referring to the first, our correspondent writes: "To one who was in Constantinople during the last days of September, 1914, it seems to be just the sort of letter our Ambassador would have written to the community. It is as written by the Ambassador to the 'Factory,' the word applied at that time to members of the Levant Company." It will be remembered that on January 7, 1807, four months after this letter was written, Turkey declared war against Russia and England:—

To the members of the Levant Co. Factory.

9th September, 1806.

I received an answer from the Porte. I lose no time in informing you that the Note which I presented has been replied to. If I were to judge entirely from the language of the Porte I should freely give it as my decided opinion that we have been mistaken in attributing improper intentions to their Government. Nothing could exceed the friendly profession of the Porte both toward Great Britain and Russia, but as the measure which was complained of is still permitted to continue, we are bound in the first place, to listen with some degree of caution and suspend our judgement until we have learnt what effect this conduct has produced at Peterburgh. As it is now some time since the Russian Minister informed his Court of the measures taken by the Porte it cannot be very long before the Emperor's sentiments on that subject will be known. I also have apprised His Majesty's Government of what has been passing here, and instructions will necessarily be sent for the guidance of any future conduct. In the meanwhile as the Porte is now aware that no separation of interest has taken place between Great Britain and Russia it is hardly to be supposed that even the influence of France will induce it to offer any further insult to either. I think therefore, in so far at least as it is possible for me to conjecture, that we are for the present in a state of sufficient security, at any rate as you have now the same grounds of forming an opinion as I have myself and will be able to act with that caution as prudence may appear to dictate, and I have therefore only once more to recommend most strongly that no such symptoms of alarm may appear as might be injurious to the British interest.

It is to be hoped that the great man's recommendation was acted upon, and that the British behaved in 1806, as they did a century later, in a manner of which their countrymen might justly feel proud.

The remaining extracts, which are of earlier date, are arranged chronologically. The first seems to show that the Company had a keen eye to profitable business:—

21 Xbre, 1696.

Although we do not think it convenient to repeat our order against ye exportation of coffee, it being at present a great commodity, we shall connive at your shipping it off by such as please to do it at their own charge and hazard and paying our duties. You are therefore to leave the same out of the commanders' oaths till our further order.

To Consul Ray, Smirna.

June 21, 1699.

We allow the expence you were at in making publique rejoicing for the birth of the Gd. Sig. son and approve the congratulations made by your factory to his exc. on his success in concluding the Peace.

The Grand Seigneur, one hopes, was gratified by the "publique rejoicing," and graciously pleased to accept the Factory's congratulations on the conclusion of the Peace of Carlowitz (January 26, 1699).

To Consul Ray, Smirna.

31 Oct. 1699.

We have at the request of Mr. J. Freeman on your behalf sent you a flag.

To Lord Paget, Constantinople.

We understand your Lordship had lately procured a command for shipping off yearly at Smyrna 2000 killows of rice for ye use of ye King's kitchen, which was sent down to Mr. Purcell, which being a thing contrary to what has been formerly practised we take the liberty to inform you that it has never been usual to take out such commands for ye advantage of any particular person, but such grants were ever appropriated to ye benefit of ye Court and in general (as your commands for liberty to ship off fruit obtained by Sir J. Firch was). We therefore desire you that the aforesaid command may be put in ye Consul's hand at Smirna for all our factors to make use of it as occasion shall serve, as in ye same manner as ye commands for fruit.

To Consul, Constantinople.

May 29, 1700.

Finding our officers abroad in writing to us do usually style us Honble, which being a thing practised but of late years, and as we conceive not due to us, you are therefore to address your-

self to us for the future by no other title than—Ye Right Worshipful Ye Governor & Company of Merchants of England, trading into Levant Seas.

May it please your Excellency,

5 Feb. 1701.

Sir Pro Sulton, Consple.

Since our last we have received your two letters from Vienna and Peterwardin, with the inclosed proposals for carrying our goods through Germany to Turkey and your Lordship's counter-project for ye same which we have now under consideration.

This project was tried for a short time; but could not have been successful, judging by the cost of sending letters, for it appears that packages of letters cost as much as 300 dollars via Vienna and Antwerp.

The next extract, referring to the purchase of a burial ground at Alexandretta, will be of interest to those who have visited this spot in recent years.

To Consul Brandon, Scanderoun.

May 10, 1703.

The hundred dollars which you contributed for securing ye title of the burying-place wee doe also allow and doe desire you to be alwaies prudently thrifty for us.

To Consul, Alexandretta.

A convoy being intended and now ready to depart for Turkey, the following ships are designed to proceed herewith to Scanderoun.

Leghorn. Mesarun. The Jane Lextorton [?]. Hunton.

Aleppo. Hector. Resolution.

And we do now order you to pay to each of the commander of Her Majesty's ships that shall come as convoy to Scanderoun Two Hundred Dollars, being a gratuity which we have heretofore given in such cases.

May it please your Exc.

London 2 Nov. 1704.

We have to return your Exc. our thanks for procuring us Justice against the Cadi at Aleppo, who, the Consul informs us, your interest dismist from his office for striking and imprisoning our Chief dragerman, which example we hope will deter others from offering us like injuries and insults for the future and contribute to the ease and security of our factory there.

The effect of this letter—admirable in itself—is somewhat marred by another communication on the same subject, addressed to Consul Brandon:—

To Consul Brandon, Aleppo.

London, 2/12/1704.

We have received your letter of the 24th of April and the relation therein of your proceedings against Chelebee Adjemy, who was the chief cause of the Cadi's striking and imprisoning our dragerman at your place, for which the said Cadi is dismist from his office by ye Lord Ambassador's interest, which is a piece of Justice wee are very well pleased with and doe approve of your having applied to his Excellency for the same and for endeavouring to have procured punishment on the said Chelebee Adjemy in a regular method, which we would be very glad to have effected without their intrigues with your Pasha which you give us an account of. For we think it very unbecoming Christians to assist or encourage the Turkish Ministers in making false pretences or raising aravias [?] on any one, which is a practice that may some time or other be turned upon us and tho' wee are pleased that the insolence of that fellow is punished, yet wee doe order that no such method be used for the future.

The last extract which we are able to give is addressed to the Lord Ambassador, at Constantinople, and dated October, 1708. It runs:—

We are sorry to hear what you inform us concerning the said Mr. Bridges, our treas., being fully satisfied that it is much to our own and their disadvantage when any one of our officers and factors marry in Turkey.

Wee have therefore resolved to discharge ye said Mr. Bridges from his office of TreasR., to discourage so dangerous an example in one who is our immediate office.

Wee desire YR. LordP. likewise by all means to discountenance and endeavour to prevent the like error in others for the future.

It is regrettable that the selections, though closing on a note of marriage bells, have an "unhappy ending. But the records deal with facts, which are seldom so nicely adjusted as fiction in this respect. There is much in them that one is proud to read of. One wonders whether, if any records of German dealings with Turkey and the Turks ever come to be published, the Germans will be able to say as much.

A Reuter's message from Petrograd, dated November 23, reports that according to despatches to the newspapers from Baku, the Turks have massacred 5,000 of the 6,000 Armenians at Sivas in Anatolia.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Drift and Optimism."

The following passage is extracted from a leading article, "The Roumanian Defence," in *The Times* of Monday:—

The military responsibility for what is happening in the Balkans will have to be duly investigated, as the responsibility for other mistakes must be investigated; but the examination must be made by experts on strategy who have all the facts before them. What can be said fairly at present is, we think, that in the treatment of the Roumanian problem there has plainly been the same want of co-ordination between strategy and politics which has been the blight of all the Allied operations in the Near East. We have always recognised in the handling of this question by our own Ministers but one more example of the drift and optimism that have marked their whole conduct of the war. It is another proof how greatly they lack the provident care which is the mother of safety. It shows once again how they fail to think things out and to make sure that the preparations are complete before they take action. The thrust in Roumania is not going to win the Germans the war, even should it fulfil their fondest hopes of military success. The German soldiers know that very well, and they make the move with another object. They make it, as their colleagues the German emissaries and journalists are making the huge Press campaign in America of which we have fresh evidence to-day, in order to back the schemes of the Wilhelmstrasse for a premature peace, for they know that without such a peace the reign of "militarism" is doomed. They will fail in that object, and in the effort to attain it they will bring about results which they by no means desire.

The Commons and the Greek Situation.

The political correspondent of the *Morning Post* (November 24) writes that "the handling of the Greek situation during long months is a cause of dissatisfaction" to members. He adds:—

It is very difficult on this matter to get information. Lord Robert Cecil yesterday delivered a little lecture to Commander Bellairs—who put a question—and to the House generally on the impropriety of seeking to know anything of what the Government is doing, beyond that the matters referred to were receiving the attention of the Government. "To say more than this," he added, "would necessarily give the impression that we were trying to impose our wills on the Allies by making public statements designed to force their hands, and I hope hon. members will not make co-operation difficult by ignoring the existence of the Allies." Last week, in answer to the same member, the Under-Secretary said the Government does not know what the French Government says to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber. Now there is a wide impression that this Committee, which, of course, sits in secret, is very well informed of all that is being done, and that in this way the French Government is subjected to a healthy criticism from which our own Foreign Office is wholly exempt—and means to be exempt as much as it can.

A Neutral on the Roumanian Outlook.

On the principle that "lookers-on see most of the game," the views of a neutral regarding the outlook for Roumania are probably of greater value than those of any critic belonging to either side of the belligerents. When the neutral happens to be an acknowledged military authority, like Colonel Feyler, his opinion is not to be lightly valued. And it is satisfactory to find Colonel Feyler, in the *Sunday Times*, taking a view which is certainly not pessimistic. He declares:—

It is a mistake to imagine that the German successes against Roumania, formidable though they may appear, are quite conclusive proof that the Central Powers can continue to strike successfully where and when they choose. Their selection of Roumania as the scene of their next great offensive was forced rather than chosen. In the first place, they were faced with the possible defection of Hungary, dismayed by the Roumanian invasion; and in the second, they knew better than anyone else how badly off the Roumanians were in the munitions department. The Roumanian army were equipped almost entirely with Krupp guns, and had consequently to rely mainly on such shells as the other Allies could capture from the Germans and pass on to them. Again, Roumania has few railways, could only be assisted by Russia, the Power which is least able to spare guns and munitions in aid, and can only supply these mainly by road.

Secondly, in view of recent defeats on all the other fronts, it was absolutely necessary for Germany to exert herself in a brilliant offensive somewhere. One could adduce numerous other arguments which must have presented themselves to the Imperial German Staff, all compelling it to the Roumanian adventure—where triumph, and, above all, a rapid triumph, appeared to be alone probable.

"But the crux of the matter is," adds Colonel Feyler, "that it must be a speedy one." The Russians will move again with the frost; the Franco-British force on the Somme may, given hard ground, compel a draft on Falkenhayn's armies.

General Sarrail is moving slowly, but he is moving, and will, unless arrested (by forces which the Central Powers cannot at present spare), cut the communications between Berlin, Sofia,

and Constantinople. Roumania is in a precarious position, perhaps, but she is by no means yet crushed. France has despatched a military mission, with General Berthelot as Chief Adviser, whose services will be of incalculable benefit to the Roumanian General Staff.

Marshal Mackensen has crossed the Danube, and may join hands with General Falkenhayn. But, in view of his commitments in the Dobrudja and of the urgent Bulgarian need for reinforcements, he cannot have crossed the river in any overwhelming force. The Roumanian armies have been forced to retreat and may possibly suffer heavy losses, but Russian help is on the way, and with General Berthelot to advise them, there is no reason to suppose that they should not be able to fall back upon a system of trench defences in front of Bucharest, which will enable them to hold Falkenhayn up for an indefinite period. And in that event Germany will be deprived not only of a swift triumph over her latest adversary, but will also have lost her chance of winning or even of drawing the war.

"Hate" for Roumania.

The Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* refers again (in an article published on November 24 and dated November 15) to the "Press campaign which aims at creating [in Hungary] just such a feeling towards Roumania as prevailed in Germany against England at the beginning of the war." He writes:—

That campaign is still being energetically carried on, articles appearing almost daily in the Government organs descriptive of the atrocious crimes the Roumanians are alleged to have committed during their occupation of part of Transylvania.

Lurid accounts of the plundering of villages and towns are published, and these are supported by photographs of the supposed scenes of devastation. Unfortunately for the circulators of these wicked falsehoods, however, it happens that a photograph purporting to represent Pétrozsény after the Roumanian occupation has been positively identified by the *Népszava* as a view of the ruined houses in the vicinity of Louvain Cathedral. Thus do the authorities seek to incite the troops who are engaged in the attempt to subdue Roumania to show no mercy to the population of that country.

Apparently such trifling inaccuracies as that referred to do not seriously hinder the spread of the much-desired "hate," for the correspondent adds:—

The feeling of hatred towards Roumania is intense, not only on account of these articles, but because it is the outcome of a national feud, which reached its climax when Roumania invaded Transylvania. The newspapers still speak of the "treachery" of Roumania, and declare that the "higher powers" have at last "come to rescue the righteous and punish the wrong-doers." The higher powers, it seems, according to the *Pesti Hirlap*, are represented in the person of the German Emperor. In an article in that journal it is said that "the chastising of Roumania became the first duty of the German Emperor as soon as she joined his enemies, and it is added that his personal ambition and wish is that the Roumanian campaign should be carried out according to the programme, even if other most important interests have to be sacrificed for the present."

How far one may take this to be the truth I cannot say, but everything shows that it is not far from the truth, considering that the best German troops have been despatched in great numbers to the Roumanian front, that all the efforts put forth up to now show the abundance of war material, and that General Arz and General Falkenhayn are in command on one side and Mackensen, the second to Hindenburg in the eyes of the German Emperor, in command on the other. Moreover, there is a rumour current that the German Emperor regards the intervention of Roumania as a personal insult to himself and to his subservient ally, the Emperor of Austria.

The article concludes that, in order to secure a success in Roumania, the Central Powers "are quite ready to suffer reverses elsewhere, as on the Western front, where during the last few months the co-operation of the troops now operating against Roumania would have been simply priceless."

1813—and 1916?

Writing on "The Campaign in Roumania" in the *Sunday Times* (November 26), Colonel F. N. Maude begins his article:—

All eyes to-day are turned to Roumania. The situation is an almost exact parallel to that which arose in 1813, when Napoleon, for once too confident in his power of bringing the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian armies to a decisive battle, ordered Davout to execute a wide turning movement against their rear.

The Allies declined the proffered battle and retreated through the mountains. Davout, issuing out into the plains by a lateral road, found himself confronted by greatly superior numbers, and, after a tough fight, was completely overwhelmed and forced to surrender. The instance is classic, and is embodied in every strategical text-book, so it is quite inconceivable that the present opportunity should escape the notice of the Roumanian command and its advisers.

It is to be hoped that history will repeat itself once more. A little later Colonel Maude writes:—

The whole situation really turns on the basic fact that the enemy has not been able to detach more than thirty divisions against Roumania, and that the Roumanian forces can outnumber

their opponents by more than two to one, while the Russians in the north are only waiting for the psychological moment to strike the German invaders in their most vulnerable point.

A Policy for Persia.

United Empire, in its Editorial Notes and Comments, refers to the new situation in Persia, and expresses the hope that that country will be one of those "to which this war will have proved a blessing without any disguise."

The outbreak of the European struggle found Russia, Great Britain, and Persia thrown together by force of circumstances, but all pulling in different directions. In spite of the Agreement of 1907, there had been no real understanding between the two protecting Powers; their attitudes towards their protégé had little in common, and British diplomacy, lacking the courage of its convictions, often became responsible for policies of which it did not approve and which it made no attempt to justify. The German menace, which raised another head in Persia as soon as it had shown its fangs in Europe, forced upon Russia and Great Britain the necessity of concerted action. For the first time their interests were identical, and out of this situation we may look for a permanent community of interests which will function for the good of Persia. A temporary arrangement, to which the Persian Government is a party, has been concluded. It puts an end to the 1907 Agreement with its three spheres or zones, and should ultimately bring about a more genuine attempt to secure this time under sympathetic and harmonious guidance—Persia's rehabilitation by Persian agency. Only when the failure of such an attempt has proved unmistakably the inability of the Persians to help themselves, will it be necessary to take more drastic steps for the good government of the country. In the meantime, however, in the British sphere of interest in the South, a definite policy ought to be laid down for the guidance both of Great Britain's representatives and of the Persian Governors and officials.

We have heard very little of what has been going on in Persia of late, but all Englishmen who take an interest in the country will share the hope expressed in the above paragraph. Most of them will also agree that no time should be lost in regard to laying down a definite policy to be followed in the British sphere. Our failure to do so earlier has cost us much trouble, and the sooner the question is tackled and placed on a more satisfactory footing the better will it be both for Persia and for Great Britain.

Articles to Note.

"An Historical Parallel: Fourth Greek Army Corps and the Convention of Taurögen," by Colonel Feyler, in *Land and Water* (Nov. 23).

"Greece and her Protectors," in *The Times* (Nov. 28 and Nov. 29).

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND.

(For British Troops.)

15, ALDFORD STREET, MAYFAIR.

PATRON.

MAJOR H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

PRESIDENT.

COLONEL the VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.

CHAIRMAN.

COLONEL the LORD LAMINGTON, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The COUNTESS DOWAGER OF CARNARVON.

COMMITTEE.

The COUNTESS OF DONOUGHMORE.

The VISCOUNTESS MIDLETON.

The LADY EVELYN FARQUHAR.

The Hon. Mrs. FREDERICK GUEST.

The Hon. LADY MONRO.

Mrs. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

Mrs. STANLEY MAUDE.

Mrs. HOLDSWORTH.

The EARL OF DESART, P.C., K.C.B.

SIR HUGH BARNES, K.C.S.I.

SIR LESLIE PORTER, K.C.S.I.

M. P. GRACE, Esq.

C. GREENWAY, Esq.

PERCY C. SIMMONS, Esq., L.C.C.

HON. TREASURER.

SIR EDWARD S. HOPE, K.C.B.

HON. SECRETARIES.

Mrs. HAMILTON GRACE. Miss MEIGGS.

BANKERS.

Messrs. COUTTS and Co., 440, Strand, W.C.

HON. AUDITORS.

Messrs. PRICE, WATERHOUSE and Co.,

Chartered Accountants, 3, Frederick Place, E.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—First List.

Messrs. Grace Bros. and Co., Ltd.	£500 0 0
Anglo-Persian Oil Co.	250 10 0
London County and Westminster Bank	250 10 0
Ellerman Lines	250 0 0
Messrs. Strick, Scott and Co.	250 0 0
Strick Line	250 0 0

Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co.	250 0 0
Imperial Bank of Persia...	250 0 0
Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Co.	250 0 0
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.	250 0 0
Mrs. Hamilton Grace	200 0 0
Countess of Donoughmore	200 0 0
M. P. Grace, Esq.	200 0 0
Lady Strathcona	200 0 0
Lady Marling's Fund	179 9 10
Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons	105 0 0
Royal Insurance Co.	105 0 0
Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie and Co.	105 0 0
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	105 0 0
Messrs. Lynch Bros., Ltd.	100 0 0
Mrs. Hamilton Grace (further donation)	100 0 0
Goldsmiths' Co.	100 0 0
M. P. Grace, Esq. (further donation)	100 0 0
Mrs. M. P. Grace (further donation)	100 0 0
Mrs. Cuthbert Heath	100 0 0
Albert Brassey, Esq.	100 0 0
Mrs. Holdsworth	100 0 0
Messrs. Balfour, Williamson and Co.	100 0 0
Carpenters' Co.	100 0 0
Robert Gardner, Mountain and Co.	100 0 0
Union Bank of Australia	52 10 0
Imperial Ottoman Bank	52 10 0
Martin's Bank	50 0 0
W. H. Foster, Esq.	50 0 0
The Hon. Mrs. F. Guest	50 0 0
Messrs. Cox and Co.	50 0 0
Mrs. Croft	50 0 0
Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton	50 0 0
C. Greenway, Esq.	50 0 0
Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart.	50 0 0
Mrs. Eyres Monsell	50 0 0
Right Hon. J. Austen and Mrs. Chamberlain	50 0 0
Messrs. George Robinson and Co.	50 0 0
Burmah Oil Co.	50 0 0
Right Hon. Sir Ernest Cassel, G.C.B.	50 0 0
Countess of Donoughmore (further donation)	50 0 0
National Provincial Bank of England	50 0 0
London and Thames Haven Oil Wharves	50 0 0
W. H. Coats, Esq.	50 0 0
Per M. P. Grace, Esq.—Battle Abbey Fête	36 4 0
English, Scottish and Australian Bank	26 5 0
J. B. Gray, Esq.	26 5 0
B. Oppenheimer, Esq.	26 5 0
Lieut.-Col. Frederick Hall, M.P.	25 0 0
Earl of Rosebery, K.G., K.T.	25 0 0
Messrs. Frederick Huth and Co.	25 0 0
Laurence Page, Esq.	25 0 0
Mrs. Gordon Canning	25 0 0
Viscount Portman	25 0 0
Countess of Leven	25 0 0
H. W. A. Deterding, Esq.	25 0 0
Alastair C. Sandeman, Esq.	25 0 0
Sir Thomas Glen-Coats, Bart., C.B.	25 0 0
Messrs. Sedgwick Collins and Co.	25 0 0
Messrs. Landauer and Co.	25 0 0
Mrs. Ralph Vivian	25 0 0
Lloyds Bank	25 0 0
Bank of Australasia	25 0 0
Evelyn Viscountess de Vesci	25 0 0
Percy C. Simmons, Esq.	21 0 0
Skinners' Co.	21 0 0

£20 each.—Anon., Countess Dowager of Carnarvon, Daniel Coats, Esq., Mrs. Carnegie, Lady Sybil Cutting, Viscountess Hambleton, Capt. Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Oppenheimer, H. H. Wills, Esq., E. J. Wythes, Esq.

£15 each.—"In Memoriam," from E. Vaughan Morgan, Esq., J. Smouha, Esq.

£10 10s. each.—R. W. Adamson, Esq., Messrs. Robert Bradford and Co., Captain Richard C. Bacon, Messrs. Coutts and Co., Miss Dora Cradass, Mrs. Hamilton Douthy, Messrs. Dyers and Co., G. A. Gibbs, Esq., Sir Edward Hope, K.C.B., Mrs. Haslam, A. C. Julius, Esq., Wilfrid A. Matthews, Esq., John F. Rawlinson, Esq., K.C., M.P.

£10 each.—Frank Atkin, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. Appleton, S. G. Asher, Esq., Mrs. Arlington, Anon., W. C. Browne, Esq., Lady Grace Baring, Miss Ethel M. Brown, Lord Barrymore, Lady Brooke, Mrs. W. H. Beach, Mr. and Mrs. R. Corry, Major C. S. Cumberland, John T. Cargill, Esq., Mrs. Clemson, Sir Malby Crofton, Bart., Earl of Desart, Countess of Desart, Depot North Stafford Regiment, per Major Wood, A. Grateful Englishwoman, H. Payne Gallway, Esq., George A. D. Goslett, Esq., Mrs. N. Graham, J. G. Gordon, Esq., Halifax Commercial Banking Co., James Hamilton, Esq., Mrs. A. E. Hamilton, Viscount Iveagh, K.P., Hon. Mrs. Alfred Kerr, Captain Viscount Lascelles, Major and Mrs. Lander, J. H. Mossop, Esq., Mrs. Nurse, Mrs. E. C. Ozanne, Mrs. J. Partington, Right Hon. Sir Walter Phillimore, Pandeli Ralli, Esq., Mrs. C. A. Reiss, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Tristram, Mrs. Garrick Webster, Mrs. Whitehead, J. Herbert Wilks, Esq., C. W. Woosnam, Esq., F. A. White, Esq.

£8 9s.—Collected by Mrs. Bowden.

£5 10s.—Anon.

£5 5s. each.—A. C. Allen, Esq., the Misses Archer, Mrs. Bowles, Miss Campbell, Lady Chitty, Lieut.-Col. Charles C. Wiseman, Clarke, Mrs. Curtis, Miss Mary E. Ellen, A. Friend, Heyn Franck, Esq., D. L. Flack, Esq., Mrs. Glenny, Lady Evelyn Guinness, Alfred Grafton, Esq., Mrs. Haslam, Lady McGrigor, Messrs. Morreau, Speigelsberg and Co., Mrs. Pownall, W. F. Pinckney, Esq., F. W. Pixley, Esq., P. M. K., Sir Leslie Porter, K.C.S.I., Messrs. E. and J. S. Sykes, Mrs. Arthur Scrutton, Treasurer L.C.C. Lodge, Miss Wallace, Mrs. Kenneth Wilson.

£5 each.—Lord Aberdare, A. M. C., Anon., Mrs. Arkwright, Godfrey E. P. Arkwright, Esq., Anon., Lord Ashton of Hyde, Lady Grace Baring (further donation), Mrs. de V. Beechey, Miss Aimée Boase, Miss Bolton, Mrs. Bowden, Colonel W. St. Pierre Bunbury, B. J. Burdekin, Esq., Captain Clapham, Mrs. Crossley, Colonel J. Davidson, H. S. Davy, Esq., W. S. Davy, Esq., Mrs. Drewitt, N. Duncan, Esq., Sir Thomas Dyke-Acland, Bart., Edward Eyre, Esq., Lady Farren, Lord Faringdon, Lady Fitzwygram, Lady Fleetwood-Edwards, Mrs. W. Gore Langton, Dr.

- J. J. Grace, the Misses Greg, E. W. Garrett, Esq., Mrs. Graystone, Major P. Godfrey-Faussett, Lady Mary Hervey, Mrs. Harvey, Miss Hoyle, Edwin E. Humphries, Esq., Miss J. Jolliffe, Miss Agnes E. Kent, A. G. Liddell, Esq., Mrs. Lyster, Mrs. H. Lascelles, Sir A. and the Hon. Lady Law, Col. Hon. C. Lambton, Thomas Moxon, Esq., Mrs. Leonard Marshall, Mrs. Mordan, Miss Edith Melville, A. C. R. Maitland, Esq., Sir James McGrigor, Bart., Mrs. Niblett, Charles Part, Esq., Mrs. C. M. Poole, Julia Lady Petre, Mrs. Leybourne Popham, Miss M. F. Sanders, Miss Christina Sharpe, E. F. Stranack, Esq., Mrs. Trotter, Mrs. Edwin Tate, Miss H. A. Thornthwaite, Lady Howard Vincent, Herbert Vizard, Esq., Miss A. White, Mrs. John Welby, Captain Webb, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. White.
- £3 6s. 6d.—Self-Denial Fund, Holy Trinity, Toxteth, per Rev. C. G. Postante.
- £3 3s. each.—Rev. C. L. Burges, Mrs. M. S. Beddome, Rev. Charles Fison, Miss L. T. D. Galton, Mrs. Harrison, Colonel A. G. B. Long, Miss Nuttall, W. Norris, Esq., Misses Jessie Ormerod, Captain J. S. Lichfield Speer, R.N., Mrs. Simmonds, Maj.-General Hon. Sir R. Talbot, K.C.B., Sir Joseph Todd, Bart., Miss Watson, A. Wagg, Esq., Lady Alice Willoughby.
- £3 each.—A. F. H., Miss Bethune, Miss Foster Barham, Mrs. Coldridge, H. K. Cartwright, Esq., Miss H. M. Deane, Miss Evelyn Gladstone, "Glenshee," Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Manfield, Mrs. Prendergast, Mrs. Scott, Miss Laura R. Thorneby, G. J. Talbot, Esq., Mrs. Vaudrey, Colonel W. H. Wilson.
- £2 10s. each.—A. H. C. and A. P. G., Mrs. Hartnoll, Rev. F. W. and Mrs. Haines, R. R. Owen, Esq., Mrs. Wynter.
- £2 2s. each.—R. C. Arnaud, Harriet Lady Cooper, R. F. Creasy, Esq., Miss Dewing, Rev. R. S. Dewing, Lady Margaret Duckworth, Messrs. Elliot Bros., Miss Elizabeth Frost, Miss L. B. Frost, Miss Adela Foster, Lady Victoria Gosling, R. H. Guild, Esq., L. J. Hill, Esq., A. G. Hartley, Esq., Charles Ini, Esq., Messrs. Ini Bros., Lady Johnstone, Joan, Mrs. W. K. Stuart King, Rev. Canon and Miss Leach, Messrs. George Lauria and Co., J. Miller, Esq., Mrs. Newgrass, Mrs. Newell, Wilfrid Probyn, Esq., Sutton Palmer, Esq., Miss Mary Robins, Miss Edith M. J. Rowe, F. H. W. Fowler Simcoe, Esq., Miss Constance Smith, Commander Miller Stirling, R.N., E. Fearnley Tanner, Esq., Miss Dorothy Tyler, F. H. Williams, Esq., H. G. Wharry, Esq., Rev. Preb. Pryor B. Whalley, Mrs. Norris Wood.
- £2 each.—Anon., per Rev. C. N. Wylie, Miss Bush, the Misses Bevan, Mrs. H. Beck, Mrs. Battams, Mrs. Colbeck, Mrs. Campbell, Lady Frances Cecil, Lady Louisa Cecil, Miss Crowder, Miss J. E. Chitty, Miss Dunlop, Mrs. Day, R. Durnford, Esq., Earl of Effingham, Lady East, Miss Mary Freeling, Miss S. G. Firth, Mrs. Fowke, Miss Gardiner, Miss B. A. Goodwin, Sir F. C. Gore, K.C.B., Mrs. Hobart, M. L. Handcock, Esq., Hester Lady Hart, Mrs. Ingram, Alfred Keyser, Esq., Mrs. Leachman, Francis Mason, Esq., The Maids, Normanton House, Plumtree, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Nicholl, Mrs. Brita Patin, Mrs. Phelps, Miss Bonting, Mrs. George Rathbone, Miss Frances Ross Smyth, Mrs. Savory, R. S. Seymour, Esq., Mrs. Seligman, Lady St. Cyres, J. Noel Tratman, Esq., Miss Archer Thompson, Mrs. Westmacott, Miss Edith Wagner, Dr. T. T. Whipman, Miss A. White, Miss S. Wemyss, Lady Cecilia Webbe, Mrs. Yatman.
- £1 10s. 6d.—Miss Wilkinson.
- £1 10s. each.—Francis E. Balleine, Esq., Mrs. E. Franks, Miss Lattey, Mrs. Frederick Smalley, the Misses Tuke, Mrs. Walker.
- £1 1s. each.—Rev. H. Halford Adcock, Oliver Ashworth, Esq., Anon., Mrs. C. C. Anderson, Mrs. Bedford and family, Miss Butt, A. C. Bartholomew, Esq., Rev. H. A. Barber, Rev. Herbert Brandt, Esq., Miss Swinton Browne, H. A. Barrett, Esq., Mrs. Blackett, Countess of Belmore, Miss Chesshyre, Miss C. B. Clarke, Mrs. Duncan, Edmond F. Davidson, Esq., Miss Helen Don, Henri Davis, Esq., R. W. Dana, Esq., D. R. Dangar, Esq., Mrs. Drury, Messrs. H. C. Dixon and Co., Mrs. Elkin, Farrow's Bank, Mrs. Fleischl, Miss M. M. Gilson, Mrs. Harter, Mrs. Hoskyn, Miss M. Howlett, Mrs. C. G. Harrison, Charles A. Hanson, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Jameson, J. Rhys Jones, Esq., Mrs. Jones, Messrs. Lindsay Blee and Co., Alfred Masson, Esq., Lieut. and Mrs. Manders, Mrs. Coryndon Matthews, Miss F. Miskin, General Sir Donald McLeod, K.C.B., D.S.O., Gofrey Mellor, Esq., Miss Milsted, Mrs. H. H. Montagu, Dr. G. C. B. Miéville, Mrs. Nixon, Hon. Mrs. Randal Parsons, Hon. Rev. Canon Parsons, Mrs. Purvis, Capt. T. Prestige, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. de Rougemont, Miss Grace Reynolds, Mrs. H. V. Stephenson, Rev. W. Payne Smith, Mrs. Shepp, H. B. Sketchley, Esq., Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. W. Whitaker Thompson, Percy Taylor, Esq., J. Maitland Thompson, Esq., Frederick Thompson, Esq., Miss M. Tennant, Mrs. Warre, Alfred A. Williams, Esq., Miss D. G. Walker, Rev. Belton Young.
- £1 each.—Anon., Miss Violet Alston, Anon., Miss M. A. BurrIDGE, Miss R. Brown, Captain G. P. Barker, Mrs. E. P. Beale, Mrs. Butler, Miss V. C. Brown, Mrs. Cland, Colonel L. R. Carleton, Frank Connell, Esq., Mrs. Crofton, Mrs. Herbert Connor, Mrs. M. Dryden, Mrs. Dundas, Miss Winifred Elkin, Mrs. Williams Freeman, Miss Farley, Miss E. Goodwyn, Mrs. Goldney, Mrs. Grant, the Misses Glendinning, H. W. Heisch, Esq., Mrs. Michael Hill, Mrs. Henry Hill, Mrs. Head, the Misses Kayess, W. King, Esq., Mrs. Liddell, R. J. Money, Esq., Miss Laura Majendie, Mrs. Massy, Mrs. S. Ingleby Oddie, Miss E. Pickard, Miss V. A. Peel, Mrs. Phillips, Rev. Prioress St. Scholastica's, Fort Augustus, Miss B. Stilwell, Rev. A. F. Titherington, S. R. Wilson, Esq., Mrs. Waddingham, Ward and Another, Miss Webb, Miss Alice Woodhouse, Mrs. Walsh, the Misses Wigan.
- 15s.—Mrs. Peake.
- 10s. 6d.—G. H. Lawrie, Esq., Charles W. Raffety, Esq.
- 10s. each.—Miss C. Atkinson, F. E. Bennett, Esq., Colonel and Mrs. W. N. Baker, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Cock, Miss Dundas, Miss S. Dane, Mrs. Everard, Mrs. P. B. Haig, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Le Marchant, Miss Alice J. Lowcock, Miss Lowe, Miss Mary Lawrence, Miss E. Macintosh, Mrs. John Prahn, Miss Snowden, Mrs. Stanley, Miss Marv Tyler, Mrs. White, Mrs. Woodward, Miss C. M. Wood, Miss A. E. Yates.
- 8s.—Mrs. Ryves.
- 6s. 6d.—Rev. W. J. Greigg.
- 5s. each.—Mrs. Bromley, P. B. Burroughs, Esq., Miss M. Bridger, Miss M. G. Carter and Miss A. B. Hill, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Hooke, L. Haning, Esq., Miss MacLeod, Mrs. Herbert Nicholson, Miss Satow.
- 3s. 6d.—"Shebreth."

3s.—Mrs. Jannings.

2s. 6d. each.—Anon., Mrs. Baines, Miss Wood.

Collected by Lady Gore:—Lady Hambleden, £5; Lady Kinnaird, £5; Lady Mary Herbert, £2; Lady Styles, £2; Lady Howard, £1; Mrs. Walker, £1; Miss Evelyn Gore, 10s.; Hon. Kathleen Annesley, 10s.; Anon., 10s.; small sums, 10s.

SECOND LIST UP TO NOVEMBER 23, 1916.

Lady Strathcona (further donation)	...	...	...	£300	0	0
Messrs. Lawther, Latta and Co.	...	...	...	262	10	0
Asiatic Petroleum Co.	...	...	...	250	0	0
Messrs. R. G. Shaw and Co.	...	...	...	105	0	0
Lord Cowdray	...	...	...	105	0	0
National Bank of India	...	...	...	105	0	0
J. P. Grace, Esq.	...	...	...	100	0	0
Messrs. G. and J. Weir	...	...	...	100	0	0
Eric Phipps, Esq.	...	...	...	100	0	0
Messrs. Grahams and Co.	...	...	...	50	0	0
Messrs. Clayton and Co.	...	...	...	50	0	0
The Mercantile Bank of India	...	...	...	50	0	0
Messrs. Jacobs and Barringer, Ltd.	...	...	...	50	5	0
R. Waley Cohen, Esq.	...	...	...	26	5	0
Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co.	...	...	...	25	0	0
Oil Well Engineering Co.	...	...	...	25	0	0
Messrs. David Sassoon and Co.	...	...	...	25	0	0
Russell D. Walker, Esq.	...	...	...	25	0	0
Messrs. Marshall, Sons and Co.	...	...	...	25	0	0

£20 each.—Messrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Albert D'Oench, Messrs. E. Penton and Sons.

£15 each.—John Hamilton, Esq., Miss R. Hamilton.

£10 10s. each.—Messrs. Benckendorff, Berger and Co., Bell's United Asbestos Co., A. H. Bodkin, Esq., Messrs. Frederick Braby and Co., Campbell Gas Engine Co., Messrs. Ellinger and Co., Messrs. William Jacks and Co., Messrs. Stenning, Inskipp and Co., Messrs. Allan Whyte and Co., Messrs. Selim, Hornsey and Co., Bonnybridge Silica and Fire Clay Co.

£10 each.—Messrs. A. F. Craig and Co., Messrs. E. S. Davids, Sons and Co., Messrs. Thomas Hudson, Ltd., Mrs. Johnson, Messrs. Joseph Lyons, Ltd., W. J. Mure, Esq., C.B., Messrs. Roberts, Evans and Woodhead, Messrs. Wilson Bros., Bobbin Co.

£5 5s. each.—Messrs. Blundell and Co., Messrs. Brownlie and Murray, Messrs. Burgett and Newsam, Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Right Hon. Sir R. Finlay, K.C., M.P., Messrs. Lyons, Lord and Co., the Monument Bonded Warehouse Co., Messrs. Niemann Smith, Messrs. Rawle and Son, Messrs. Siebe Gorman and Co., Steel Construction Co., Messrs. John Spencer, Wailes Dove Bitumastic, Ltd.

£5 each.—Messrs. Henry Balfour and Co., Messrs. David Bridge and Co., James Craig, Esq., Mrs. Vernon Carter, Mrs. G. Ellison, Messrs. Holman Bros., Maurice Headlam, Esq., Messrs. Julius Liepmann and Co., John Lamont, Esq., Messrs. Herbert Marris, Ltd., Lady Mary Morrison, Mrs. R. K. Price, J. M. Swany, Esq., Messrs. T. Sugden, Ltd., Matthew Thompson, Esq., Miss F. A. Welby, Miss Winham, Messrs. Williamson, Morton and Co., Messrs. Ward, Huggas and Smith.

£3 3s. each.—Messrs. Allen and Hanbury, C. F. E., Messrs. Scott and Rae.

£3 each.—Charles Barrett, Esq., Miss Parker, Lady Delia Peel.

£2 10s.—Mrs. Everard.

£2 2s. each.—Anon., Messrs. D. Anderson and Son, Messrs. William Bain and Co., Mrs. Browning, Carbon Paper Supply Co., Mrs. Gibson, General Electric Co. (Glasgow Branch), Messrs. Hamilton Woods and Co., Mrs. Guy Heywood, Mrs. de Jersey, Messrs. Lockwood Bros., Messrs. Purdie Glen and Co., Messrs. C. Shrager and Co.

£2 each.—Messrs. E. E. Dunnoos Bros. and Co., Mrs. Innes.

Small sums (collected by Lady Gore)—£1 10s.

£1 1s. each.—Messrs. Baird and Tatlock, Messrs. Bertram, Ltd., Mrs. Pratt Barlow, Messrs. C. T. Faulkner and Co., Messrs. Cairns and Laing, Messrs. A. Gallenkamp and Co., Messrs. H. Hamwee and Sons, Messrs. Archibald Hamilton and Co., Messrs. Hughes, Treleaven, Ltd., Messrs. Kelsall and Parsons, Sir Walter Langley, K.C.M.G., Mrs. Oswald Lees, Messrs. J. McDowall and Sons, Lady Macmillan, Messrs. J. Rigby and Son, Mrs. M. B. Stow, Mrs. Walker.

£1 each.—Lady Clodagh Anson, Sir Richard Burbidge, Bart., Bishop of Oxford, Mrs. G. Windsor Clive, Mrs. Darbyshire, John Elgar, Esq., Harrod's Stores, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Pearce, Miss G. R. Sturrock.

10s. 6d. each.—M. and J. Sopher, Joseph Tabbush, Esq., Messrs. Joseph Shasha and Co.

10s. each.—Miss Janet Alester, Colonel F. Gore, Lady Hay, W. Sichel, Esq.

THE COMMITTEE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT FURTHER LIBERAL DONATIONS WILL AT ONCE BE FORTHCOMING TO ENABLE THEM CONTINUOUSLY TO DESPATCH THE "COMFORTS," WHICH ARE SO URGENTLY NEEDED BY THE BRITISH TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NOT LESS THAN £50,000 WILL BE REQUIRED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR THE PURPOSE.

The Committee is authorised to state that they are working in conjunction with Col. Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, and with the approval of the War Office.

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND,

and sent to the Hon. Secretaries,

15, Aldford Street, Mayfair,

crossed "COUTTS AND CO."

To-day the new official scheme for the co-ordination of relief to British prisoners of war comes into operation. Henceforth it will be possible to send food parcels to prisoners only through an authorised packing and distributing organisation or regimental care committee. The new scheme has been framed and will be administered by the Central Prisoners of War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Sir Joseph Ward, Finance Minister of New Zealand, is perhaps little known, except by name, in Egypt and the Near East, but he holds some decided opinions regarding the future relations between Britain and her present enemies, to which he gave expression in a lecture in London this week. Should German shipping be permitted to use the Suez Canal after the war? That is the interesting question he raised, and his answer was in the negative. He instanced the Kiel Canal, which, he said, Germany did not permit us to use, and he thought that the great sea link between East and West should be closed to the Huns when they resume their overseas operations. The suggestion opens up a new and great realm of thought, and I hope it will be considered. It may not be possible to adopt it in its entirety, but it is unthinkable that, after the appalling sacrifices which we and our Allies have made in this war, some tangible benefit should not accrue as a set-off.

Let us remember this, that in the past forty years the world has not been menaced by Prussianism in politics and human relations alone. "Kultur" has been applied also to trade and commerce. In the past we have winked at the gross commercial immorality of Germany—and we are now asking ourselves why we did so—with the result that when the war came the dislocation and distress were much more intense than they might have been. There must be a change. When the German preying upon human rights is stopped, her commercial piracy and dishonesty must also be made impossible. There must be a new order of things. Many of the restrictions we have imposed must be maintained—some permanently, others certainly for a term of years—and when the Teuton has been taught his lesson, and shows himself prepared to deal honestly, the question can be reconsidered.

The Sofia telegram received last week in Amsterdam to the effect that the big tunnel through the Taurus Range on the Baghdad Railway has been completed—reprinted elsewhere in this issue—may be taken *cum grano salis*. The report itself may, or may not, be accurate; that depends upon the exact meaning of the word "completed." Personally, I am inclined to think that, whatever its authors may wish us to believe, the tunnel is only completed in so far as the actual piercing process is concerned, and that considerable time must still elapse ere traffic can pass through from one end station to another. Even so, it must be admitted that the enemy have hastened work on the structure with quite extraordinary zeal, as, according to a recent report from the Swiss engineer engaged on the tunnel, the latter would not have been completed before 1918. In view of this it can reasonably be asked whether similar energy has been displayed in other sections of the line. Those known to be still incomplete were the eastern stretch from Nisibin to Jibbara (near Baghdad), the difficult section through the Amanus Mountains, east of Alexandretta, and the Taurus section, which, apart from the big tunnel, was to consist of many minor tunnels, bridges, and a long viaduct. No facts concerning

the state of work on these sections are generally known, but we can simply assume that work has been expedited, though it is hardly likely that through rail transport from Haidar Pasha to Baghdad will have been achieved this side of peace. Still, the question is one of great military interest to ourselves at the present time, and it is to be hoped (and believed) that the War Office is being kept well informed as to the *real* progress being made on the Baghdad line. Economic questions connected with it can be relegated to a later date.

In the circumstances, the new jute arrangement which has now been settled on is to be welcomed as a happy solution of a vexed question. The Ralli agreement, which was to have superseded the chaos of last year, was doomed to failure because, in the first place, it was a hurried measure carelessly thought out, and in the second, because it met with general opposition in the trade. It, therefore, made a graceful exit, thanks being largely due to the generous attitude of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, who freely renounced their somewhat unique position. The new arrangement includes, beside Messrs. Ralli Brothers, the names of nine old, well-established British firms, and these ten will now have a monopoly for the supply of raw jute on Government account to the Dundee mills. It is generally believed in the trade that the scheme will now work smoothly, in the interests of trade and Government alike, the latter having become, *ipso facto*, as it were, a partner in the combine. Certainly, and as regards the Government as a buyer, the danger of inflated prices has been minimised.

Mr. Hugh Reeves' remarks in the *Financial Times* recently on the position of the Khedivial Mail Line and its possible future development "in the interests both of the Protectorate and the British Empire" are doubly welcome owing to Mr. Reeves' knowledge of the subject. The matter is one which, as my readers will remember, was fully dealt with by THE NEAR EAST in an article published two years ago. Therein the unique position of the Khedivial in the Eastern Mediterranean was emphasised, and the hope was expressed that, when the time came, the directors would rise to the occasion and make their line what it ought really to be, namely, one of Britain's great shipping concerns and the nucleus of an Egyptian mercantile marine. Admittedly, and in spite of the favourable report of the company's working in the past financial year, the time is not ripe for the realisation of any scheme, but, at any rate, I hope that the directors will, at the forthcoming meeting of the shareholders, have something to say about future prospects, etc., if only to show that they are alive to possible happenings. There is no better occasion for doing so, because, I presume, shareholders will be in a pleasant frame of mind (for once) and will, therefore, be willing to listen to the prospect of a future extension of their service.

An interesting pamphlet by Mr. Norman H. Byers on "World Commerce in Its Relation to the British Empire" has come my way, and I am interested to learn that the author emphasises the view expressed by the writer of the article, "The Hundred Firms," which appeared

in THE NEAR EAST some months ago. The point emphasised in the article was that British manufacturers at home ought to combine with British producers of raw material overseas with a view to securing preference in the supply. Mr. Byers shows that within the territories of the Empire (and of our Allies) "there is enough and to spare of all necessary commodities," and all that is required for their proper utilisation is the full co-operation of capital and labour, which, when achieved, would quickly neutralise the waste of war and leave the way open for a general and stable prosperity hitherto unknown." What has become of the organisation of British firms to which the article in THE NEAR EAST referred, by the way?

Nothing more ridiculous than Bethmann-Hollweg's reference to the proposed Entente partition of Asia Minor and Asiatic Turkey in his recent bombastic speech in the Reichstag has been said for some time. His object, of course, was to make the Turks believe that their masters were really the protectors of their territorial integrity. The picture, however, convinces no one, not even the more intelligent Turks, who are beginning to realize, if the constant eruptions in Constantinople are to be taken as evidence, that the Teuton ambition is to create an Empire from Berlin to Baghdad, with Berlin very much to the front, and Vienna, Sofia, and Constantinople hidden somewhere in the background. What manner of life, let me ask, would be that of the Ottoman Empire if the Central European dream were to be realized? It would be a life of slavery and bondage. The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, one of the paid organs of the Pan-German clique, almost admits as much in a recent article. It urges, in effect, that Busreh must revert to Turkey, not for Turkey's sake, but because it is essential to the welfare of the "Central European Empire"—which is an aggrandised Germany, as was pointed out in these columns some time ago. How this callous admission on the part of the *Hamburger Nachrichten* conforms with Bethmann-Hollweg's picture of an altruistic Prussia it is not for me to say. I leave it for intelligent Turks to decide whether they want the German Central European Empire to end at the Persian Gulf.

Cotton is a problem in Switzerland, apparently, for the Federal Council, acting upon the recommendations of a Commission, are about to fix maximum prices in the trade, if, indeed, they have not already done so. In 1915 Switzerland imported about 35,016 tons, and it is estimated that the quantity this year will be 22,040 tons. The requirements for 1917 are 160,000 bales, including 40,000 bales Egyptian. In order that the trade may be regulated to the best interests of the country a central office will be created in Zurich, which, together with the Commission, will co-operate with the Political Department. The most important branches of the textile industry and trade will be represented by the Commission. Both the Commission and the central office will be subordinate to the Political Department. The regulations are framed along drastic lines, and, after they have become operative, more than maximum prices are fixed, the transaction will be considered closed at the fixed rates. Transactions contrary to the regulations will be cancelled.

COMMENTATOR.

How the American Government Assists Exporters.

Value of Frequent and Carefully Compiled Consular Reports.

We pleaded some little time ago in the columns of this journal for the reconstruction of the British Consular Service, in order that this organisation might be of some real and practical help to the British exporter when he enters upon the trade war which is bound to come after hostilities have ceased. In our previous notes we compared our own Consular system with that of Germany, and pointed out how far-seeing our present enemy was in that he continually widened the field of usefulness of Consular representatives all the world over, particularly in the Balkans and Near East, while we, in our obtuseness, clung to our old shibboleths.

So many articles have been written on "Trade After the War" that the public must, ere now, be heartily sick of the term; but though an immense amount has been written and said about what we ought to do—and there have been conferences and committees without number—very little has actually been done up to the present. It may not be amiss, however, to look into the manner in which our cousins across the Atlantic endeavour to foster and encourage the export trade of the United States. For a considerable period a Government Bureau, under the ægis of the Department of Commerce, has been in being, whose sole duty it is to develop the manufacturing industries and markets at home and abroad by obtaining useful material for instruction in a reliable manner, and publishing such information in a suitable form for the edification of manufacturers. This Bureau is more far-reaching in its powers and of far more assistance to commerce generally than any organisation that we in this country possess at the present time.

Principal Activities.

In the Washington official publication regarding this Bureau, its duties are clearly set forth. Its principal activities are as follows:—

- (1) Editing and publishing Consular reports on commercial subjects.
- (2) Tabulating and publishing statistics of home trade with foreign countries.
- (3) Collecting, translating, and publishing Customs tariffs of foreign countries.
- (4) Formulating instructions for the commercial work of the Consular service.

Attached to the Bureau are a number of agents whose sole duty it is to visit foreign countries and to make reports on special industries and special phases of commerce. These men are able to speak the languages of the countries in which they are operating.

In addition to these travelling agents there is a staff of commercial attachés stationed in all the principal countries of the world whose only task is to make a special study of the commercial conditions and commercial possibilities in their particular sphere. They are permanently stationed, and act to a certain extent as receivers of information from, and advisers to, the travelling agents. Practically, they spy out the land, and from their observations can direct the travelling agents to the most promising districts in their purview. To show how carefully the scheme is worked out it is necessary to state that the agents are carefully selected from amongst those who are actively engaged in some particular industry or commercial undertaking, and who are in every respect experts each in his own particular line. They periodically set out in their travels and observe and record the methods of manufacture, and the special requirements of the country, district, or locality allotted to them.

The Commercial Attaché.

The commercial attaché has but one duty—the promotion of trade between his country and the particular country in which he resides. He is not tied to his office, but is perfectly free to move about within his sphere. Besides these two arteries of information the Bureau

makes great use of the Consular Service. As in Germany, so in the United States, the Consul in a particular part or centre is a business man, and he is expected to supply the Bureau with voluminous information as to the trade of his district, lists of importers, particulars of contract work, and requests of local merchants who are desirous to entertain business with American exporters.

It may appear at first sight as if a certain amount of overlapping occurs between the Consuls, the commercial attachés, and the travelling agents, but so carefully is the plan of campaign organised that each forms an important part of the whole machinery. It is the Consul's duty to see that all the district trade journals are forwarded to the Bureau, and in the same way the Consul receives all trade journals from the States, which are most helpful to him in answering questions locally.

Utilising Information.

The mass of information culled from these three sources is divided into two portions. One portion is set aside for widespread publicity in a daily pamphlet, and monthly, quarterly, and annual bulletins; the other, dealing with confidential information, is only circulated to those American firms to whom the special information is of value. Space does not permit us to go into particulars regarding the details of these pamphlets and bulletins, but suffice it to say that they are compiled as clearly and concisely as possible, the final condensing being done by a staff of experts at *précis* work. The daily journal is supplied to manufacturers for the small cost of \$2.50 per annum, and, in addition, the annual Consular reports are sent to all subscribers free of cost. The Bureau—which, by the way, has ten main branches in the States and many sub-agencies—keeps up-to-date trade directories of all countries.

Further, at the main branches innumerable samples, specifications, etc., sent in by the Consuls, commercial attachés, and agents periodically, are open for inspection by those interested. There is a special department set aside for the filing and translating of all foreign tariffs. Such information as rates of duty, Customs regulations, licence fees of commercial travellers and commercial agreements, foreign trade mark and patent laws, can readily be obtained by inquirers.

Periodical Conferences.

From time to time each district office arranges for meetings between manufacturers and exporters and the travelling agents on their return from a tour, so that any particular matter of commercial importance can be discussed first-hand across the table. If there is a big contract in some foreign country which is to be put out to tender, the agent has all the information ready to give to the manufacturer, the name of the parties or corporation interested, private information as to the financial standing, etc., of such bodies—in fact, all the details necessary for the American manufacturer to have some basis on which to make his preliminary plans in advance.

The Department of Commerce spares no expense in obtaining the greatest efficiency out of its organisation, and from all accounts it would appear that there is no country in the world (if we except Germany before the war) so well supplied with the necessary machinery to promote and increase export trade as the United States. We have seen what Germany can do in the building up of overseas trade: the United States is following hot-foot. Are we going to allow other nations to forestall us and to snatch from us what we have fought for in the past and what we are fighting for now? There is little time to be lost. We can do what other countries have done and are doing if only the country will take to heart the words of King George, who, when Prince of Wales, made his historic speech at the Guildhall on his return from an Empire tour, and begged the Old Country to "Wake up."

SHIPPING NOTES.

Another Important Combine Reported.

An announcement has been issued to the shareholders of the Orders and Handford Steamship Company (Limited), of Newport, Monmouthshire, giving notice of a proposed amalgamation with John Cory and Sons (Limited), of Cardiff, the price to be paid for the £5 shares of the absorbed company being £20, says *The Times*. The Orders and Handford Steamship Company owns seven steamers of a total gross tonnage of 17,000, and John Cory and Sons (Limited) owns or acts as managing owners of thirteen steamers of between 2,100 and 4,300 tons gross each. In connection with the proposed fusion, Messrs. Orders and Handford, the managers of the steamship company bearing their name, give notice that they have taken into partnership Messrs. John Cory and James Herbert Cory, of John Cory and Sons (Limited).

Submarine Losses.

Enemy submarines continue their activity in the Mediterranean, and the toll of lost ships increases daily. Among recent losses are the following:—

Ellerman liner *City of Birmingham*.
Christoforos, 2,345 tons, of Piræus.
Greek steamer *Mihail*, off the island of Tinos.

Greek steamer *Margarita*, 1,112 tons. Passengers and crew landed at Alexandria.

Burned Tobacco Cargoes.

The damaged portions of the cargoes of the two Dutch liners *Djemmer* and *Riouw*, bound from the East Indies to Holland, in which serious fires were reported from Alexandria on November 15 and 20 respectively, have now been discharged, says a Lloyd's message. In each case consignments of tobacco have suffered by fire and water. A large quantity of tobacco in the *Riouw* is stated to be valueless.

Greek Prize Sold.

For the old iron prize steamer *Nicolaos*, of 2,047 tons deadweight, the high price of £29,250 was bid on November 23, at auction on the Baltic Exchange, representing more than £14 a ton. The steamer was built thirty-eight years ago, and the boiler is reported to have been new twenty-one years ago, and it is understood that some thousands of pounds will require to be expended on her on account of a Lloyd's survey, now due, and renewals. Before the war £2 a ton, or a total of about £4,000, might have been paid for her for breaking-up purposes.

The sale was by order of the Admiralty, for the vessel was seized at Alexandria, while under Greek managership, and was condemned on account of Turkish interest. The vessel was bought by the Overseas Syndicate (Limited) after competition with bidders of Allied nationality. The auctioneer, Mr. Kellock, made a point of the fact that the steamer was built of iron, "since an iron steamer of her age would be better than a steel steamer of the same age."

The Freight Market.

The amount of tonnage showing for December loading is very small, and shippers are finding it very difficult to fill their orders, says the City Editor of the *Morning Post*. The tone in the Eastern section is particularly strong, and some exceptionally high rates have been paid to both French and Italian destinations. This business generally goes to neutral owners, there being very little British tonnage free just now, and it certainly must be admitted that a freight of £12 per ton on the deadweight basis from Bombay to the Mediterranean, which compares with as many shillings before the war, is a very severe handicap for shippers, and the cause of a good deal of uneasiness among the consuming population.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

PROHIBITED EXPORTS.

The Greek List.

Reference was made last week to the published list in a supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of articles the exportation of which is forbidden in certain countries. The following is the Greek list, which is compiled from information received up to November 20, 1916:—

Acorns and acorn-cups; alloys of metals of which the exportation is prohibited; animals (except swine); slaughtered animals (raw meat); arms, viz.:—

Rifles, carbines, bayonets, and cartridges of the following systems:—Mannlicher-Schonauer, Bulgarian Mannlicher, Turkish Mauser, Gras, Martini, Martini-Mausier; revolvers and cartridges of the 1873 and 1893 patterns, Bayard, Colt; sabres of artillery drivers and cavalry;

Beer; benzine (motor spirit); bladders, entrails, casings and sausage skins; bones of all shapes, whole or in pieces, and bone ash; boots (military);

Capsicums and peppers; carborundum of all kinds (see under emery); cartridges (see under arms; cartridge cases in general for small arms and artillery; casein; casings and sausage skins, bladders and entrails; cereals; cheese; chrome ore; coal (except bunker coal); cod, salt; coffee; colours and colouring materials; "conserves"; preserved foods; copper ore; copper sulphate; cork and cork dust; cotton and its derivatives;

Drugs; Emery; corundum, natural and artificial; alundum and carborundum of all kinds;

Ferrochrome; fibres, vegetable, and tissues made thereof; field glasses; flour (except flour derived from wheat delivered for that purpose before the publication of the Decree of July 20, 1914); foods, preserved; "conserves"; forage of all kinds;

Gold bullion in bars or sheets, etc;

Harness (articles of) for artillery and cavalry; hides, undressed, of cattle, buffaloes, and horses, and skins of calves, pigs, sheep, goats, and deer; also such hides and skins, dressed, suitable for making saddlery, harness, or military boots;

Instruments, surgical; intestines (entrails), bladders, casings, and sausage skins;

Jute sacks;

Leather (see under hides); lubricating oils (mineral);

Manganese, raw and calcined; meat, raw (slaughtered animals);

Oils (see under benzine, petroleum, lubricating oils, olive oil); olives.

[NOTE.—It is understood that the exportation of olive oil and its products (such as soap) from Crete is permitted.]

Ores—of chrome, of copper, of tin;

Petrol (benzine) (motor spirit); petroleum; potatoes; preserved foods; "conserves"; pulse in general;

Rattans; rice;

Sacks (jute); searchlights and parts thereof; skins (see under hides); soap; soda; sugar; sulphate of copper; sulphur of all kinds; surgical instruments;

Telephone apparatus; tin and tin ores, tin chloride; tissues made of vegetable fibre;

Vegetable fibres, and tissues made thereof;

Wool; woollen yarns.

A Law of February 27, 1915 (o.s.) authorised the Greek Minister of Finance to prohibit the export, re-export, transit, or transshipment of articles which may be considered as contraband of war, absolute or conditional. His Majesty's Minister at Athens has reported that this prohibition has been brought into force by Ministerial Order, and that it applies to everything which appears on the contraband list of any belligerent.

A Supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of November 30 contains complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported from Roumania and Russia.

THE NEAR EAST.

Any Newspaper or Bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of the NEAR EAST every Friday morning.

Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, a post card addressed to the Manager 1-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C., will oblige.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The general tone of the market has continued healthy, but, owing to the conditions being very abnormal, business during the week has been somewhat irregular. Although there is very little belief in lower values in the near future, the fluctuations in futures in Liverpool and New York have a rather unsettling influence upon trade generally. Buyers have found producers of yarn and cloth difficult to deal with, and numerous firms have quite as much work on hand as they care to entertain in view of the uncertain outlook and the fact that the output of the machinery in, say, six months' time is quite unknown.

The market for cloth continues to derive considerable support from the active demand from Egypt, and although business ebbs and flows, the general offtake from day to day has been encouraging. Shippers are finding they have to pay much stiffer rates for all kinds of sized goods than a week or two ago, as makers have now more work to go on with. Printed and fancy goods have attracted a fair amount of attention. Each mail contains good remittances, and the natives abroad seem to be in a very prosperous condition.

After a rather quiet demand for India, an increased inquiry has again shown itself, a feature of interest being more offers in shirtings for Calcutta, with fair sales where producers or merchants have been in a position to accept a little below full prices. Some useful orders have also been secured for Madras. No general flow of business can be recorded for China, and limits from the other side are rather slow in being raised, especially in grey standard goods.

Some advices from South America are not quite so promising. The strength of manufacturers of cloth is seen in the way sellers present a bold front to buyers when business is offering, and there is certainly no running after orders. American yarns for home use have been in steady demand, and late rates are well held. Prices do not come down when futures fall, but sometimes quotations are advanced when the raw material is dearer. There is a tendency, therefore, for margins to widen. Bolton spinners have been strongly held owing to the encouraging engagements of producers, but no weight of trade has been done.

Although strike notices are now being given out by the operatives in the cardroom department of the trade, which would mean a stoppage of the mills at the end of next week, there is every probability of an amicable settlement within the next few days. It is pretty certain that the Government Committee on Production will intervene if the masters and the trade union officials cannot come to terms. The market, so far, has been quite unaffected by the dispute.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Otto Baerlein.

The death is announced of Mr. Otto Baerlein, Serbian Consul, and senior partner in the firm of Baerlein Brothers, spinners, doublers, and merchants, of Blackfriars Street, Manchester, and of the Croft Street Mills, Gorton, which took place at Osborne House, his Alderley Edge residence, on November 18, in his sixtieth year. Mr. Baerlein was born at Furth, in Bavaria, but left home at the age of seventeen to spend a number of years first in Italy and then in Spain. Of the languages of both of those countries he is said to have acquired a perfect mastery.

Mr. Baerlein came to Manchester in the seventies in order to become associated with the firm founded there by his father in the 'fifties (says the *Textile Mercury*), and not many years afterwards was appointed Consul for Serbia, an office he fulfilled to the last. At one time he was president of the Consular Association. In public life he took no active part, but many charities will remember him as one of their most generous supporters.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tar-bushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10).

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply to Ports and Light-houses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, of iron, steel, etc., required for the financial year 1917. (December 22.)

The Collector of Customs at Valletta reports that a firm at Valletta, whose establishment is one of the most important on the island, desires to secure the representation of United Kingdom manufacturers of straw hats, cloth, knitting wool, canned goods, pottery, etc. United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned, and exporters of U.K. goods, desirous of being represented in Valletta, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Licenses to Trade.

Mr. V. R. Comas, 16, rue Tewfik, Alexandria, has been granted a licence to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain, in accordance with the terms stated in Section B. of the notice published in the *Journal Officiel* of January 13, 1916. No. 4 bis.

UNITED STATES AND THE HIDE TRADE

The attention of shippers of hides is invited to the following:—

New and simplified regulations governing the disinfection and importation of hides, based on investigations in recent years, have been promulgated by joint action of the United States Treasury Department and the Department of Agriculture, to become effective January 1, 1917. Under these regulations the most stringent requirements are those for the exclusion of anthrax. The other diseases against which safeguards are established are foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest.

Regulations are printed for the first time governing disinfection and admission of hair, wool, bones, horns, and hoofs. Hides from countries not shown by United States consular agents or official veterinary or sanitary inspectors of the countries to be free from anthrax, if such hides are to be admitted on certificate, must be certified to have been immersed in a 1-to-1,000 solution of bichloride of mercury for twenty-four hours instead of thirty minutes, as under present regulations. Hides in bales unaccompanied by certificate of freedom from anthrax, rinderpest, or foot-and-mouth disease, or by certificate of disinfection, will be admitted if such bales have been whitewashed under United States consular supervision, and the importer agrees to ship them in customs-sealed cars to a tannery provided with adequate facilities for disinfection, and to disinfect them in accordance with requirements of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture under supervision of an agent of that bureau. Sun-dried hides from countries certified to be free from anthrax will be admitted without disinfection.

THE WHISKY FOR CONNOISSEURS.

TUCKEY'S
Years 10 Old
Pure Malt Whisky

per 57/- doz.

Case Free and Carriage Paid.

Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky.

Sample Bottle, post free, 5/3.

The *Lancet*, March 28th, says: "It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

12 Years Old Liqueur Whisky

60/- per doz. Sample Bottle 5/6

CHAS. TUCKEY & CO., Ltd.,
3, Mincing Lane, E.C.



PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, November 30.

Currants.

The demand during this past week has been good, although the bulk of business done has been for more or less small quantities, the hand-to-mouth policy to which allusion was made in last week's report being apparently still in favour. Prices all round are firm.

Sultanas.

The market has been fairly active with business done mostly in Afghanistan and new Australian fruit. The few available Greeks, new crop, are firm at the late high rates.

Dates.

There has been a better demand for all kinds, with an apparent preference for fine qualities of Persian and Egyptian.

Seeds.

Linseed is much firmer, and good business was done in London-Calcutta spot and afloat at 110s., whilst December-January is quoted 111s. For Bombay ordinary, November-December, 111s. was paid, with small ditto 110s. Rapeseed continues very firm, Toria being quoted at 89s. for December-January shipment, and Ferozepore, bold, November-

December, 88s. 6d. Cottonseed is firm, Sakelarides, loading, offered at £19 per ton. Mustard-seed, new, comes in the market slowly, finding only a moderate sale at current rates. Rangoon beans show a further advance on the week, and are now quoted at £39 per ton spot lots; whilst for forward shipment quotations are a little dearer.

Oils.

Linseed oil is very firm for spot pipes at £53 10s.; barrels ditto £54 10s., landed terms. Cotton oil is firmly held; crude spot pipes at £49; and barrels sweet at £58 to £59, as to make. Rape oil has also been very firm, ordinary brown, naked, spot, £51, whilst English refined, barrels is quoted £54 to £56. Olive oil is unchanged.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes—Egyptians are not available on spot, but good business was done during the week in parcels for shipment at prices between £13 2s. 6d. and £13 7s. 6d., ex-ship. English makes can be obtained only in very limited quantities at about £14 to £14 5s. per ton. Linseed cakes—stocks are much depleted, and prices very irregular. Best London made is selling between £16 15s., and £17 5s., whilst American is offered at £16 to £16 10s. per ton.

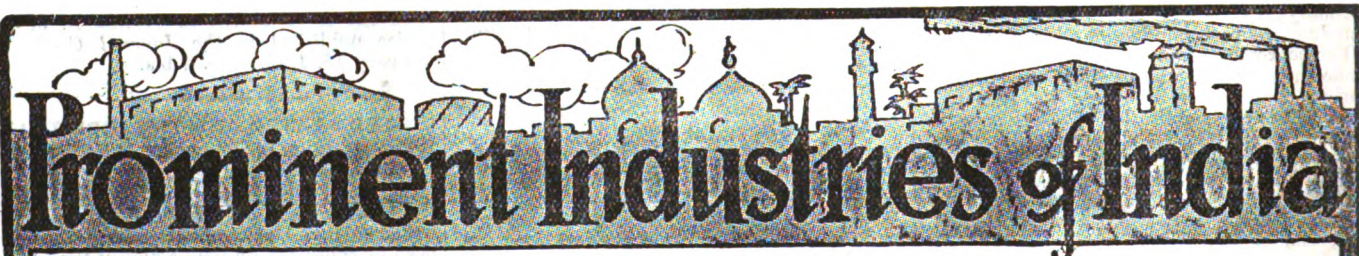
Maize germ meal is scarce, especially African. English makes, in limited quantities, are offered at £16 10s. to £16 15s.

EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES.

At the last meeting of the Commission of Commerce and Industry, at Cairo, after a discussion on the question of the manufacture of paper and pulp from Egyptian products, the Commission (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) considered the report (which was adopted) of M. Bourgeois on the introduction into Egypt of the manufacture of ceramic pottery, and a letter was read from Bahari Bey on attempts to imitate ancient pottery, of which some very good specimens were on view in the industrial exhibition lately held in Alexandria. Mr. Twelves' report was next considered on the sisal industry for the manufacture of cordage. This is a promising industry, which will lead to the profitable cultivation of arid land.

Mr. Sidney Wells, the Vice-President of the Commission, then presented a very interesting report on industrial and commercial education in the country, as a result of which, in order to be better informed on the subject, the Commission decided to visit the Polytechnic School at Giza, the School of Arts and Crafts, the Model Workshops at Boulac, and the School of Commerce.

In a recent report on the trade of Chile in 1915 it was shown that exports to Egypt during the year amounted to £497,000, as compared with £208,000 in the previous twelve months.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

GREEK INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Marine, Life, and Fire Business in 1915.

An interesting note on the operations of life, marine, and fire insurance companies in Greece in 1915 has just been published, and from it we learn that during the year the premiums paid were as follows:—

	Drachmas.
Marine.....	1,370,879
Life	7,190,086
Fire	3,135,439
	11,696,404

A special tax is levied on insurance premiums. The basis of the tax on life operations is one-fifth per cent.; on marine insurance premiums the taxation is three per cent. Fire insurance companies pay a tax of three per cent. on all premiums collected, and an additional tax of two per cent. on premiums for the upkeep of the fire brigade, which is a Federal organisation, with a personnel composed of citizens called for military service and assigned to that duty. The companies are permitted to increase their premium charges to an amount sufficient to cover this tax.

No Greek company undertakes unemployment insurance, no provision is made against old age, there is no compulsory health insurance or workmen's compensation.

STANDARD TIME IN GREECE.

Although there has not yet been any agitation in Greece for daylight saving such as has been practised in several European countries during the last six months, the Hellenic Kingdom has carried out on its own account a reform that has had most salutary effects. On July 28, 1916, all clocks in the country were set forward twenty-five to thirty minutes, depending upon the difference between mean local time and astronomically correct time at Athens. This procedure, in addition to effecting a daylight saving of some half hour, has had the result, even more important, of bringing Greece within the zone of Eastern European time.

With the completion of the junction line that will make possible direct railway communication between Athens and the other capitals of Europe, the time question assumed great importance. It is now thought to be satisfactorily settled. The difference between the longitude of Athens and of Greenwich is 23° 31' 51"; according to the national Observatory at Athens the actual time difference is 1 hour 34 minutes 51 seconds.

A PICTURE OF MONASTIR.

Monastir, which stands some 2,000 feet above the sea, and is overshadowed by wooded mountains rising 8,000 feet and more, is in the middle of a fertile plateau, one of the richest countrysides in the Balkans, and like most good patches of land in the peninsula, devoted to the cultivation of luxuries rather than of foodstuffs. Tobacco, mulberry leaves for silkworms, and fruit are the chief products of the uplands of Monastir. The fertility of the country is at least one reason why the vilayet of Monastir has been coveted by so many different nationalities, Serbian and Greek, Bulgarian and Albanian, to name no more, says the *Daily Telegraph*. The population is of such diversity of race that any ownership must be unsatisfactory to some appreciable fraction.

The settlement which gave the town to Serbia has, so far as the inhabitants themselves are concerned, worked well. The commercial importance of Monastir has steadily increased of recent years, and it is estimated that in time of peace trade to the value of £500,000 a year passes through the town. In spite of these advantages of communication and commercial prosperity, there are disadvantages in choosing the place as a base or a seat of administration. Its situation in a depression among the mountains is not healthy. In the autumn and winter all the neighbouring country is liable to become sodden and waterlogged. The consequences are such as might be expected. Malaria is a besetting plague, and agues and similar diseases claim their victims.

RUSSO-BRITISH TRADE.

Inauguration of New Chamber of Commerce.

Lord Robert Cecil, in proposing the toast of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, at the inaugural luncheon, held in London, on Wednesday, said Russia had enormous natural resources, and we had a great industrial history, great engineering training, and great commercial position, and it was from a union between the two countries that the prosperity of each might be secured. If we were to develop our commercial relations to the highest point, the first thing we had to do was to understand one another. It was of great importance that British firms should have their representatives in Russia.

He believed the nation that relied exclusively on its Government was on the road to decay and degeneration. Therefore, he thought it was essential for British commerce that it should establish its own connection in Russia, and not merely rely on that official connection, which, however admirably organised, would never take the place of individual effort. He should like to see a visit here of Russian commercial men, and he would like to see representatives of our commerce visiting Russia. He trusted that the efforts which had been made by some of our great manufacturing firms would not be abandoned, but that they would train and educate young men, not only in the Russian language, but in Russian traditions, so that they could root in Russia the foundations of British commerce. It was for gentlemen whom he was addressing, the heads of British industry, to carry out this policy.

DATES FROM THE SUDAN.

For some time past the Imperial Institute has been inquiring into the possibility of finding a market in this country for dates from the Sudan, and with the import preference given last spring to dried fruits of the British Dominions, as against those from foreign countries, the question assumed a new importance. Samples of dates from the Halfa province of the Sudan have now been examined at the Imperial Institute. The results were most satisfactory, and as the opinion of a leading firm of importers of dried fruit to whom the dates were submitted was also favourable, a small trial consignment of dates was obtained from the Sudan and offered on the London market. This was quickly disposed of at a good price, and the Imperial Institute has accordingly suggested to the Sudan Government that a larger consignment of these dates should now be sent to London for sale.

There are many varieties of dates in the Sudan where the date palm flourishes freely as far south as Khartoum. Those now introduced to this country by the Imperial Institute resemble Persian Gulf dates, and were disposed of at about the same price. The present price of all dates is abnormally high, but there seems to be no reason why, after the war, Sudan dates should not still be able to compete with dates from Persia. Samples of Sudan dates can be seen in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London, S.W.

SWITZERLAND AND ROUMANIAN OIL.

The entrance of Roumania into the war has hit the neutral Swiss, whose supplies from Roumania came across Austria-Hungary. The other neutral countries received only very limited supplies, if any, from Roumania, says the *Financier and Bullionist*. Switzerland is, however, reported to be well stocked with American oil imported through the ports of France and Italy. The proposal to admit Roumanian oil free of duty into Russia for industries more accessible to Roumanian fields than to Baku is said to have been well received in all Russian circles.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The United States Consul at Patras telegraphed to Washington on November 4:— "The currant market has advanced an average of 33 per cent. over the mid-September quotations. Merchants report 50,000 tons of fruit available, of which 40 per cent is inferior."

The following official notification is published in Malta:—"The importation of cattle from the Sudan will not, for the present, be allowed, except in cases in which previous permission for such importation has been obtained from the Superintendent of the Public Health."

Lord Robert Cecil states in Parliamentary papers that the latest available statistics as to the production of oil in Galicia are those for 1912, when 1,130,425 tons were produced. As regards Roumania, the production in 1912 amounted to 1,806,942 tons, and the estimated production in 1913 to 1,885,384 tons.

Importing firms at Khartoum include Law and Co., Ltd., who have also a branch at El Obeid; the general stores of Pasgianos, Mamakos and Co.; the Victoria Book Store; and Davies, Bryan and Co.'s drapery and outfitting stores, as given in the *Mercantile Year Book*. Benoists, the well-known caterers, are represented in Khartoum by Mr. C. Triantafyllou.

With reference to the question of the labour supply at Busreh, which was discussed in THE NEAR EAST last week, the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India is endeavouring to work out a scheme with the Army Department, under which advisory committees consisting of commercial men may be set up in the port to assist the military authorities.

It is reported that two big petroleum tanks belonging to the Burma Oil Company, which stood near the railway wharf at Marmogoa (Portuguese India), have been sold to the British Government and conveyed to Busreh to be set up there as reservoirs for potable water. The oil company has taken fresh material to Marmogoa for the construction of new petroleum tanks which will be erected near their tin factory at Vasco da Gama.

By order of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief His Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt, dated September 13, 1915, the public were notified that persons leaving Egypt were prohibited from taking with them in gold sums exceeding in value £15 for each adult. The Egyptian Government having now decided to prohibit the export of gold, except under special authority from the Ministry of Finance, the above-mentioned order is no longer necessary and has been withdrawn.

The Mercantile Marine Service Association (Liverpool) have issued an appeal on behalf of British merchant seamen detained as prisoners of war in Austria-Hungary and Turkey. For some time the members of the association have privately assisted a number of these with a weekly contribution, and this special effort is to endeavour further to ameliorate their pitiable plight by sending them periodical gifts of provisions, and, as the funds permit, warm clothing. There are 2,000 merchant seaman prisoners, and it has been ascertained that they exist largely upon food sent them from this country.

Among British oil men who recently left Roumania are Mr. Alfred Rutherford, managing director of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., and other members of the staff of that company, says *Oil News*. "The following members of the staff have not left Roumania:—Mr. Thomas Masterson (chief engineer); the company's commercial manager, Mr. H. Mejer; the two refinery managers, Mr. Halperin and Mr. Guthrie; and the principal field managers, Mr. T. G. Hayward, Mr. J. A. Sullivan, Mr. T. O'Brien, Mr. Eric Rutherford and Mr. Harry Swift. In view of the fact that Mr. Alfred Rutherford is in London (or has been), we hope the directors will give the shareholders the latest information as to the position of the company's properties."

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Agricultural Implements and Plant for Russia.

A great deal of attention has been devoted in these columns to agricultural machinery and implements as they apply to Near Eastern and Russian markets. Here are some notes by the British Vice-Consul at Kharkov. He says that "although there will evidently be an enormous shortage of agricultural machinery in Russia, Mr. Blakey does not believe that the prospects of large sales of British machinery are very promising. Except in large threshing machinery, agricultural oil engines and fodder-preparing machines, the British type of machinery is unsuitable for Russian conditions. There is no doubt that Russian manufacturers, with the assistance of the present subsidies and, probably, higher tariffs in the future, will be able rapidly to increase their output, and satisfy the needs of the country to a very large extent, thus making it fairly independent of imported goods. German types of ploughs are already manufactured in Russia in very large quantities, and at an exhibition of agricultural machinery which was held in Moscow last year, remarkable progress was shown in the manufacture of all types of harvesting machinery. Many large works in Russia, which are at present engaged in producing war materials, will be able to be adapted for the manufacture of such heavy machinery as steam threshers, tractors, and oil engines.

American Competition.

"In a recent address on exports of agricultural machinery from the United States, the Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce referred to the Russian factory of the International Harvester Company, which is authorised by Decree to do business in Russia. This company receives bounties from the Russian Government on its machines, especially the more complicated machines manufactured in Russia. Machines imported from the United States enter free of duty. These special advantages are conferred on the company because of the location of its manufacturing plant in Russia. American implement makers have representatives in almost every city or town of importance in Russia, and two Russian agricultural associations have representatives at Chicago and Minneapolis to purchase direct. Long credits are the rule. The last payment is usually not made until after the second harvesting season."

Theodosia Port Works.

The British Vice-Consul at Theodosia writes (October 24) that the authorities may decide to purchase winches with new patent booms instead of the four movable lifting cranes which were originally proposed to be installed. As regards the proposal to have a fifty-ton floating crane permanently in the port, it is stated that this will probably not be obtained from abroad, as floating cranes are now being built at Theodosia. In this connection the Board of Trade calls attention to the restriction on the manufacture, etc., of winches.

New Petrol Regulator.

With the existing petrol famine any means devised to economise the consumption of this liquid fuel is a matter of general interest; for, as is well known, the scarcity of petrol is responsible for many inconveniences and dislocations experienced by the public at the present time in every-day life. One of the latest devices is a simple regulator by which the petrol supply to the carburetter is efficiently controlled. It consists of a quadrant, which is attached to the steering column just below the wheel, and a Bowden wire connection to the dashboard disc which is ordinarily used to regulate the richness of the mixture to the engine. This regulator enables the driver to operate

the disc from the steering column, and also allows him to become better acquainted with the best and most economical position for that regulator. The quadrant on the steering column is marked with three positions—start, slow and fast. With the lever in the start position, the richest mixture is, of course, being supplied. After the engine has been started the lever may be moved to the slow position, which closes down the jet needle slightly, reducing the proportion of petrol to air. As soon as the engine gets warm, and the driver is on the road, he will find that he can gradually open the throttle and manipulate the finger lever of this regulator between the points slow and fast, the object being to give the cylinder a full charge of air and petrol, whilst, at the same time, taking care that as much of the former and as little of the latter as possible is used.

Opportunity for Inventors.

A prize of 50,000 francs has been offered to the Société Nationale de Chirurgie de Paris by a donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, to be handed over to the maker of the mechanical apparatus which best supplies the place of the hand. The competitors must belong to allied or neutral nations. They are to present to the society maimed men who have been using their apparatus for at least six months; and the society will experiment with each apparatus on the men. The successful apparatus will remain the property of its inventor. The competition will be closed two years after the end of the war. The committee elected by the society invites competitors to communicate with M. le Secrétaire Général de la Société Nationale de Chirurgie, 12, Rue de Seine, Paris.

To Thaw Frozen Pipes.

A new electrical outfit which has successfully been employed for thawing out frozen water services will be of interest to municipal authorities, especially at the approach of winter. The apparatus consists of a gasoline engine connected direct with a generator, a switchboard, and a reel of cable, the whole mounted on a structural steel frame so that it can be handled as a unit. The four-cycle, four-cylinder gasoline engine is directly connected by a leather-link flexible coupling to a 20 kw. 40-volt direct-current generator. A voltmeter, an ammeter, a rheostat, and a single-pole knife switch of 500 amperes capacity are mounted on the switch board. The reel holds 500 ft. of extra flexible copper cable of 300,000 circ. mils. cross-section, in 100 ft. lengths. Each length is fitted with terminal lugs. The various parts of the equipment are securely attached to the steel frames, making the equipment easily portable. For service the equipment is mounted on a trailer of a ton-and-a-half capacity, which is hauled by a motor truck. The mounting is not permanent, and after the winter season the thawer will be removed and the trailer used for other purposes. To thaw out a service one pole of the generator is connected in the premises to the pipe between the meter and the street main. The other pole is connected with the nearest fire hydrant. Thawing is effected in from five to fifteen minutes after the current is turned on.

The death of Mr. William Henry Bale, civil engineer, took place at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on November 10, after an operation. The late Mr. Bale, who was in his seventy-third year, had practised as a consulting engineer at 181, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., for many years, and at the time of his death was head of the firm of Messrs. Bale and Hardy. He was the consulting engineer to many gas and water companies throughout the south of England and in parts of Ireland. In 1870 he visited Sicily, the Sahara Desert, and parts of Egypt for investigating and preparing mechanical and other reports.—*The Engineer*.

THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY.

Reported Completion of the Taurus Tunnel.

On November 24 *The Times* published a message from its Amsterdam correspondent, stating that, according to a telegram from Sofia, the tunnel through the Taurus range on the Baghdad railway had been completed. "The subject" (says the paper) "merits further notice, for the Baghdad railway, when it is completed, will afford direct transit from Haidar Pasha (Constantinople) to Baghdad, and so realize the long-cherished German dream of a road, unbroken except by the Bosphorus, between Berlin and Baghdad, giving German soldiers, traders, and diplomats direct access to and ultimate control over the whole of the Middle East. India, too, loomed in the background of this splendid Teutonic dream.

"The piercing of the Taurus range would overcome one of the greatest obstacles, and, if the news were true, bring the Germans nearer the prospect at least of immediate touch with Persia and Armenia through the present rail-head at Nisibin and with Egypt through the Medina railway, which branches off at Aleppo. From this point of view our Amsterdam message is of the greatest interest to us and to Russia. The opening of the railway for the full stretch between Haidar Pasha (Constantinople) and Nisibin would also affect indirectly our forces in Mesopotamia, in so far as it would facilitate enemy transport in its earlier stages, but 250 miles of the great gap between the rail-head at Nisibin and Baghdad has still to be filled.

"Before the war there were several gaps in the Baghdad railway, which joins the Anatolian railway at Konia, and is thus connected with Haidar Pasha, opposite Constantinople. The first gap was at the Taurus range, the tunnel through which is now reported to be completed. This was roughly twenty miles long, and extended from Karapınar some thirteen miles south of Bozanti (645 miles from Haidar Pasha) as far as Doirak. It was the most difficult section of all, requiring several tunnels, eleven miles in all, the longest of which is a mile and three-quarters, and a viaduct some 220 yards long.

"A road passes over the mountains, through the Cilician Gates, at the Pass of Kuleh Boghaz, and meets the railway again a little east of Tarsus. Between Tarsus and Namurie—120 miles—the line runs and continues to the Amanus range. Here was a second gap before the war, some six miles long. The Bagtche tunnel, which was designed to fill the gap, was reported by the enemy to have been completed last year. Assuming this to be so, the line would be continuous from Doirak, via Adana, Osmanie, and Namurie, to Mauslimie, just north of Aleppo, where the line divides, one portion going to Aleppo and Damascus, and the other proceeding to Jرابلس, where it meets the Euphrates. It then proceeds easterly to Rus-el-Ain and possibly to Nisibin, the present rail-head, about 600 miles from Konia.

"Between Nisibin and Jibbara, which is connected by rail with Baghdad, is the third gap of some 250 miles. The rails on this section have not yet been laid, and it is doubtful if they have been collected for the purpose."

The Russian Chamber of Exports has received a communication from the Committee for the Development of Russian Trade in Cairo saying that the latter has received many inquiries from both Egyptian and Sudanese merchants directed towards opening business relations with Russia without the intervention of agents. As far as the Egyptian merchants proper are concerned, what chiefly interests them is the prospect of exporting cotton to Russia.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating, Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 736.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2856.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLIO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

ENEMY DEBTORS.

Colonel Ivor Philipps asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on November 29 if he would say what steps, if any, had been taken to establish a clearing-house in this country where British companies, firms, and individuals, being creditors of enemy firms and individuals, could receive payment of their debts from the moneys belonging to enemy firms now in the hands of the Public Trustee, irrespective of whether the particular enemy debtor firm had assets in this country.

Mr. McKenna said the suggestion had frequently been considered, but the establishment of such a clearing-house as this had been found to be impracticable while the war continued, unless it was proposed to confiscate the property of individual enemies in this country for the benefit of creditors of other enemies. Such a step undoubtedly would lead to reprisals and a further complication of the situation, and any scheme of the character proposed required the consent of the Departments concerned and the assistance of the enemy Governments.

In a further reply to Colonel Ivor Philipps, Mr. McKenna said that the debts returned by British creditors under the Proclamation of September 7, 1916, were being recorded by the custodians of the enemy banks. The returns at present numbered 17,500, and amounted to £79,000,000. Returns were daily being received. The approximate value of assets returned to the Public Trustee was £10,000,000.

GERMANS AND SUEZ CANAL.

Sir Joseph Ward, Finance Minister of New Zealand, made some interesting remarks concerning the use of the Suez Canal after the war, in the course of a lecture at Gresham College Hall, London, on Tuesday, on "The United Kingdom and her Overseas Dominions after the War."

A scheme must be evolved (said Sir Joseph) which would lead to an expansion of trade and put us in a position to negotiate with any country that had barriers up against us. It would be an act of madness to leave the United States out of any such arrangements.

The Germans had never in time of peace allowed us to use the Kiel Canal. Why should we, after the war, allow them to use the Suez Canal? He would deny them also the use of our coaling stations, and would demand from Germany ton for ton for sunken ships. Emigration after the war should be within the Empire. He hoped financiers would study the needs of the Empire after the war and lend money rather to the Dominions than to the enemies of the Empire. The historian would say that this war was a necessity and an inestimable blessing to humanity and to the British Empire.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the days mentioned and as compared with the same days last year:—

	1915.	1916.
	Francs.	Francs.
November 21	160,000	290,000
November 23 and 24	520,000	300,000
November 25 and 26	460,000	290,000

NEW SHIPPING COMPANY.

The company formed to give effect to the fusion of interests between the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd., and the Donaldson Line, Ltd., announced in our issue of October 21, has just been registered at Edinburgh under the title of Anchor-Donaldson, Ltd. The capital is £250,000, divided into 250,000 shares of £1 each. The objects for which the company is established are: To adopt agreements (1) with the Donaldson Line, Ltd., and Donaldson Bros., Ltd., and (2) with the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd., and Donaldson Brothers, Ltd., to acquire the steamships *Athenia*, *Cassandra*, *Letitia*, and *Saturnia*, and to carry on the business of shipowners, etc. The signatories, each subscribing for one share, are: Charles Donaldson, 58, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, shipowner; Norman P. Donaldson, 58, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, shipowner; and W. Betts, 58, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, shipowner. The company is private. The first directors (to number not less than six nor more than eight) are Sir Alfred Booth, Messrs. R. Clark, A. C. F. Henderson, C. Donaldson, W. B. Donaldson, N. P. Donaldson, and C. T. L. Donaldson. The registered office is at 58, Bothwell Street, Glasgow.

Recent reports state that only 110,000 ozs. of attar of roses were distilled in Bulgaria this year; peace time production is 200,000 ozs.

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LTD.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL - £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.
PAID-UP CAPITAL - £3,500,000. **RESERVE** - £4,000,000.

Chairman - THE RIGHT HON. THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
 Deputy Chairman - WALTER LEAF, ESQ.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

PARIS: LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK (PARIS) LIMITED,
 22, Place Vendôme.

Sums of £10 and upwards received on deposit, and interest allowed thereon.

Every description of British and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
 14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
 Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
 27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.
 Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Pleshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

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

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BABULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
 CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU,
 C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.
 GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

THROMORTON STREET,

Wednesday Evening.

We have had another fairly interesting week in Egyptian shares, and the market is closing with a strong tone to-night, on renewed buying orders from Egypt, in addition to a good many local inquiries here.

National Banks further rose during the week from 14½ to 14¾, closing at 14¾. Agriculturals have been very firm, and the price has improved to 5½. Delta Light have jumped about ¼, to 5½, the floating supply having been absorbed.

Aboukir are wanted in the neighbourhood of 17s. 6d., but sellers are scarce. Behéras are wanted at 6½, without finding sellers. Some small business has been done in Delta Lands in the neighbourhood of 9s. Gharbieh Land are inquired for at about 18s. New Egyptians have been a good market at about 9s. 3½d., the floating supply of shares having been considerably reduced. Sidi Salem and Union Foncière are still firm spots; but sellers are asking higher prices, and business is at a standstill. Salt and Sodas are again slightly firmer at 24s. 3d. bid.

Khedivial Mails, after being quieter, are in demand again to-night at about 35s.

Greek securities, in spite of the political tension at Athens, remain very firm; but there is very little business going on. Sellers are scarce. Rentes are exceptionally rather quieter at about 42.

Shell Transports were quiet, but steady, at 5½. North Caucasians and Ural Caspians were idle, but Spies were dealt in a few times around 12s. 6d. Russian Petroleum receded to 1s. 9d. Roumanian Consols displayed fair activity, but after changing hands over 11s. were finally unaltered at 10s. 9d. Traians were weak at 3s. 3d. Anglo-Egyptian "B" kept steady at 11s. 9d., while Suez were idle.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, for the week, 18 tons (previous week 24 tons). Hurgada, for the week, 935 tons, against 3,751 tons.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended November 25, 21,704 poods (350 tons).

Maikop Combine.—Week ended November 25, 17,205 poods (277 tons).

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Received for pumping, week ended Nov. 18, 24,701 poods (398 tons).

British Maikop.—Week ended November 11, 2,575 poods (41 tons). Week ended November 18, 2,202 poods.

Spies.—Week ended November 26, including 3,445 poods from ambars, 162,585 poods (2,622 tons). Total, 7,595,995 poods (122,516 tons), against 12,215,510 poods (197,024 tons).

North Caucasian.—Week ended November 8/21, 618,885 poods (9,982 tons).

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ending November 12, 53,200 poods, or 858 tons.

Cheleken Oilfields.—Fortnight ended November 18, 566 tons.

European Oilfields.—Week ended November 19, 77,700 poods.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Nov. 18.	1916. Week ended Nov. 16.
Cattle markets	740 ..	1,087
General markets	358 ..	382
Cattle markets closed	1 ..	2
Receipts (£)	1,098 ..	1,469
Total from commencement of year (£)	44,913 ..	47,357

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax,
Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Pack-
ings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable
Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all
classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleach-
ing, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing
Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK
EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Nov. 24.	Pre- sent Price.
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	72	72
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	46½
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1907	99	76½	75
City of Constantinople 5 % Bonds	86	67½	68½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	83½	69	79½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	88	79	68
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 % 1890	88	68½	61
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	63	—
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	80½	67	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24½)	57	54	54
Greek 5 % 1881	56	51	54
Do. 5 % 1884	56	50	49
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	46	50½	42
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	46	42	51
Do. 5 % 1890	56	54	50
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	63
Do. 4 % Rail. Loan, 1902	77	63	90
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	84	90	74
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	50½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	75
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	75	—
Roumanian 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 80. £600.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	77½	77½
Do. 4 % 1891	94½	76	66
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	82½	66	—
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	79	54	54
Do. 4 % Unified	65½	36	36½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	69	34	—

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red	83	63½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12½	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	2½	2½	3
Bank of Athens	8½	8½	8½
Bank of Roumania	6	78/9	80/—
Eastern Bank	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Bank of Persia	11	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	3½	4	4
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	13½	14½	14½
National Bank of Egypt	—	—	—

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P. ..	8	5½/6	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearers ..	82	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	80	80
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	11½	11½
Do. do. 5 % Cum. Pref.	22	12½	12½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Deb.	87	57	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	59½	59½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4½ %	80	54½	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ % Do. do. 3 % Bonds	90 61	74 55	74 53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	16/—	17/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red ..	—	92	92
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Co. Do. Def.	8½	6½	6½
Bahera Co.	4½	62½	3½
Do. Pref.	2½	2½	2½
Delta Sanieh	2½	7/8	7/8
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1st Mt. Db. Rd. ..	9½	8/9	9½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	86½	86½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Trst.	5½	6/6	6/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	1½	14/6	1½
Gharbieh Land Co.	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	97	97
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	98	7½	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd. ..	97	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	9½	9½	9½
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Asso. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12/6	9½	13/—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. ..	102	100	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	25/6	25/6
Egyptian Markets	99½	95	92½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	24/3	24/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red. ..	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	35/—	35/9
Do. do. Pref.	3½	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7/500) ..	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Persian	20/—	19/6
European Oilfields	3/3	3/1½
Roumanian	11/2	11/—

PARIS BOURSE.

	Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	448.25	445
Canal de Suez	4.060	4035
Credit Foncier Egyptien	662.50	660.50
Turkish Unified 4 %	—	59
Egyptian Unified 4 %	87.50	88
Serbian, 1895	—	60

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON NOVEMBER 10.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 86	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11½	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5½	—
priv.	L.E. 3½	—
lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 128	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. 104	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) Frs.	69½	—
Privilegiée Frs.	95	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 75	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2½	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte ..	£ 2½	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ 4	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 4	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4½	—
Unifiée	L.E. 80½	—
Privilegiée	69½ ex coup.	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—
Fondateur	£ 23	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 29½	—
Nungovitch Hotels	£ 2½	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3½	—
Ord.	£ 26½	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 4½	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 104	—
Jouissance	Frs. 155	—
Egyptian Markets	£ 26/9	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv. ..	Frs. 225	—
Div.	Frs. 155	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 200	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£ 21/6	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 590	—
1886 Oblig.	Frs. 326	—
1903 "	Frs. 252	—
1911 "	Frs. 258	—
Delta Lands	£ 7½	—
Port Said Salt	£ 35/9	—
Cotton Ginners	£ 8	—
New Egyptian Co.	£ 8/9	—
United Lands	P.T. 4/—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	£ 28/—	—
Fond	£ 180/—	—

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au Octobre 31, 1916.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	6,597 ..	3,663
Catégorie "B"	5,135,075 ..	4,701,934
Total	5,141,672 ..	4,705,597
Echéances:		
Dues	639,079 ..	527,126
A échoir	362,216 ..	293,144
Total	1,001,295 ..	820,270
Perceptions:		
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546 ..	1,209,187
Restant	1,105,440 ..	937,874
Perçu	289,106 ..	271,313
Echéances:		
Perçu	284,086 ..	362,373
Total perçu sur annuités échues	573,192 ..	633,686

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to October 30, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to October 13, 1916):—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross Receipts, Sep., 1916	Drachmæ. 3,505,545	Drachmæ. 2,971,000
Do. do. do 1915	3,084,821	1,894,000
Estimated Receipts for 9 months (Law of Control)	21,675,000	8,025,000
Actual do. do. 1916	26,621,906	21,156,000
Do. do. do 1915	27,258,968	17,991,887
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 9 months	1916 + 4,946,606 1915 + 5,833,968	+13,131,000 + 9,966,887

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49.15 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

A Central News Athens message, dated November 28, states that the International Financial Board of Control has demanded a Government guarantee for the latest loan, stipulating that some other Customs shall be substituted for those of Kavalla. The Government is undecided on the subject at present.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 292.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	121	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	127	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL —	
SPECIAL LETTERS —		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF —		Notes and News	137
Cyprus	123	A Terrible Indictment	129	Trade Problems in Egypt	138
Cairo	124	Bulgarian Wanderings	129	Shipping Notes.. ..	138
Athens	125	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	130	Lancashire Cotton Trade	139
Meshed	125	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	135	Persian Money Valuations	139
SPECIAL ARTICLES —		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	134	Trade Notes	139
More "Young Turks"		LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —		Produce Report	140
Treachery	126	Turkish Prisoners in Cyprus		Engineering Notes	141
Archæological Notes.. ..	126	(M. Irfan Bey)	128	Company Meetings	142
Serbia and the Allies	133	The Foreign Office and Greece		Company Reports	143
LEADING ARTICLE —		(Mr. D. M. Gane)	128	Company Notes	143
The End of a Chapter	132	England and Bulgaria (M.		On 'Change	143
		D. Janitsch)	128	Stock and Share List	143

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Roumanian tragedy pursues its course. An attempt to stem the Austro-German advance on the River Argesh failed, as it was bound to fail, unless measures had been taken to place it in an adequate condition of defence before the retreat from the Carpathians began. The Russians appear to have hurried forward some reinforcements, but these would be of little avail, unless there were positions awaiting them to be held. If our Allies are relying on checking the enemy merely by rearguard actions, they will be in danger of losing their whole country. Somewhere all this time every available pair of hands ought to have been employed in preparing a formidable line of defence against which von Mackensen, who now commands the operations against Roumania, would hurl his troops in vain. It was hoped that such a line would protect Bucharest; but the forts have been dismantled, and the city is now in the hands of the enemy. With it the Germans have captured Ploeshti, and, it is to be feared, the greater part of the oilfields. The hope of the Roumanians now centres on a stand at the Buzeu River.

If the German report that the Roumanians failed to destroy the bridges over the Argesh River be true, it is evident that our Allies have had to withdraw in considerable haste. In these circumstances some anxiety will be felt lest the destruction of the oilfields prove to have been delayed too long. So far the enemy has secured little beyond a large extent of territory. It is fertile land, and capable of producing much grain; but the crops are no longer there, and much may happen before the next harvest can be reaped by or for the Germans. On the other hand, an oilfield in working order is the one thing, apart from food supplies, that the Central Powers need, and if the Roumanian fields fall into their hands intact, their capacity for protracting the war will be greatly increased. With the knowledge that reinforcements are continually on their way, it may be hard for the Roumanians to set about destroying the second largest asset of the State, but if they fail to take the step betimes and to carry out the work thoroughly, they will be contributing to their own undoing. This is not a time for sentimental considerations. Already these have played too large a part in determining Roumania's action in the war, and she must now allow herself to be guided by others.

It is impossible to follow the fortunes of the Roumanians without realizing that the fate of the Salonika army is linked up with them. Landed originally for the

purpose of saving Serbia from being overwhelmed, the Allied forces remained to bar the enemy's road to the Ægean. They were then strengthened with a view to carrying out an offensive which would drive a wedge in between the Central Powers and their vassals, Bulgaria and Turkey. For reasons which have not been divulged this programme was indefinitely delayed, and the opportunity for an attack on Bulgaria on two fronts was lost at the time of Roumania's entry into the war. The Roumanians were allowed to follow their own bent without reference to the requirements of the Allies' strategy, and, as the event has proved, they have squandered their military strength without advantage to themselves or to the Allied Powers. If Roumania is overrun by the enemy, a wedge between the Central Powers and Bulgaria becomes out of the question, and the object to be served by the Salonika force becomes by no means apparent. There is nothing to show that it possesses either the necessary strength or the confidence to take upon itself single-handed the conquest of the Balkans. It has spent many valuable months merely containing an enemy force at an expenditure of men and material wholly disproportionate to the results obtained. In spite, therefore, of the eagerness with which the need for action in the Balkans has been preached in these pages, while there was still time for it, we realize that the situation as a whole has now to be reviewed as a result of the appalling series of blunders which have dogged the handling of the Near Eastern problem by the Allies.

Thanks to consistent mismanagement, the position in Greece at last constitutes a grave menace to the Allied cause. Criticism of the conduct of foreign affairs is notoriously undertaken at a disadvantage, inasmuch as so many links in the chain cannot be revealed to the public. We can hardly suppose, however, that the Allied Governments can profess extreme satisfaction with their handling of the problem. To the onlooker it seems as if the Greek question had never been fairly and squarely faced at any stage. Allied diplomacy, unless we are mistaken, has been content to live from hand to mouth, and to deal with each fresh development as it arose, regardless of the trend of its policy or its bearing on other questions. There is no need to recapitulate here the whole of the story; but we find it difficult to believe that at any point of the proceedings it was necessary to contemplate the prospect of Allied troops and marines being fired upon and killed in the streets or outlying quarters of Athens. And yet this is what has happened as the result of the failure to tackle the situation with knowledge and foresight.

Two alternatives confronted the Allies: either Greece was a negligible quantity, incapable of interfering with the Allies' plans, when once they had taken over Salonika and the surrounding territory, in which case there was no need to take her pinpricks seriously; or Greece was a potential danger, and as such had to be scotched, once and for all. The policy pursued by the Allies, as far as can be made out, has been to regard Greece as a serious menace, but to refrain from taking the obvious measures to render her harmless. Owing to this failure to act with decision and, we must add, straightforwardly, King Constantine has been able to strengthen his position in the country as a rival leader to M. Venizelos; he has had time to work upon the feelings of the army and has backed German intrigue among the civilian population. He and the rest of the anti-Entente party finally felt themselves strong enough to proceed to any lengths. They settled down to a policy of thwarting the Allies at every turn, and, encouraged by the milk-and-water treatment meted out to their offences—for it may be doubted whether even Admiral du Fournet's efforts to stiffen the proceedings impressed the Greeks very much—prepared to offer military resistance to the half-hearted police measures which the Allies' executive officer saw fit to adopt.

It is a matter for regret that Admiral du Fournet should have spoiled his record by a movement which was at best a makeshift between policing and military action. The facts before him and before the world were that the Royalist section of the Greek Army, being thoroughly out of hand, had sworn to resist all efforts on the part of the Allies to take over any more of Greece's war material; reservists had been armed and collected in Athens, while Venizelists were being visited or threatened with all manner of pains and penalties. In the face of these aggressive manifestations Admiral du Fournet landed a force only 3,000 strong and marched on Athens. Now, an elementary knowledge of the Greek character would have told the French Admiral that the Greek is of an impulsive nature, and that those who were causing him trouble in Athens, although terribly anxious to avoid real warfare, were just the people to wax very bold where they outnumbered their opponents by five or ten to one. As the Allied force approached Athens they were fired on by Greek troops, who had been placed in position for that purpose. This essentially Greek reception would not have mattered very much if Admiral du Fournet had been prepared for it. If behind him the Allied Fleet in Phaleron Bay had stood by with its guns trained on Athens, Greek resistance could have been disposed of in a very short time. A few shells were fired, and there was a hurried suggestion and an equally hurried acceptance of an armistice. Still more amazing, Greek troops were allowed to escort the Allied force back to the harbour.

By this action the Allied cause has been badly served. The Entente Powers, it is true, have no quarrel with the Greek nation, but they have a very just case against Greek troops who open fire on landing detachments. If the telegrams from Athens represent the situation accurately, the Greek army on this occasion was posted in positions easily located, which could have been promptly reduced by shell-fire. It may be that Admiral du Fournet was instructed to avoid warlike measures. In such circumstances he ought to have declined the undertaking, or, after having been fired upon, ought to have allowed things to take their own course. By agreeing to an armistice which left the Greek army "top dog," he has rendered the situation still more complicated. No steps that can now be taken by the Allies will be as efficacious as would have been the immediate acceptance of a state of hostilities after the first shots had been fired by the Greeks. Admiral du Fournet could have gone straight through with his uncomfortable task and settled it, leaving Allied diplomacy to shake its head or wring its hands.

The position created by the events in Athens has been termed by Lord Robert Cecil, speaking on behalf of the British Government, "one of extreme gravity." He went on to add: "In spite of the formal and repeated assurances of the Greek King and Government that no disturbances would be permitted, a most treacherous and unprovoked attack was made upon the Allied detachments landed by the French Admiral on Friday last, and many casualties have resulted. . . . His Majesty's Government consider that the responsibility of King Constantine and his Government are deeply involved in this matter, and they are considering, in conjunction with their Allies, immediate measures to secure a radical solution of the situation which has now arisen." The captious will be tempted to wonder whether the late British Government has had occasion to consider Greek affairs during the last two years, or whether its views on King Constantine are still determined solely by the fact that he was a frequent visitor to England and known personally to many of them. To talk of formal and repeated assurances of the Greek King who has betrayed a sworn Ally, who has violated the spirit and letter of his constitutional oath, who has broken any undertaken extracted from him during the last few months sounds to the unsophisticated lay mind as somewhat of an anachronism. The proposed "radical solution" will be awaited with interest. The actual problem to be solved can be stated in very few words; it is that at the first opportunity the Greek Commander-in-Chief and the troops acknowledging his leadership will be used to stab the Allies in the back. A radical solution, therefore, must either eliminate the possibility of that first opportunity, or it must eliminate the Commander-in-Chief and his army. At the same time, of course, the fact that Allied troops have been done to death in Athens cannot be lost sight of.

In the meantime, it is to be feared that the Greeks in Old Greece who are known to be friendly disposed towards the Allies and, with M. Venizelos, wish to see Greece play an honourable part in the European struggle, are being grossly maltreated by the King's followers. In view of the events of last week it has been impossible for Admiral du Fournet to give them the protection he had promised. We cannot be quite sure what is actually happening in Athens at this moment, but as the King and his reservists have the upper hand and, presumably, a free hand, there is unfortunately little reason to doubt the accuracy of reports of murder, pillage, and worse. It is fairly evident, therefore, that the "radical solution" promised by the late Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will not be provided by the first of the alternatives mentioned above. Every day is of importance, and it will be a matter for regret if the Ministerial crisis in Britain interposes a moment's delay in bringing King Constantine, his Government, and his army to book.

In this unhappy business Britons cannot lose sight of the fact that their quarrel is not and has not been with Greece or the Greeks as a nation, but with a clique which is as anti-Greek as it is anti-Entente. Whatever justification the King and his party can find for their hostility to the Allies, there can be none for their barbarous treatment of their own fellow-countrymen, the persecution of Venizelist officers, and the virtual reign of terror that followed Admiral du Fournet's withdrawal from Athens. In this connection we cannot but feel the deepest sympathy with the Greek Ministers accredited to Great Britain and France respectively and with the Greek Consuls in England who have felt compelled to resign their posts in protest against the actions of their Sovereign and Government. M. Gennadius has been associated with English life for so long, and occupies such a high place in English esteem as an able diplomatist, a talented man of letters, and a most agreeable man of the world, that he must have felt his position acutely. He has served his country well, and in the happier days in store will find in authority those who are better able to appreciate his services than the powers that now reign in Athens.

The new Russian Premier's first speech to the Duma was characterized by a straightforwardness of diction which is in welcome contrast to the customary circumlocutions of diplomacy. Speaking at the Guildhall Banquet on November 9, Mr. Asquith had ventured a cautious hint that Great Britain was gradually coming to the opinion that the retention of the Turks in Europe would be a mistake. M. Trepoff has used different words:—"An agreement which we concluded in 1915 with Great Britain and France, and to which Italy has adhered," he said, "established in a most definitive fashion the right of Russia to the Straits and Constantinople." The existence of the agreement was widely known, not only in the signatory countries, but also to our enemies. Whether it was wise to come to such an arrangement at such a time may be an open question; on the other hand, it may have been inevitable. But as the agreement was reached, it would, perhaps, have been the better course to pursue to have acknowledged it and to have justified it. The Allies gained nothing by allowing the Balkan States to hear of the pact through their own sources of information. Let us hope that M. Trepoff's advent to power implies that not only Russian, but Entente diplomacy as well, will henceforth recognize that honesty is the best policy.

The reason for secrecy at the time of the signing of the agreement was understood to be that the proposed Russian occupation of Constantinople might alienate sympathy in the Balkans. If the interests of any Near Eastern State, apart from Turkey, were to be affected, Great Britain ought not to have been a party to the agreement. But if, as was the case, Russia was prepared to give the necessary guarantees that Balkan interests should not be prejudiced, then a bold announcement would probably have removed all misgivings. In regard to Roumania, the Russian Government has had no difficulty in giving the required assurances. "There is no doubt," M. Trepoff went on to say, "that, after she has obtained sovereign possession of a free passage into the Mediterranean, Russia will grant freedom of navigation for the Roumanian flag." Neither Roumania nor any other country asks for more. The Allies are concerned to see removed for ever any possibility of the Dardanelles being closed again, and they consider that the best guarantee will be provided by the occupation of Constantinople and the Straits by a country to whose interest it is to keep the waterway open and who has the power to do it. There is a further reason for the change. Turkey has proved that she is unable to resist the temptation of being a tool of German ambitions. The peace of Europe demands that Germany should not be allowed to have easy access to a Power whose capacity for mischief is so great. But the occupation of Constantinople by Russia presupposes further efforts on the part of all the Allies.

In connection with this agreement among the Allies to see Russia established in Constantinople, we feel constrained to express the hope that it coincides with other arrangements dealing with parts of the world in which Great Britain is specially interested. It will, for instance, be no recommendation to the Russian occupation of the Straits, if it should be found that the Russian Government has not been equally accommodating and Great Britain equally insistent in regard to a satisfactory settlement of British interests, say, in Persia and Mesopotamia.

Two despatches have been published during the past week, one dealing with the operations in the Sinai Peninsula, the other with the work of the British Salonika Army between May and October. In the latter reference is made for the first time to the ravages of illness suffered by our troops, a condition of things which, no doubt, contributed to their enforced idleness. In the Katia-Rumani despatch we are glad to see officers and men of the Egyptian Army selected for special mention. Reference is also made to the Labour Corps, about whose work quite an interesting story could be written.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, November 11.

Agricultural Prospects.

Want of rain is causing considerable uneasiness, especially in the west of the island. There has only been a small fall in some parts to the east. Early sowing of cereals is retarded. The members of the Holy Synod had an interview with the High Commissioner on November 18, and urged that loans of seed corn should be granted with a far more generous hand by the Government to all agriculturists in need of help, in order to meet a distinctly trying time. They also recommended that loans in money should be made in all deserving cases, with regard to the *bona fides* of which precautions could be easily taken. The cultivation of wheat on a larger scale has been strongly urged during the last two years, and the recent advice of the Agricultural Department that rye should be sown in suitable lands should be adopted.

A successful agricultural and animal show has been held at Papho, the exhibits and attendance being very satisfactory. The Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, was present, and a number of agriculturists took the opportunity of consulting him on various local interests, including the combating of pests. These include the large fruit-eating bats, which commit serious havoc in gardens and carob trees, rats, and hornets. Rats have long been a scourge to trees and crops, and hornets destroy bees on a large scale. Farmers in the west of the island complain that, although they have paid locust tax since 1881, and, in spite of the fact that this plague has not attacked their properties, help is not given from the Locust Fund against such animal pests as do infest their lands. Government measures are not undertaken against the latter on any serious scale. Papho, which has taken the lead in silk production, is anxious to extend and improve the breeding of silkworms, and asks for the establishment of nursery gardens. The district is endeavouring to make a wise movement forward. A further rise in the price of bread in Cyprus has aroused a strong desire that Government should allow wheat to be issued from its tithe stores to the public at moderate prices, and that steps should at once be taken to control prices of some other articles. The price of bread at the capital is at present 4½ piastres the oke for the best quality, which would work out at a fraction under 4½d. for a 2-lb. loaf, if such a weight were obtainable.

The Election of an Archbishop.

The Bishop of Papho, acting as Archbishop, has issued his invitations to the general electors to assemble on November 11 at Nicosia for the purpose of electing a new Archbishop. The Bishop celebrated his name-day at the capital on the festival of St. Jacobus, visits being paid to him by all the leading Greek citizens.

Emigration Facilities.

Notwithstanding the steps taken by the Government tending to check the outflow of emigrants, local steamship agencies continue to hold out inducements to those who wish to proceed to Egypt, Marseilles, America (via Naples), and Australia. Passages of four classes are issued, every facility, it is said, being given on landing for finding employment, etc.

Cyprus and the War.

There is a strong and growing feeling in the Greek community that Cypriots should take part in the national army of defence. They speak of the volunteers who went to Greece to join the colours during the two last Balkan wars, and of the assistance in money and gifts which Cyprus contributed to the cause. There should be no less enthusiasm for the movement to support the army of M. Venizelos, and to save the country and deal a blow against the hated Bulgarians. Hopes are expressed that Cyprus will take a worthy part. It is still expected that a Greek officer is coming to raise a Greek contingent in the island. Cypriots feel keenly the position of Greece and of Hellenism. Some of the Greek papers in Egypt have gone so far as to state that a force of 15,000 Cypriots has been enlisted for service under the order of the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos. There is no foundation for this report.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 16.

H.H. the Sultan.

It is expected that the Sultan will very soon definitely take up his residence in Abdin Palace. His Highness on his recent return to Cairo only stayed there a night, and proceeded next day to his private residence at Heliopolis, where, on the advice of his doctors, he has remained ever since. It is understood that he has benefited very much in health from the drier climate, and that the fever has practically left him.

The Air Raid.

As the cables will have informed you ere this, an air-raid took place here on Monday morning. It was carried out by one enemy machine, which suddenly appeared at 11.30 a.m., dropped nine bombs within the space of five minutes, and then made off before any of our own aeroplanes could get up after it. Not many people saw the raider; but those who did say that it was at a great height, and that after throwing its bombs it hovered over the city for a few minutes, presumably to see what damage it had done. Only one of the bombs fell on a building, and that was a disused mill. Very little damage to property was done.

The sole object of the raid was, unmistakably, the intimidation of the civilian population of Cairo; for not only did the raider avoid the few military points of importance in and near the city, including the Citadel, but he used bombs which could not possibly have damaged any buildings, and threw them on the residential quarter at an hour when it is notoriously most frequented. Far from the populace being intimidated or panic-stricken, it has preserved commendable calm; and now that the first shock is over, Egyptians as well as Europeans view the raid with quiet contempt tempered with feelings of intense disgust at the German methods of waging war. This latest outrage should certainly disillusion those of the local population who may have still harboured pro-German sympathies, and who have in the past cast doubts on the veracity of the tales circulated by us as to German barbarities in Belgium, N.E. France, and Serbia.

The New High Commissioner.

The local Press continues to publish articles and letters expressing pleasure at Sir Reginald Wingate's nomination as High Commissioner, and conversations which I have had with Egyptians of all classes convince me more and more of the popularity of the appointment. The selection of Colonel L. O. F. Stack as his successor at Khartoum for the duration of the war is also approved of. Stack Pasha is well known in Cairo, where, before he became Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government just prior to the outbreak of war, he had for some time ably filled the dual post of Sudan Agent and Director of Intelligence; and it is felt that with Sir Reginald Wingate at Cairo to assist with his advice the affairs of the Sudan will be just as well administered as if he had remained at Khartoum. One point which has not been referred to in this correspondence as yet, but which is worthy of note, is that the new High Commissioner holds higher military rank in the British Army than any other officer at present in Egypt.

All manner of absurd and fantastic stories as to the reason for the change in the Residency have been flying around, and one experiences the greatest difficulty in laying the rumours by the heels. People in Egypt seem quite incapable of accepting obvious and straightforward explanations for occurrences, and are much keener on crediting sensational versions of the causes leading up to them. The more improbable or far-fetched the reason the greater the credence attached to it. The following is a typical example of this attitude on the part of the general public. As you know, Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, has recently recovered from an illness, in the course of which he had to undergo a slight operation to

his ear. When he fell ill he was brought hurriedly up to Cairo, where he was subsequently visited by a British specialist attached to the Army, who was sent by the High Commissioner. Just about the same time the Sultan became indisposed and went to his estate at Gabbaris. The Egyptians at once connected the two incidents. First of all, it was said that both illnesses were merely political ones; Rushdi Pasha had had a disagreement with the Sultan, who had proceeded to his estate in high dudgeon, and had refused to transact any State business until he was given a new Prime Minister. As, however, there was soon no doubt that Rushdi Pasha was really ill, the theory of a quarrel was dropped, but it was at once replaced by an equally extraordinary one, which I may say is still adhered to in many Egyptian circles to-day. It was averred that another attempt had been made on the Sultan's life, and that the Prime Minister had shielded him and had been wounded in the head. His Highness had had to go to Gabbaris to recover from the shock which this third attempt had caused him, and Rushdi Pasha had been brought forthwith to his residence in Cairo, because at the time his life was despaired of! That was bad enough, but the sensation mongers proceeded to add sauce to the "canard" by stating that the reason Sir Henry had sent a British specialist to Rushdi Pasha on his arrival in Cairo was that the Sultan's assailant had been a Britisher! Why it should not be possible at the end of a trying summer for both Sovereign and Prime Minister to become indisposed at about the same time, the one with fever, the other with a cold in the ear, eventually necessitating a slight incision; why there should be anything extraordinary in both of them under the circumstances deciding to seek a drier climate than Alexandria; why it should not be the most natural thing in the world for the High Commissioner, as an ordinary act of courtesy and as a sign of his regard for Rushdi Pasha, to send a British surgeon to examine him; why a Britisher, of all people, should attempt the life of the Sultan, the sensation mongers did not stop to consider, and if they did the explanation was, as usual, too simple to satisfy them. They proceeded to put into circulation their own highly coloured version of the matter, and the traditional credulity of the Egyptian public did the rest. This may be taken as a typical example of the way history is fabricated and facts and events are distorted and exaggerated in this country.

THE ESSENCE OF ISLAM.

Speaking at the meeting of the Sufi Brotherhood in Lad-broke Road, last Sunday, Mr. Q. Abdullah said that the very word Islam signified what the essence of Islam was. It literally meant "submission," "obedience," or "peace." So Islam denoted perfect submission to God, complete obedience to His commands, and being at peace with the Creator and his creatures. In other words, it denoted the strengthening of the relations between man and God. The formula of faith recited by every Moslem several times a day clearly set out our twofold duties towards our Creator and His creatures. Other revealed religions also claimed that their essence was the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. If the purpose of all the divine religions was the same why was there so much rankling and bickering in religious controversies, and why the great animosity of people of one religion against those of another? The cause was that the spiritual power over the hearts of men had been quite loosened, and the real object of religion was lost sight of altogether. This was to know and recognise the true and living God who had created the whole world, to attain that stage of perfection in His love at which the love of all others beside Him was completely consumed, to have full sympathy with his creatures, and finally to lead a life of perfect truth and piety.

The Koran taught that there were three stages of perfection in our attitude towards our fellow creatures: the first was the doing good to those who had done good to us, the second was the doing good to those who had done no good to us, and the third was the doing good to others without laying any obligation on them, or expecting to receive any thanks in return, but giving ourselves for them as freely as the mother gave herself for her child. Islam recognised also three stages of spiritual development. The first, called "Fana" by the Sufis, took place when a person submitted his own self with all his energies to God and devoted them wholly to His service. The second stage was that of "Baga," when, after a complete annihilation of all carnal desires and passions, a person was moved to action by a divine power of attraction. Finally, he was given a new life, which was generalised by a heavenly magnetism, and all earthly connections were cut off. At that stage he saw God, actually spoke to him. This was the highest stage, and was called "Lila."

ATHENS LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, November 20.

Increasing Tension.

General Roques' visit to Athens, and his audience of the King, caused quite a flutter, and has led up to another little crisis in Greece's politics.

There was considerable movement in official and diplomatic circles last week and it was conjectured that the French War Minister had made certain demands which were hardly palatable, but would nevertheless have to be accepted. The attitude of the Royalist troops in Thessaly and the recent conflict at Ekaterini made it imperative to take steps to separate the Venizelist troops from those still serving the King. It was accordingly intimated to the Greek Government that a certain strip of territory stretching across Greece should be considered a neutral zone, and that this would be occupied by French troops. This measure, it is hoped, will have the effect of preventing any trouble between the two opposing groups of the Greek Army. The demand for part of Greece's artillery and munitions, which is much more distasteful, has not yet been accepted, and is still the subject of negotiations between the Cabinet and the British and French Ministers.

A telegram from M. Briand to King Constantine and Admiral du Fournet's Note of yesterday, appear, however, to have created a greater sensation. The contents of this telegram have not been published, but the Admiral demands that the Ministers of Germany, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria should leave Athens within forty-eight hours, and it is probable that others will have to accompany them. It has been felt for some time that this step would have to be taken, as the presence of these diplomatists in Greece in present circumstances could no longer be tolerated by the Allies. Their removal from Athens, together with the leaders of the German propaganda, should somewhat clear the atmosphere and rid the King of pernicious influences. Every opportunity seems to be taken by the Court and authorities to encourage the opponents of Venizelism and to punish anyone in favour of the National movement, as, for instance, the imprisonment of the Editor of the *Patris*, the leading Venizelist paper; and, on the other hand, the receiving in private audience by the King of the Editor of the *Embros*, a pro-German paper, which takes every opportunity of vilifying the Allies. Every opportunity is also taken to create friction and to hamper the Allies, and punishment is not inflicted on the Royalists with the same *empressement* as on the Venizelists. A party of about a dozen *evzones*, who had been forbidden to travel from one place to another in Thessaly by the French Controller of the Railway, insisted on doing so, and, on the matter being reported to Admiral du Fournet, he demanded their punishment; but it does not appear so far to have been carried out.

Student Demonstrations.

On Friday and Saturday the University students entertained Athens with their obstreperous conduct. An incident was provoked in the University by some students in favour of the King, but their condemnation of Venizelos aroused his admirers. The two parties paraded the streets on Friday evening, the Royalists marching to the Palace to cheer the King, whilst the Venizelists proceeded to the English and French Legations to acclaim the Allies. The Royalists, however, got panic-stricken outside the Zappeion Gardens at the sound of firing, and, doubtless thinking that French marines were after them, stampeded in all directions. In their haste to save their skins they fell over one another, and some broken heads was the result of that day's demonstration. The following day the Venizelist students, who are in a large majority, proceeded to the British and French Legations to show their sympathy with the Allies, and for several hours on Saturday afternoon the public were entertained with a scrimmage between students and military. The former ended up their day's exertions by visiting Admiral Fournet on the flagship. The Royalists, who are always the disturbers of the peace, invariably get the worst of it, and on these occasions it is easy to see which side has the preponderance.

Francophil Amateurs.

Admiral Fournet returned the visit of the Mayor of Athens last Thursday amidst great enthusiasm in favour of France. "Vive Venizelos!" invariably follows the cry of "Vive la France!"

Yesterday a deputation from the Piræus presented an address to the Admiral. The address, which is signed by some 12,000 residents in the Piræus, expresses its gratitude to France for its protection in the past and for again coming to protect the interests of Greece; and its disapproval of various incidents created by certain agitators.

Patriotic Volunteers.

Volunteers for the National Army continue to leave the Piræus for Salonika almost daily, and it is said that the number of officers who have so far joined the movement amounts to about 950. Officials from the different Ministries continue to leave, probably as they are required by the Nationalist Government. Whether it is their patriotism, their admiration for Venizelos, or their disgust at the state of affairs in Athens, these officers have risked all their future in leaving their posts. This matter has, however, been the subject of discussion between the Government and the British and French Legations, and an arrangement has been arrived at, by which the Government will not interfere with those wishing to join the Nationalist Army, and the Allies have promised to see that the officer's future career is not compromised.

The removal of the troops from Thessaly to the south of Greece is proceeding slowly. Procrastination in everything is the order of the day, and "since you are taking away our railway material, how can we move our troops?" is the excuse given for the delay.

Parliament was opened last Thursday, about sixty deputies attending, but the proceedings were merely formal, and the Chamber adjourned—"to be recalled when there are a sufficient number of members in Athens."

MESHED NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MESHEH, October 28.

During the past months, while other parts of Persia have been suffering political disturbances—some of them serious—the city of Meshed has been quiet, owing to the presence of the English and Russians, and there has been nothing of interest to write about.

Financial conditions are very bad. Imports from England and Europe have practically ceased, while from Russia and India they have greatly fallen off. Russia keeps a close watch on her trade with Khorasan, and during the war is permitting sugar and petroleum to come here in only limited quantities, and some commodities not at all. Ordinary medical supplies are very scarce and high-priced. Some commodities have risen to two, three, and even four times the normal price before the war. Khorasan is sending Russia some cotton, wool, and dried fruits, but as trade is mostly one way exchange is very bad. The normal price of the rouble before the war was about kran 5.85. Now it is kran 1.50. The normal price of pounds sterling was about kran 55. Now it is about kran 30 or less.

The parcel post service between here and England is stopped, and even the ordinary letter post is very much interrupted and out of order. For many weeks past practically no letters have been received here from England.

Colonel T. W. Haig, C.M.G., has been transferred to Ispahan, and Colonel G. W. Grey, I.A., is now British Consul-General. Prince Niseer-ed-Dowleh having been recalled to Teheran, was succeeded in the Governor-Generalship by Nasir-ed-Deen Mirza, a son of Muszafar-ed-Deen Shah. The latter also has just now been recalled, and is to be succeeded by Kamran Mirza, the well-known Niab-es-Sultaneh and brother of Zil-es-Sultan.

The American Presbyterian Mission has opened a dispensary and ten-bed hospital in the south-west part of the city, and is doing good work. In connection with it they have a Bible depot, where Scriptures are on sale in about twenty languages.

MORE "YOUNG TURKS" TREACHERY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 20.

In a previous communication* I have referred to some important documents which prove how the "Young Turks" had been for some years endeavouring to crush the Arab element in the Turkish Empire; and how they had intrigued against the authority of the Grand Shereef. In this connection the following revelations, made by the Shereef in the course of a conversation with the editor of an Arabic paper who enjoys his Highness's confidence, have recently been published. They are of value as showing the patience displayed by the Grand Shereef in his dealings with his unscrupulous enemies. His remarks may be translated as follows:—

"I would never believe, oh! my son, before I succeeded to the Emirship of Mecca that the Unionists would go to the length of rekindling the embers of revolt, and raking up mutual jealousies and rancour among the Arab tribes at a time when they were most in need of peace for the preservation of the Empire and the maintenance of the honour of the Faith. But they have actually done all this, and I acquainted you yesterday with part of what has been established by proof against them. I will now make further revelations, which will strike wonder in the world of Islam when the day comes for you to make them public. What has been ordained is bound to come to pass.

"When the Unionists realized the failure of their intrigues to create dissension between me and the Imam Yehya and El Idrissi, they resorted to another stratagem, which would have imperilled the Holy Provinces and have led to the ruin of their inhabitants, both men and women, were it not for merciful Providence. To that end they actually sent delegates to Jeddah and Yambo, with careful instructions how to sow the seeds of revolt; and these had secret meetings with some of the tribal chiefs whom they sought to win over and incite to rebellion against me, in the name of the Faith, holding out to them fair promises in case of success in their evil mission, as they had actually done with the Imam Yehya and El Idrissi when they sought to cut off the communications between Jeddah and Mecca and between the latter town and Medina, and to plunder the caravans that follow those routes for purposes of trade and the Pilgrimage. It did not take long to kindle the flame of revolt in the breasts of the tribal sheikhs, who were thus misled under the false pretence of protecting the Faith. Meantime, arms and ammunition were being prepared, and trenches were dug clandestinely outside Jeddah, near the tomb of our Mother Eve (May Allah's favour rest on her!); and when they had completed their preparations they declared their well-known revolt, and closed the routes, killing thousands of people. Then they attacked Jeddah—not, however, before the inhabitants had closed its gates. The history of this revolt is common knowledge to all. When the sinister intelligence reached me, I sent word to the Emir of the tribes involved, asking him to stop this incursion, and quell the revolt among his men, promising him all that he might wish of silver and gold, if such were his object. But I asked him, if his revolt were determined by another motive, to postpone it until after the Pilgrimage—which was imminent—when he could carry out his intentions. My request was unheeded, and he replied that his sole motive was the Faith. Then it was that I sent out a force of my men under the leadership of my son, Shereef Faisal, who quelled the revolt, and killed, in the course of the battle, the Emir of these tribes. This, however, cost the blood of thousands of my men and his, and peace was ultimately concluded between us on certain conditions, one of which was that we should make common cause against the Unionists, if the reins of Government remained in their hands and they persisted in their hostile intentions against the Arabs, especially as it was later discovered that secret agents of theirs had been trying to seduce the sheikhs of those tribes by deceitful promises. After the conclusion of peace these secret agents were caught in Jeddah, and were about to be killed, when I intervened and let them off, to go back whence they had come, penitent.

"This, my son, is a page of the foul record of the Unionists' intrigues, which history will record to their eternal shame. Their only object in stirring up the Arab tribes was to fish in troubled waters after the fall of their Empire; then to carry out their evil intentions in the Holy Provinces, in the name of the so-called Moslem Government, forgetting that, by so doing, they are only combating Allah and His Prophet, in the person of the descendant of his Holy House.

"After all this, I might yet have borne with them had they finally acknowledged that they were not Moslems. But, behold! oh ye who have eyes to see, with what men I have had the calamity to deal!"

At a meeting of the Dardanelles Commission, held at the House of Lords last Friday, Mr. Churchill was again called as a witness. Sir George Arthur, who was Lord Kitchener's Secretary, was also in attendance. The Commission met again on Monday, when Major-General S. B. von Donop was called as a witness.

* See "Young Turk v. Arab," in THE NEAR EAST, December 1, —Ed.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

Recent Discoveries in Egypt.

The difficulties in the way of printing any matter involving the use of varied types, such as required for a journal of a learned society, has caused the publication of the "Bulletin," of the Société Archéologique d'Alexandrie to be very much in arrear, but the editor, Prof. E. Breccia, who is also Curator of the City's Museum, has now brought out the first number for the season of 1914-15. By far the most important article is that upon the most valuable Greek inscription of more than fifty well-preserved lines, which was found at Theadelphia, now called Harit, in the Fayoum. The text records the petition of a certain Phillipos, son of Timocrates, to one of the Ptolemies and his wife, Cleopatra, praying that the rights of asylum which had appertained to the temple of the goddess Isis, under the special title of Eseremphis, should be respected, both by the people and by the officials. The inscription is really an embodiment of the petition and the formal granting of its proposition by the sovereigns. As it deeply concerned the rights of the shrine and its priestly hierarchy, they wisely had it engraved upon stone, and, doubtless, placed somewhere within the temple's precincts. The theophoric title given to Isis of Eseremphis was new when found, but has since been seen as accorded to her, among many others, in the wonderful papyrus containing a Panegyric of Isis, published by the Egypt Exploration Fund. Phillipos was an officer of the Corps d'Elite of the Machairophores, or Lancers of the Guard. The temples having the rights of Asyilia remind us of the cities of refuge of the Old Testament, and of many monasteries in the Middle Ages.

Although practically all Frenchmen of military age who were resident in Egypt have left to take their part in the war, the French Institute of Oriental Archæology in Cairo still continues the issue of the "Bulletin" under the auspices of the Director, M. George Foucart. The second fascicle for 1916 is almost entirely filled with essays upon the celebrated hieroglyphical record of the annals of the very earliest dynasties of the Pharaohs, which is preserved upon a monument, now in Sicily, known as the "Stele of Palermo." The reason for this recrudescence of literature concerning these records is that five more fragments of this inscription, some of them part of the very same stone, and others of one, or, perhaps, two duplicates of it, have been found in Egypt, and are now in the Cairo Museum. The object of engraving these memorials upon the stone was undoubtedly to prove to posterity the real historical existence of the early kings, by giving not only their names, but the chief festivals held in their reigns, and the heights of the annual Nile inundations. The record is, therefore, also of scientific interest, because it states the variations in the flood heights of the river for a long period—some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

A most interesting fact, too, is demonstrated by these annals, which is that at the time they were carved there were in existence lists of what are termed the prehistoric Pharaohs: that is to say, of princes earlier than Menes, the founder of the so-called First Dynasty. The writer gives in their case the name of each sovereign's mother, which is curious, as indicating either that we are dealing with what may be termed Matriarchal times, or that, each Pharaoh being supposed to have had a divine father, only the human female parent is specified. Although the "Bulletin" is a French Government publication, an English Egyptologist, Mr. F. W. Read, has been welcomed to take part in the discussion in his native language, and we hope the precedent will from time to time be repeated.

An important paper is by M. Munier upon some Coptic manuscripts of the Old Testament. Of these, two fragmentary pages contain parts of the 36th Chapter of Genesis, which is chiefly made up of a list of places and persons in Syria and Palestine. The spelling of these names varies very much in the Hebrew, Greek, and Syriac versions. The

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgors, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

Coptic scribe who wrote this manuscript must have been a learned man; for whilst he was copying a Greek manuscript giving a text closely akin to the Codex Alexandrinus, he amended the lettering where he thought the transliteration into Greek could be improved upon to make it more closely render the Hebrew. We therefore have now a valuable guide of great antiquity for the spelling of these names. The scribe also probably knew the Egyptian counterparts for some of the names; for many of them occur upon Egyptian royal monuments, and therefore his emendations are to be treated with wise respect.

In the Apocryphal Christian book known as the "Gospel of the Infancy" it is stated that the Holy Family, when taking refuge in Egypt, resided at Matarieh, near to Heliopolis. This would suggest that there were Jewish families there, as we know there certainly were at Tell-el-Yahoudieh, not many miles away. Epigraphical proof of the presence of Jews near Matarieh is now forthcoming by the finding of several funerary inscriptions with Hebrew names by workmen excavating for the New Cairo drainage scheme at Demerdash upon the Heliopolis tramway. Some of the names upon the stela which have been edited by Mr. C. C. Edgar, such as Josephus, Eisakios, and Sabbataios, sufficiently illustrate the race to which their owners belonged.

The additions to ancient literature that have been obtained from Egypt during the last half-century are enormous, the reason, of course, being that, owing to the absence of rain and the sandy nature of much of the country, manuscripts are preserved for thousands of years. An instance of this is just given in a work entitled "The So-called Egyptian Church Order and Derived Documents," by Dom R. Hugh Connolly. The learned author shows that the oldest Egyptian codices containing the order of services for the Church are really a copy of a lost work of Hippolytus, his "Apostolike Paradosis," one of the earliest treatises upon Christian ritual ever written.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A curious advertisement has appeared several times of late in the "Agony Column" of *The Times*. It offers a reward of £5 for two rings "lost in London or in Cairo in the year 1874." One of the rings is a "half-hoop, two rows of diamonds"; the other has "an anchor set in turquoises on a coil of rope in gold." Shall we ever know, I wonder, whether the rings are found? The prospect of such a happy ending to what has the air of being a romantic story does not seem to me a very good one. London and Cairo are both fairly large, and the "scent" must surely have become cold in forty-two years. But we hear so many strange tales of lost property being found and returned to its rightful owners that "Box X 845, *The Times*," may at least hope. The fact that one of the rings bears the emblem of Hope is, perhaps, a good omen!

I was interested in reading recently of a case which came before the Kensington War Tribunal. It was that of a well-known Egyptologist, who appeared before the Tribunal on the application of the military representative for the withdrawal of his certificate of conditional exemption on the ground that it was not in the national interest that he should remain in civil life. The Professor and the Tribunal were exceedingly polite to one another. The former explained that in his view we had to prove to the world that British Egyptologists were as competent to deal with Egyptian antiquities as were the numerous Germans who had formerly worked these; and the Tribunal "recognised his good work from an historical point of view," but adjourned the application for six months "to enable him to get an engagement in some war work."

Now, it seems to me that there was a good deal in the Professor's argument. We have to meet the Germans in the field of archaeology as well as on the field of battle; and I think I have pointed out before that the archaeological excavator and explorer is often a very valuable "advance agent" for his country in foreign regions. But the argument applies with far less force in the case of Egypt than it would in the case of Mesopotamia. In the Nile Valley we have long held our own in the matter of excavations and research work; and Egyptology has a very large following (comparatively) in England. But in Babylonia and Assyria the Germans have had things much their own way far too long. Would it be fanciful to suppose that Dr. Koldewey and the other German savants who have been so busy with pick and level among the Mesopotamian mounds have had a good deal to do with the spread of German influence in that region? I think not. Indeed, from personal observation, I am sure of it. So, if I had been on the Kensington Tribunal, I fancy I should have insisted on the Professor undertaking to divert his

studies from Egypt to Babylonia, and promising to do his best to get at least one British excavating party sent out to Mesopotamia as soon as circumstances should permit.

We have heard a great deal lately about those Greeks who appear to have forgotten the fine traditions of their country; and no doubt it is natural enough that such should be the case. But it is not quite so natural that we should have heard so little in praise of those other Greeks who have responded to the call of M. Venizelos. For, surely, they are showing a spirit that can hardly be praised too highly? They are not only risking their lives for a high ideal, but they had to make up their minds to do so under circumstances of extraordinary difficulty. Their King, who should have set them a fine example, has done the very reverse, nursing an old grudge against his greatest benefactor, and sacrificing the interests of the unfortunate country he rules over to his own personal ambitions and vanity. That was bad enough; for most of the Greeks had a quite unwarranted admiration for the Bulgar Slayer (!). But on top of this, many of them had, as we know, been prevented from hearing the Venizelist side of the case and had had the pro-German, Gounarist, side dinned into their ears on every possible and impossible occasion. Yet they have answered the call—and in numbers that are rather surprising when we take all things into consideration. They have declined to believe that the Bulgarian wolf has become an innocent little lamb all of a sudden, at the bidding of Constantine, Schenk and Co. And they are acting up to the conviction that is in them. I am no ardent phil-Hellene, but I admit that my heart warms to the volunteers of the National Defence movement.

The old Greek spirit still lives, but it seems to thrive best away from Athens. The Greek capital has sent comparatively few recruits to Salonika, but they have gone in their hundreds from other parts of Greece, from the islands, from Egypt, from Turkey and from many other countries, including Great Britain. Among the volunteers from this country I know of one youngster whose case interests me particularly, because I had met him once or twice. He came from one of the islands and was at a school near London; and I should not have thought he was more than sixteen, though he was a big, sturdy boy. But after attending the famous meeting a few weeks ago, he obtained permission—how I do not know—to go off to "do his bit," and went. I wish him the luck he deserves, for he had the right spirit. I have seen some of his school books, and they serve to show what a mere boy he was in many ways. A drawing-book of his lies before me as I write, and the drawings in it are just such as an English boy of twelve or thirteen would do—boats, forts and animals. They are rather stiff and "wooden": the forts have every stone carefully drawn in, with the aid of a ruler. But the Greek flag flies over each fort and each ship, and one of the latter—a three-masted vessel, such as you often see in the eastern Mediterranean—has her name carefully printed, "ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ." Another effort that appeals to me is a drawing of a fort, which has a scaling ladder placed against its wall, while on the battlements two unmistakable Ancient Greeks mount guard. I imagine the young artist consoling himself in times of home-sickness by drawing these things; and I learn from one of his schoolfellows that he was an ardent Venizelist. Now he has gone to fight for the flag over the drawing of which he lavished such care. Looking at the crude sketches, it strikes me as rather pathetic. But it is a reminder that all Greeks are not yet pro-German.

CORSAIRE.

The German school at Sofia, says a Zurich telegram, has been destroyed by fire.

In a Special Service telegram from the Serbian Headquarters, Reuter's correspondent states:—Several Bulgar spies have been shot in Monastir. A placard was affixed to their bodies bearing the inscription, "This was a Bulgar spy."

The Lord Mayor's Armenian Relief Committee have heard from their agent in the Caucasus that some thousands of Armenians are now trickling through the Turkish lines to Erivan, which is in Russian occupation. Many of these people have suffered great hardships and privations. The problem of providing for their livelihood is a serious one, and the Committee have under consideration the starting of some new industry.

Among the mails which were lost when the P. and O. liner Arabia was torpedoed were the accounts for the twelve months ended October 20 of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, from the Indian Joint Committee and from the Commissioners in Mesopotamia, British East Africa, and Alexandria. When this was ascertained, duplicate accounts were prepared and forwarded from these centres, but, the Joint Finance Committee, at 83, Pall Mall, announce that a delay in the production of the accounts is an inevitable consequence. The published audited accounts of the Joint Societies, instead of being issued before Christmas, as they were last year, cannot now be available to the public until January.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

TURKISH PRISONERS IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a letter in the *Westminster Gazette* of October 5, 1916, signed by Mehmet Aslan, advocate, at Larnaca, on the subject of the internment of the Turkish prisoners of war at Famagusta, with reference to which I shall be obliged if you will permit me to make the following remarks through the medium of your valuable columns:—

First. There is no such advocate at Larnaca or in Cyprus as Mehmet Aslan, and I know no person by the name.

Secondly. The Moslems of Cyprus, so far from being grieved and irritated (as erroneously supposed) by the establishment of a camp for the Turkish prisoners of war in Cyprus, are pleased that their co-religionists, who are so unfortunate to be prisoners, should be sent here, where—looking to the preparations made for their reception—we are well satisfied that they will be well cared for physically and morally, and have perfect freedom with regard to the exercise of their religious rites under the auspices of his most gracious Majesty's illustrious Government.—I am, etc.,

M. IRFAN,

Moslem Member of the Legislative Council, etc., etc.
Nicosia, Cyprus, October 27, 1916.

SIR,—After sending off my letter to you of the 27th instant *re* the letter in the *Westminster Gazette* on the subject of the internment of Turkish prisoners of war in Cyprus, I have read with great pleasure your very able comment on the same subject in your issue of the 13th instant, which I have just received. I hasten to write and tender my warmest thanks to you on behalf of the Moslems of Cyprus for the interest you have taken in this and other matters in their behalf, and congratulate you most heartily on the knowledge you display as regards the feelings of the Moslems in Cyprus.

The letter in the *Westminster Gazette*, written under a *nom-de-plume*, is intended to prejudice the British public against the Moslems of Cyprus, and, as you rightly say, cause the community to fall in the esteem of their fellow-subjects throughout the British Empire.

I most emphatically deny that the letter in question is written by a Moslem, and protest against it most strongly, and treat it with utmost contempt.

Hoping that you will also allow this letter to appear in your valuable paper, and thanking you in anticipation,—I am, etc.,

M. IRFAN.

Nicosia, Cyprus, October 31, 1916.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND GREECE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Those who question the efficiency of the British Foreign Office in its handling of our relations with Greece should read the international correspondence of the past touching the Cretan question, and they will then see how the work of men of brains and character can be rendered futile by conflicting counsels.

There is nothing to show that the policy as applied in our dealings with King Constantine is the policy as it emerged from the Foreign Office. On the contrary, there is good reason to believe that it is not. In the first place, it is subject to revision by the Cabinet, and we know how the clear declaration of the Foreign Secretary in the matter of the Bosnian crisis was repudiated by the Government, and how a diplomatic retirement ensued on a question that probably more than any other constitutes the immediate cause of the present struggle. The policy of the Foreign Office must become the policy of the Government before it can be carried into effect. But not only has it to run the gauntlet of other Ministers; in the case of Greece it has also to be brought into harmony with the views of three foreign Governments, our Allies in this war, and constituting with us the four protecting Powers of the Hellenic kingdom. It is as if the designs of an architect for some public building were made subject not only to municipal, but, in addition, to State revision. What possible prospect could there be of the artist's work emerging undefiled? And how unjust to represent the twisted product as his design.

The want of definition of purpose, the confusion of method, and the inadequacy of force, all marking a lack of unity of conception in our foreign policy as it is applied to Greece, stand in such contrast with the Foreign Secretary's pre-war work that a tampering with it is plain on the surface. If anything is in doubt with regard to this, let him remember the zeal and vigilance that marked the Foreign Office during the ten years preceding the war in maintaining the Entente Cordiale and giving new and additional guarantees to its permanence. From our experience of the war and the knowledge now gained of Germany's methods of warfare, it

can be seen that the apprehensions raised by the first demonstrations of Welt-Politik in Venezuela and at Shanghai were well founded, and that the Foreign Office was right in upholding with all the means and tenacity in its power the structure of defence that had been reared in co-operation with France. It says something for the insight of Ministers that they were preparing to meet the danger so far ahead and with such large and adequate measures; and the public should realize how well they have served us, and how much we owe to Lord Lansdowne, who initiated the preparations, and to Lord Grey, who faithfully advanced and supplemented them.

Why, then, is there this loyal and virile handling of the Morocco issue and the weak, purposeless, and vacillating course we are pursuing in our dealings with Greece? Is not the explanation to be found in the fact that in the one case the Foreign Office had the support of its own Government, and its aims coincided with those of the French, whereas in dealing with Greece its policy has been subject to revision, first by the Cabinet, with results that brought about the resignation of Sir Edward Carson, and, secondly, by the Allies, one or more of whom, for all we know, may have urged modifications and arrested pressure, and the combined effect of which has very probably rendered the Foreign Secretary's Greek policy unrecognizable. If the facts were known, the quarrel with him on the part of the public would probably be seen not to touch the quality of his work, but rather his failure, as with Bosnia, to impose his views on those whose approval they require.

The anticipated creation of an independent War Council will tend to eliminate the authority of the Cabinet over foreign policy, and to that extent the destructive forces will themselves be destroyed. But our experience with regard to Crete showed the delays that arose in our international relations, and the point for determination, after we have set our own house in order, is how we can effect concentration in dealing with foreign affairs as between the Allies. The method at present in force is the periodical meetings in France of the leading members of the Allied Governments, at which, presumably, policies are defined on paramount issues as they present themselves at the time. But these meetings are few and far between, and the conditions change from day to day with bewildering rapidity, so that the policy of yesterday does not meet the necessities of to-day, and yet there is no authority with international status to revise it, and revision can only be effected through correspondence, and of necessity founded on compromise. There is only one way by which this can be avoided, and that is by supplementing our own War Council by an International Council, having the fewest possible members, the highest possible prestige, sitting from day to day, and, if not invested with plenary powers, then exercising jurisdiction in foreign relations limited only by the national War Councils of the Allies, from which it should spring. The ideal to be sought in the conduct of the war is the concentration of control in one master mind, and, in so far as this is unattainable, approximations should be sought; and these lie in the elimination of large bodies of opinion and in reposing authority in the smallest possible number of persons.—I am, etc.,

DOUGLAS M. GANE.

ENGLAND AND BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Will you be so kind as to insert the following in your valuable paper?

London is the greatest and most wonderful city in the whole world. Paris is beautiful, but London is more interesting, especially in regard to its population, who are the most philanthropic and good-natured people; but we must also admit that amongst them it is yet possible to find clever tricksters, card-sharpers, pickpockets, daring burglars, and—pro-Bulgarian lecturers. No doubt there are also pro-German lecturers, but these are obliged to be very circumspect for fear of being accused of treachery; but pro-Bulgarian lecturers may speak with impunity because we have not yet realised that whoever is pro-Bulgarian must necessarily be pro-German.

A pro-Bulgarian lecture was given last month. The lecturer was a lady who claims to be well acquainted with the Balkan people and Balkan affairs. Nevertheless, this lady was unable to distinguish between a Bulgarian and an Albanian; neither did she understand in the least who and what are the Jugoslavs (Southern Slavs), and because she knew nothing about them, naturally she did not think much of them, but employed the whole of her time during the lecture in praising the Bulgarians and trying her utmost to convince her audience that the Bulgarian people are the best and noblest on God's earth, regardless of the fact that at that moment the noble Bulgarians were killing the sons of Great Britain. If one member of the audience had not protested and pointed out to the lady some of her errors, the remainder of those present would have been misled.—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

London, W., December 5, 1916.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A TERRIBLE INDICTMENT.*

The Serbian War Bureau has set an example which we may profitably follow in subjecting the enormities perpetrated by Austro-Hungarian armies to judicial investigation. Its agent for this purpose was Professor R. A. Reiss, D.Sc., of the Lausanne University; and no better selection could possibly have been made. As a neutral, he entered on his repulsive task with a mind free from bias, while his training in research work enabled him to sift facts from fiction and exaggeration. Travelling through Serbia in the footprints of the invading hordes, he recorded the depositions of many hundred eye-witnesses; took photographs of murdered victims; procured specimens of illicit weapons employed by the enemy. The evidence thus secured constitutes a crushing indictment of Austro-Hungarian savagery. It proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that thousands of Serbian prisoners of war and civilians of every condition were slaughtered in cold blood by the invading armies; that pillage, incendiarism, and the ruthless destruction of property occurred on a scale which was worthy of Attila's followers at their worst. Well may Dr. Reiss exclaim that "charming" Austrians and "chivalrous" Magyars surpassed their German wire-pullers in sheer bestiality.

One turns with positive relief from the long catalogue of atrocities recorded in this terrible book, and from its sickening illustrations to Dr. Reiss's analysis of Austro-Hungarian psychology. For several decades the Dual Monarchy had plotted the subjugation of Serbia, whose brave and brilliant people were the sole obstacle to the attainment of hegemony throughout the Balkans. Its reptile press persistently labelled the defenders of that little Naboth's Vineyard, representing them as savages, without one redeeming virtue. In this fashion public opinion was prepared for the more active anti-Serbian propaganda which began in August, 1914. The Prussian policy of "frightfulness," which bore such bitter fruit in Belgium, was adopted with zest by the authorities of Vienna and Budapest. Dr. Reiss gives us (p. 180) General Orders found in the possession of Austrian prisoners of war which deserve quotation:—

K.U.K., 9TH KORPS KOMMANDO.

Instructions regarding behaviour towards the population of Serbia.

This war is taking us into a country inhabited by a population which is inspired with fanatical hatred towards ourselves, into a country where assassination (as the Serajevo catastrophe has shown) is condoned and extolled as heroism by the upper classes. In dealing with people of this kind all humanity and kindness of heart are out of place; they are even harmful, for such considerations, which may sometimes be applied in ordinary warfare, would here place our own troops in peril. I, therefore, give orders that, during the entire course of the war, an attitude of extreme severity, harshness, and distrust is to be observed towards all Serbians. To begin with, I will not allow my troops to make prisoners of armed but un-uniformed men encountered in the enemy country: such are to be executed with despatch. In traversing a Serbian village, hostages must be summarily executed if a single shot be fired on our troops in that locality. The ringing of church bells is strictly prohibited, and, as a rule, every belfry will be occupied by a patrol. Divine service is to be permitted only at the request of inhabitants; and then it must be held in the open air, not in the church. No sermons must be preached and a platoon ready to fire will be posted near the church during Divine service. Every Serbian encountered, especially in wooded areas, must be regarded as a member of some band which has concealed its weapons in a place we have not time to look for. Such people are to be executed if they appear even slightly suspicious. Once more, discipline, dignity, but the greatest severity and harshness.

These direct incentives to massacre the civil population were punctually obeyed. The invading armies entered Serbia with a fixed conviction that its people were little better than cannibals, and their earlier excesses were probably inspired by fear. But the sight of blood aroused Sadic frenzy of the type one sees on a small scale in spectators of Spanish bull-fights. Egged on by their superiors, men who, in private life, may have been kindly fathers and law-abiding citizens were suddenly transformed into bloodthirsty fiends. As was the case in Belgium, the veneer of Teuton *Kultur* cracked, revealing the "blonde beast's" inbred brutality.

Dr. Reiss's concluding chapter summarises the sworn statements made to him by many Austro-Hungarian prisoners with regard to their treatment in captivity. One and all testified to the kindness displayed by their Serbian guards and the pains taken to feed them as abundantly as the country's meagre resources admitted. Despite great provocation and severe economic stress, Serbians did even more than their duty enjoined to mitigate the lot of captive foes. In all the essentials of civilization they stand on a far higher level than exponents of Teuton *Kultur*.

F. H. S.

*"Report upon the Atrocities Committed by the Austro-Hungarian Army during the First Invasion of Serbia." Submitted to the Serbian Government by R. A. Reiss, D.Sc., Professor at the University of Lausanne. English translation by F. H. Copeland. (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

BULGARIAN WANDERINGS*.

There is something about the nomad life of the gypsies which makes attractive reading even to those who affect to despise these wandering peoples and all their works. Notwithstanding the works of Borrow and other authorities, the veil of mystery still shrouds the gypsies, and mystery is always attractive. "Andreas," who has given us the latest book on this subject, writes with sufficient sympathy to ensure the interest of his readers, and although his work makes no claim to literary distinction, it is still valuable. The present moment is a very opportune one for the publication of any book which deals with any of the belligerent countries of the Near East, and in this work we are able to trace certain characteristics of the Bulgarians which explain, while they do not condone, Bulgaria's attitude in the present war.

"Andreas" begins his account with a description of the state of Bulgaria in the spring of 1913, at which time he was at Varna, virtually a prisoner, because all railways had been commandeered by the Government, and there was no other means of exit from the country. He conceived the idea of escaping from the country as a member of one of the gypsy caravans, and his book deals with incidents of his journey. He found it impossible to link up with the Mohammedan gypsies, as he had at first set his heart upon doing. Osman, the chief of the gypsies, vetoed his proposition, and there was no member of his tribe who had the temerity to work against his will. Eventually, however, "Andreas" joined a caravan of Christian nomads. The tale of his wanderings makes pleasant reading, and includes interesting sidelights upon the state of that portion of the country which had before the war been under Turkish government. The author's sympathies are very decidedly on the side of the Turk rather than the Bulgar, and his description of the arrangement made for the benefit of travellers by the despised Turk at various points will come as a surprise to many who have formerly considered him to belong merely to a race of ill-conditioned fanatics.

The chief fault which we have to find with this book is that it does not deal in sufficient detail with the life of the gypsies themselves. The writer's description of the visit to a prison where gypsies were incarcerated is excellent, and one of the best things he gives us. We would have welcomed more of the same quality.

A correspondent writes:—No news comes through from Constantinople to relieve the anxiety of those who have friends or relations in that city, except when occasionally, at long intervals, the citizen of some neutral State comes from Constantinople to England and brings information as to how things are faring there. Our latest advices are that Constantinople is quiet, ruled by a rod of iron. The system of espionage is as great as it was in the worst days of Abdul Hamid, when no man could be sure that even conversation in his own room would not lead to his sudden disappearance before morning. In all the circumstances, the prospect that some thought they saw of a revolution in Turkey becomes extremely remote.

Under date of November 22 the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula writes from Bucharest: In the message from the Pope received by Queen Marie after the recent air raids, his Holiness congratulated the Queen on her escape from the attacks by the German airmen. This significant message on the part of the head of the Roman Catholic Church to the Sovereign of another communion constitutes an open and public rebuke to the authors' policy of "frightfulness" such as it has never yet received, exposing them to the reprobation of the whole civilised world and the condemnation of history.

* "With Gypsies in Bulgaria." By "Andreas." (Liverpool: Henry Young and Sons.)

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE,
HULL.

IMPORTERS of EASTERN and
MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCE.

SPECIALITIES: All Kinds of TANNING
MATERIALS & FEEDING STUFFS.

Make Offers and send Samples.

EXPORTERS of U.K. MERCHANDISE.

CABLEGRAMS: KUYPERS, HULL

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Dec.	1916. Nov.		1335.	5677.
8	25	Friday	Safar 12	Kislev 13
9	26	Saturday	13	14
10	27	Sunday	14	15
11	28	Monday	15	16
12	29	Tuesday	16	17
13	30	Wednesday ..	17	18
14	1	Thursday	18	19

Next Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Eugenie of Greece, daughter of Prince George, who was born in Paris in 1910.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Albert, who was born at Sandringham in 1895.

Thursday is also the birthday of Prince Paul of Greece, third son (and fourth child) of King Constantine, who was born in Athens in 1901.

Princess Jeanne Ghika has left for Roumania to take up Red Cross work.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of November 13 reports that among the British officers travelling on the transport which conveyed the Greek volunteers to Salonika, was a son of Princess Eugenia Paleologue, the sole representative of the elder Emperor Constantine or Paleologus. This lady, who is the widow of a British Colonel, last visited Greece about 18 years ago, and was received with the honour due to her blood; her eldest son fell at Hill 60 on the French front, and several other near relatives are at present serving in the British Army.

H.E. the Serbian Minister left London for the country on Friday of last week.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have arrived at 23, Grosvenor Place, from East Carleton Manor.

General Pavle Yourishitch, of the Serbian Army, and Colonel Ostovitch, A.D.C. to Prince Alexander, who have been in London on a special mission, have left for Corfu.

M. Slavko Grouitch, whose appointment as Serbian Minister at Berne was recently announced, left London for Paris last Friday.

The Roumanian Minister and the Greek Minister were among the callers at the Foreign Office on Monday.

We regret to learn from the *Sudan Times* that Miralai G. S. Symes Bey, Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor-General, Sudan, has been admitted to the Civil Hospital, Khartoum.

Colonel Subotitch, of the Serbian Medical Corps, has been visiting the military hospitals in this country, in order to study their organisation and management. He has now left for France, where he will also study the military hospitals.

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

M. D. Buritiano, formerly Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, accompanied by Madame Buritiano, has left for Paris.

M. Georgevitch, who has been appointed First Secretary to the Serbian Legation in Washington, formerly held a similar position in London. He has left Corfu to take up the duties of his new post.

The marriage arranged between Charles Roland Skrimshire, 2nd-Lieutenant on the Unattached List of the Territorial Force, son of the late Dr. Skrimshire and Mrs. Skrimshire, of Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare, and Aileen, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lumb, of 47, Putney Hill, will take place on January 2.

Captain Humphrey Ernest Bowman, Egyptian Civil Service, Royal Fusiliers (Headquarters Staff, Northern Command), was married on Saturday at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, to Miss Frances Guenivere Armytage, youngest daughter of Colonel Armytage and Mrs. Armytage, of The White House, York. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids—the Hon. Moira de Yverburgh-Bateson, daughter of Lord and Lady Deramore; Miss Violet Macdonald, daughter of Sir Alexander and Lady Macdonald of the Isles; and Miss Celia and Miss Sylvia Brinton. Canon Watson, Sub-Dean of York Minster, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Paget Bowman and Prebendary Leith Boyd. The bridegroom was attended by his cousin, Captain Cecil Charrington, South Staffordshire Regiment.

It was announced on Tuesday that M. Gennadius, the Hellenic Minister in London, had tendered his resignation to King Constantine's Government, feeling himself no longer able to represent that Government's policy and desiring to dissociate himself from it.

M. Stavridis, the Greek Consul-General in London, M. Casdaglis, Greek Consul at Manchester, M. Basil Malandrinos, Greek Consul at Liverpool, and his deputy, M. Andrew Malandrinos, have also resigned their positions in consequence of the unconstitutional and anti-Entente attitude taken up by King Constantine and his Government.

M. Gennadius has long been one of the most popular members of the Diplomatic body in London, and both among our own countrymen and members of the Greek colony here his action will be regarded with warm approval and sympathy. Referring to his action, the *Times* says:—"M. Gennadius, who has long represented Greece in this country, is one of the most distinguished diplomatists accredited to our Court. Born in 1847 of an Epirote family, and educated partly in the English College at Malta, he entered the Greek Diplomatic Service in 1872, and was attached to the Constantinople Legation. Two years later he came as Secretary to London, and was left in charge of the Legation from 1876 to 1881—a period which included the Russian-Turkish War and the Congress at Berlin. At the Congress he was one of the Greek delegates. Between 1881 and 1885 he held a diplomatic appointment in Vienna, but returned to London in 1885 as Minister Resident, a position which he held until 1892. He was also accredited to The Hague in the same capacity, and in 1888 was entrusted with a special mission to the United States. In 1892 all the Greek Ministers abroad were recalled, the Legations being left in charge of Secretaries, and it was not until 1910 that M. Gennadius was again appointed Minister to London. Since the outbreak of the war, M. Gennadius has not only constantly striven to maintain good relations between his Government and that of Great Britain, but has repeatedly warned his own Government, with a courage rare in diplomatists, of the inevitable consequences of the fatal policy upon which King Constantine has embarked. His present action will but enhance the high esteem in which he has always been held by his colleagues and by the British Foreign Office."

Madame Gennadius is a Scottish lady, the daughter of the late Samuel Laing, for many years Liberal member for Orkney and Shetland.

Mr. Thomas Pinkney, Greek Vice-Consul at Sunderland for over thirty years, has sent in his resignation as a protest against King Constantine's attitude towards the Allies.

Commander Bellairs, M.P., has received from M. Demetrius Zamanos, a Liberal Deputy of the Greek Parliament, and M. Adonis Kyron, editor of the *Hestia*, a telegram thanking him for his advocacy in Parliament of the Greek national movement. He has also received a similar telegram, signed by a number of representative business men in Athens, including the president of the Merchants' Guild of Athens.

The Rev. R. F. McNeile, who has been serving as an Army Chaplain in Egypt for eighteen months, has—learn from the *Sudan Times*—resigned his army chaplaincy for the time being in order to go to the Sudan at the Bishop's request. He was expected to arrive in Khartoum on November 17. His sister has been for some time in charge of the Khartoum girls' school. Mr. McNeile, who was formerly a tutor at Oxford and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Manchester, went to Cairo in 1908 to work under the C.M.S., and offered himself as an Army Chaplain when the war broke out.

Temporary Captain J. Proctor, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, has been promoted to major, from August 1. As we stated a fortnight ago, when mentioning his being wounded and in hospital, he was the manager of the Manchester office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

M. Charles Maurras, the well-known French journalist, has, says the *Manchester Guardian*, returned to the King of Greece the diploma and insignia of the Order of the Saviour which he received some time ago, along with a caustic letter concerning the attitude of the monarch.

Captain Sir George Arthur has presented to the Royal United Service Institute Museum a set of medal ribbons worn by the late Lord Kitchener, which were taken from one of his undress coats at the time of his death. They consist of the G.C.B.; G.C.S.I.; G.C.M.G.; G.C.I.E.; Queen's Jubilee; Coronation, 1902; Durbar, 1902; Coronation, 1911; Egypt; Khartoum; South Africa, Queen's; South Africa, King's; Mejidieh; Osmanieh; Leopold of Belgium; Savoy; Legion of Honour; French Military Cross; French 1870 War; Khedive's Star; Khedive's Khartoum. Lord Kitchener's other Orders were as follows:—K.G., K.P., O.M., St. John of Jerusalem, and the Serbian Order.

In his despatch, General Murray writes, of the operations at Katia:—"Lieutenant-General the Hon. H. A. Lawrence directed the operations throughout, and the warmest praise is due to him, and the commanders, staffs, and troops concerned in the operations."

The following names are taken from the list of those of whom General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, makes special mention for their services between June 1 and September 30, 1916:—

STAFF.—Lawrence, Maj.-Gen. (temp. Lt.-Gen.). E. A., K.C.B.; Hordern, Rev. A. V., C.M.G.; Macauley, Bt.-Maj. (temp. Col.), Sir G. B., K.C.M.G., R.E. (Res. of Off.).

ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPT.—Little, Rev. H., B.A.

EGYPTIAN ARMY.—Herbert, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.), E. S., h.p.; Stafford, Maj. P. B., E. Surr. R.; Hudson-Kinahan, Maj. G. F., Durh. L.I.; Hutton, Capt. R. W., R. Mar. Arty.

CAMEL TRSPT. C.—Peel, Local Capt. W. E.; Bayne-Jardine, Temp. Sec. Lt. (temp. Capt.), T. E., Sp. List; Tadman, Local Capt. G. R.

EGYPT. LABOUR C.—Hicks-Paull, Local Lieut.-Col. J.; Losco, Local Lt. H.

News has reached the Red Cross headquarters, 83, Pall Mall, that the hospital unit provided by the miners of Great Britain, which recently left for Roumania in charge of Dr. A. P. E. O'Leary, has arrived at Jassy.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has granted to the following officers authority to wear the decoration of the Order of the Nile (as stated before their respective names) conferred upon them by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of services rendered:—

First Class: Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn Erskine Wemyss, K.C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.

Third Class: Captain Charles Frederick Corbett, C.B., M.V.O., R.N.; Captain Philip Streatfeild, M.V.O., R.N.; Captain William Henry Dudley Boyle, R.N.; Captain Francis Herbert Mitchell, D.S.O., R.N.; and Captain Rudolph Miles Burmester, C.M.G., R.N.

Fourth Class: Commander Ernest Edward Alexander Betts, R.N.; Commander Arthur Lionel Snagge, R.N.; Commander Eric Gascoigne Robinson, V.C., R.N.; Lieutenant-Commander Henry Chapman Alcock, R.N.; Lieutenant-Commander John Henry Godfrey, R.N.; and Squadron-Commander Cecil John L'Estrange Malone, R.N.

Professor L. W. King has been appointed to deliver the Schweich Lectures on Biblical Archaeology. He will give three lectures on "Legends of Egypt and Babylon in Relation to Hebrew Tradition," at a quarter past five o'clock on the 14th, 18th, and 21st inst., in the Theatre, Burlington-gardens.

H.H. the Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile, 4th Class, upon Kaimakam E. H. Ross Bey, Sudan Government.

Sir Mortimer Durand, P.C., K.C.M.G., will preside over a meeting of the Central Asian Society, to be held next Wednesday afternoon, at 4.30, at 22, Albemarle Street. Miss Edith M. Durham will read a paper, entitled "Albania, Past and Present."

The Right Hon. the Lord Reay, K.T., P.C., will preside over a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, to be held next Tuesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, at 22, Albemarle Street. Dr. A. Cowley will read a paper on Professor Hrozy's Views on the Hittite Question.

The £1,000 aimed at, with which to purchase a fifth motor transport boat for Mesopotamia, in connection with the Wimbledon "Silver Thimble" Day held in Wimbledon and district a fortnight ago, was exceeded by £562.

The British Women's Hospital will hold a meeting at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, the 12th inst., at three o'clock, on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital Units, one of which is now in Roumania. Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson will take the chair.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Captain R. P. Mahaffy has been selected for the post of Military Judge in the Sudan till the conclusion of the war. He expects to leave Dublin in January. Captain Mahaffy is the son of Dr. Mahaffy, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.

Bimbashi D. A. Fairbairn, 9th Sudanese, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The *Sudan Times* announces:—

El Miralai W. B. Drury Bey, director, Sudan Government Steamers, has been granted the temporary rank of Lewa.

J. Falconer Bey, War Office representative, Suez, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai, and Mr. C. E. D. Trelawny, War Office representative, Port Said, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Miralai C. H. Little Bey, General Staff Officer (2nd grade), has been appointed Officer Commanding Arab Battalion, and Bimbashi H. B. H. White, D.S.O., 1st Battalion, has been transferred to Arab Battalion.

Kaimakam R. P. Lewis Bey, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Captain G. D. Hall, Royal West Kent Regiment, and Captain W. R. Barker, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service officers. They have been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached for duty, the former to Kordofan district and the latter to Khartoum district.

OBITUARY.

Lieut.-Colonel Osborn Brace Pritchard, Welsh Regiment, died on November 27 at 63, Lewisham Hill, Lewisham, aged 48 years. He entered the Army in August, 1888, obtaining his commission in the Welsh Regiment in November, 1914. He saw active service in the Sudan in 1888, being present at the action of Gamaizah, and in 1897-8 was with the Tirah Expeditionary Force (medal with two clasps). As a Special Service officer, he took part in the operations in Somaliland in 1903, and was awarded the medal with clasp. In the present war he was wounded in November, 1914.

Major-General Sir Alexander Nelson Rochfort, K.C.B., C.M.G., late Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, was found dead at his chambers in Half Moon Street, Piccadilly, on Tuesday. He was mentioned in despatches and received his brevet of major for his services in the Sudan in 1885, and during the South African war was twice mentioned in despatches and received the C.B. He was again mentioned in despatches and decorated with the C.M.G. for his work during the Somaliland operations in 1902-4. He afterwards held the post of Inspector of Horse and Field Artillery, and was appointed to the Governorship of Jersey in 1910.

THE WOUNDED ROUMANIAN SOLDIERS' FUND

(Regd. for the purpose of TRANSMITTING FUNDS to the ROUMANIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.) Under the patronage of HIS EXCELLENCY N. MISU, the ROUMANIAN MINISTER in London. Hon. Treasurer: The Right Hon. the EARL OF BESBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., Bank of Roumania, Ltd., 27, Throgmorton Street, London, by whom

DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. LIST OF DONATIONS.

Accounts previously acknowledged	£639	5	1
Collected at the Baltic Exchange	1,864	12	6
United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Ltd.	181	5	0
Lady Strathcona	100	0	0
Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons	50	0	0
Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Mrs. J. E. F. Hartley	50	0	0
Mrs. Tildard	50	0	0
A. Cecil Pilkington, Esq.	50	0	0
Louis Landau, Esq.	26	5	0
Messrs. F. Huth and Co.	26	5	0
T. R. Bolitho, Esq.	25	0	0
London and River Plate Bank, Ltd.	25	0	0
Corporation of London Staff War Fund	25	0	0
British Bank of South America, Ltd.	21	0	0
The Mayor of Haslingden's Patriotic Fund	20	0	0
Credit Lyonnais, London	10	10	0
Russian Bank of Foreign Trade, London	10	10	0
Lord Johnston	10	10	0
Miss Hoyle	10	0	0
J. Steuart, Esq.	10	0	0
Rear-Admiral E. G. Hulton	10	0	0
Mrs. E. F. Ferguson	10	0	0
Miss A. L. Bolton	10	0	0
D. Nedejano, Esq.	10	0	0
Lewis J. Firth, Esq.	10	0	0
Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank, London	5	5	0
Messrs. Nathan and Rosselli	5	5	0
Russo-Asiatic Bank, London	5	5	0
W. S. Higham, Esq.	5	0	0
Victoria Lodge, per G. J. Glasfug, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. M. H. Gourlay	5	0	0
Arthur Bowden Smith, Esq.	5	0	0
Metropolitan Academy of Music (Leytonstone)	5	0	0
Rev. J. de la Bere	3	3	0
Miss Slee	3	3	0
Rev. J. de la Bere	2	2	0
Mr. Hurd W. Hartley	2	2	0
Miss E. B. MacLurcan	2	2	0
H. W. Bruton, Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. M. Wrigglesworth	2	2	0
J. H. Brown, Esq.	2	2	0
George E. Prince, Esq.	2	2	0
Charles W. L. Launspach, Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. A. Phillips	2	0	0
E. L. D. Cole, Esq.	2	0	0
W. and R. S.	2	0	0
Société Générale de Paris, London	1	1	0
T. F. Rider, Esq.	1	1	0
H. E. A. Cotton, Esq.	1	1	0
F. Hue Williams, Esq.	1	1	0
R. W. Urle, Esq.	1	1	0
J. M. W.	1	1	0
Second Lieutenant A. W. Edmett	1	1	0
Mrs. Drever	1	0	0
York House School Staff and Pupils	1	0	0
(Stoney Stratford)	1	0	0
Miss Constance Mackworth	1	0	0
Canon Upton	1	0	0
The Misses Lee	1	0	0
Nicolas Dumitrescu, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Rose Talbot	1	0	0
Mrs. J. Tyrwhitt Drake	1	0	0
Mrs. Duff	1	0	0
Mrs. Prichard	1	0	0
Sundry amounts under £1	4	8	0
	£3,846	14	7

Out of the above amount a sum of £8,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Roumanian Red Cross Society.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS.

CARVER.—On the 28th Nov., at the Grange, Ellesmere, the wife of Robin C. Carver, of Benha, Egypt—a daughter.

RENDEL.—On November 15, at Athens, to Mr. and Mrs. George Rendel, of the British Legation, a daughter (Clare Geraldine), who died shortly after birth.

DEATHS.

CORNISH.—On November 14, 1916, at Suez, Vernon Keble, youngest son of the late Rev. Hubert Kestell Cornish, for twenty-four years in the service of the Eastern Telegraph Company, aged 48.

FRAMPTON.—On December 3, at St. Lawrence, Christ Church Road, Cheltenham, from a sudden stroke, Alice Louisa Lilian, the beloved wife of Edward Frampton, and youngest daughter of the late Henry Baker, Treasurer-General of Corfu.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.5; Room, P.T.2; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1916.

THE END OF A CHAPTER.

The solution of the Greek problem, we can but hope, is being worked out in the reconstruction which the British Government is now undergoing. A few days before the outbreak of the war Viscount (then Sir Edward) Grey declared that the interests of Great Britain in Serbia were nil. There has been no indication since that date that the late Foreign Secretary or the Governments of which he remained a member ever modified the attitude of mind which the statement regarding Serbia revealed. It is true that among the causes for which the Allies are fighting is the complete rehabilitation of that country; but the whole course of the struggle has shown that the detachment from Near Eastern affairs which Sir Edward Grey claimed as an integral part of British foreign policy in July, 1914, has been persisted in throughout all the tragic developments connected with the Balkan Peninsula during the last two years. It was from a detached point of view, rather than with a clear understanding of the vital issues at stake, that negotiations were carried on with the Turkish Government during the period when it held back from a declaration of its sympathies. Only ignorance of the situation and unyielding adherence to a policy of detachment could have prompted the British Government to leave in Russia's hands the critical negotiations which preceded Bulgaria's entry into the war. Not that Russian diplomacy is less able, but, as any tyro in Balkan affairs was aware, Russia of necessity stood suspect in those days in the Near East; and it was only necessary for a Balkan Government to be known to be in negotiation with Russia—whatever the subject under discussion might be—to arouse the suspicions and hostility of one or more political groups and to drive them into the hands of Russia's enemies. After the defection of Turkey and Bulgaria we may picture those who have failed to appreciate the importance of the Near East to British interests as deriving from the process of elimination that has been taking place something of the pleasure which other minds experience in recording the disappearance one by one of certain hypothetical nigger boys towards whose fortunes or misfortunes they assume an attitude as detached as Sir Edward Grey's towards the Balkans. Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania will have been duly "ticked off." Five of the ten States which come within our purview remained when Roumania's troubles began, and it may be that the march of events in Athens has already caused a mental skip to the "Then-there-were-four" stage in the hope of being in time to record the elimination of Greece. Whether their diagnosis will be justified depends in part on the thoroughness of the reconstruction.

Readers of these pages do not need to be reminded that the existence of THE NEAR EAST has constituted a standing protest against the ignorance of and indifference towards the affairs of South-Eastern Europe and beyond—two qualities which seem to have characterised British foreign policy in spite of the expert knowledge which the Foreign Office has had at its disposal. At a time when it was officially held that British interests in Serbia could never justify this country in going to war we stood for the doctrine that the ten countries of the East, Roumania, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Mesopotamia (i.e., the

Persian Gulf and its hinterland) and Persia, had to be considered in their relationship to Great Britain as a single whole, of vital importance to the Empire, and that the welfare of the Empire required that we should never lose sight of the close connection between the interests of those countries, individually and collectively, and ours. The region covered by these ten States stands athwart the King's possessions. They form the corridor by which Germany hoped to reach India and to drive a wedge into the British Empire at its most vulnerable spot. Failure to envisage this region as a whole has led in part to the neglect of the Balkans, but conversely it has allowed the last three countries to receive greater attention. Egypt, it is obvious, stands in a category by itself; for no Government since 1890 would have been allowed to neglect it. But the record of the Balkans will fill many people with misgivings lest the long series of failures in dealing with countries whose conditions, economic, social, and political, ought to have been as well known as those of our own country, should be extended to the last two on the list, Mesopotamia and Persia. In South-Eastern Europe the milk has already been spilt; in the Middle East there is still time to avoid the repetition of similar mistakes. For this reason we hope that the chapter in which the humiliating story of the Balkans has been unfolded has now, with the killing of Allied bluejackets in Athens, been brought definitely to an end. The reconstruction of the Government is directed primarily towards a more forceful prosecution of the war; but it must also make for efficiency, for "doing the right thing at the right time," where before all was ignorance, indifference, and vacillation. British interests are bound up with a vigorous policy in Macedonia and in Mesopotamia, in both of which places, according to our enemy's point of view, the Allies have for so long maintained monster "internment camps" for the benefit of the Central Powers and their vassals. Linked up with such a policy are questions of a final settlement. In Mesopotamia and Persia these ought still to be free from many of the complications which diplomatic mistakes in the past have created in the Balkans; but unless more heed is paid to expert advice and closer attention given to the part which these countries play in the general scheme of British Imperial politics, then they, too, will become sources of embarrassment rather than of strength to the Empire.

Just as in Near Eastern Europe a too diffident attitude, ending in self-effacement, proved prejudicial not only to British prestige but to the interests of the Allies as a whole, so in the Middle East there is need for the adoption of a definite policy which will command respect both from our Allies and from the local inhabitants. The troubles of the latter are largely due to uncertainty whether Great Britain can be relied upon and is capable of carrying out what she undertakes. Promises are of no worth, unless they can be supported immediately and in an adequate manner by action. Vacillation in the Balkans has spelt failure to protect Serbia, mismanagement in Roumania, loss of life among the Allied forces in Athens, and persecution for the Venizelists. British prestige in Mesopotamia and Persia can hardly be expected to stand higher than it does in South-Eastern Europe. After the preliminary blunders associated with the Mesopotamian Expedition, it has taken time to reorganise an efficient force. Whether the protracted delay that has actually taken place was inevitable we have no means of knowing; but until Kut and Ctesiphon are avenged we need not wonder that the native tribesmen hesitate to espouse the British cause. They will change their views as soon as the advance takes place in earnest, and their permanent allegiance can be secured by an early and clear pronouncement of a wise policy for the future. Again, in Persia there would be little need, it would be thought, for the silence that has fallen upon the country if Russian action in the north had been adequately supported in the south. To the chapter which, it is hoped, has now been definitely closed belongs a state of affairs which argued an inability on the part of Great Britain to keep abreast of her responsibilities either in the diplomatic or in the military sphere. A new order characterized by single-minded devotion to national efficiency will experience no such difficulties.

SERBIA AND THE ALLIES.

We have received the following interesting communication from a correspondent in Khartoum. It is dated November 14:—

In the issue of your paper for October 13 you publish a communication from Mme. Christitch upon the subject of the "Claims of Serbia upon the Allies" ("Serbia's losses").

Mme. Christitch is the wife of a former Serbian Minister, but this is not her only claim to distinction. She is an Irish lady, who has patriotically identified herself body and soul, both by word and deed, with the country of her adoption, and anything which she has to say on the subject of Serbia compels respectful attention.

In December of last year, being myself a member of one of the British Missions in Serbia captured by the Austro-German Army, I made the acquaintance of Mme. Christitch and Mlle. Christitch, who then were nursing at a large hospital, full of Serbian soldiers, wounded at Belgrade and during the retreat. They were assisted by a Norwegian friend. This was at a country town named Trstynek, on the Western Morava River, ten miles from Vratse, where most of the British hospitals had concentrated. Mme. Christitch's and her daughter's work was most admirable. What became of them after all their patients were transferred to Hungary I do not know, but one may be sure that they are actively engaged in Red Cross work for Serbia somewhere or another.

It must not be concluded that the present Serbian Army includes the total male population of Serbia—much less the total number of male Serbs. There are more than 100,000 Serb prisoners of war in Austria-Hungary—soldiers captured at Belgrade, and afterwards during the retreat; there were besides several thousand wounded taken in the hospitals, being unable to escape, and transferred to Austria-Hungary as soon as it was possible to remove them, in a great many instances a great deal sooner than the condition of their wounds admitted.

Much hardship was suffered by these unfortunate wounded and sick Serbs. They were scarcely treated like human beings. In their utter wretchedness and abandonment, bundled into their remnants of clothes, placed on springless bullock wagons in the bitterest Balkan winter weather, and packed off to the nearest station and sent to a place corresponding to a collecting dépôt, with precious little food supplied and no blankets, many had reason to be thankful for the presence of the British Mission Hospitals, who distributed stores, clothing, blankets to these heroic soldiers, and so mitigated some of their misery and suffering. The Austrians and Hungarians locally in charge treated the captured British hospitals very well; and they treated the wounded Serbs in hospital as well as they could do. Some invisible hand seems to have determined everything of importance, however, and the local authorities seemed to be left completely in the dark about the future, until a telegram of instructions arrived from Headquarters. This often countermanded the last order, and much inconvenience arose through the local authorities being in ignorance of what was going on, and having so little authority or discretionary power. The Austrians and Hungarians, especially the rank and file, were none too well off themselves for food and blankets during the advance in 1915, so that the fact that they succeeded in keeping so close to the spirit of the Red Cross Convention is the more remarkable. I am aware, of course, that they did not desire to stir up any unnecessary ill-feeling between the conquered Serbs and themselves, on account of possible administrative difficulties. However, they deserve credit for their treat-

ment of the captured English Medical Missions; and especially so does Baron Slatin, whose influence contributed, I think, not a little to the correct treatment of the doctors, nurses, and orderlies of the hospitals.

Besides these prisoners of war now in Hungary, thousands of boys between the ages of thirteen and the military age were collected and interned in Hungary. Men of fifty and over were either transferred to large towns like Belgrade, or sent for internment in Austria or Hungary.

I think that only the hopelessly crippled males were allowed to stay at home. No males were left in Serbia, excepting a few able-bodied men working under Austrian direction and some old men and very young children. When I left in February, 1916, Austrians, Hungarians, and Germans, and Russian and Italian prisoners were the only males to be seen in the land, with the above exceptions.

But the Serbs as a people would not be wiped out even if the present army in the field were killed "to the last man." The countries round—Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Slavonia, and the south part of Hungary—are for the most part Slav, and, in spite of their great losses, there is no fear of the Serbian people being exterminated. There is a danger of Serbia as a nation disappearing.

It is well to remember, too, that Serbia has not an equal claim on the Allies with Belgium. France and Russia went to war on Serbia's account. The Belgians were drawn unconsciously into the war by the force of a sudden whirlwind of events. The Belgians had no voice or choice in the preliminaries preceding the war.

I do not think for an instant that the Serbian Army would consent to sit by with folded arms, and act the part of spectator whilst the Allies fought its battle. The sword was drawn on Serbia's account, and Serbia is required to help in Serbia, where her soldiers have unique opportunities to assist in this great world war, whose issues now are certainly far wider than any Serbian interests, but whose consequences will affect every Serbian, born and unborn, more than perhaps any other nationality.*

The issues are worth fighting for. If the Allies lose, Serbia will be as a nation for ever exterminated. If the Allies fail to win outright, conditions of peace will be made at the expense of Serbia; for the Germans are fighting to get possession of Serbia more than any other place, and it will be the area of conquered land that they will like least to part with.

The Serbian Army would, I am sure, resent most strongly any attempt of the Allies to place them in the background in the final stage of the struggle for their national existence.

J. B. C.

*The Serbians have not only magnificent fighting qualities, but their knowledge of the difficult languages in the Balkans and of local conditions make them indispensable in the Balkan campaign.

FIND OF OLD SERBIAN COINS.

Die Drau, of October 21, reports that one of the Dalmatian papers has received the following news from Kotor:—During the progress of the work upon the enlargement of the aqueduct of the town, the workmen came upon a buried jar full of Serbian silver coins, bearing the effigy of Tsar Urosh II. (son and successor of Tsar Dushan). The mediæval Serbian Kings and Emperors were in frequent economic and political relations with the small Republic of Dubrovnik (Ragusa), in Dalmatia, and the southern part of this province, which countries were at one time tributaries to them, wherefore such discoveries are not in the least strange. Tradition says that the spot where the coins were found is the former site of the Benedictine monastery, which the Venetians razed to the ground in the course of a retreat during their wars with Frederick Barbarossa, so that this money is probably the ready money of the monastery. The newly discovered silver coins, which number about one thousand, are in good preservation.



**WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.**

HEART TONIC.

**DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.**



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

By Appointment to

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Situation in Athens.

December 5.

The MARQUESS of SALISBURY asked for information regarding the very serious position of affairs in Greece.

The MARQUESS of CREWE: There is not very much to be said about Greece; but since the statement made by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs yesterday a telegram has been received from his Majesty's Minister in Athens, from which it appears that a certain degree of order has been re-established in the capital. The bands of Reservists who, so far as can be ascertained, were more directly connected with the attack on the Allied troops and with the atrocities committed on the Venizelists in Athens have, it appears, been dismissed, and the town is now being guarded by Regular troops of the Greek Army. In the meantime his Majesty's Minister has advised British subjects to proceed to the Piræus, where they will be in a position of safety. Although no immediate danger is to be apprehended in regard to the safety of British life and property in Athens, we do not at all desire to imply that his Majesty's Government regard the situation as one of less gravity, or that they are in any degree less determined to fix responsibility for the events of December 1, or to secure that such outrages are not repeated.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Standing of Venizelists.

November 30.

Mr. DILLON asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs what provisions had been made by the Allied Governments to safeguard the status as combatants of the Greeks who joined the Venizelist army, and to make sure that if taken prisoners by the enemy they would be treated as soldiers and prisoners of war.

Lord R. CECIL: The forces of M. Venizelos will be regarded by the Allies for belligerent purposes as volunteers serving with the Allied Armies at Salonika.

Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. King that the Allied Governments had furnished to M. Venizelos an advance of 10 million drachmæ, and they were at the same time rendering to him considerable assistance in kind in connection with the equipment, maintenance, and transport of volunteers adhering to the Venizelist movement.

The Position in Roumania—

December 4.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked the Secretary for War whether he could make any statement in regard to the military position in Roumania.

Mr. FORSTER: It is not desirable to make any statement on this subject at present.

—And in Greece.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir H. DALZIEL, said: I regret to state that the situation in Greece is one of extreme gravity. In spite of the formal and repeated assurances of the Greek King and Government that no disturbances would be permitted, a most treacherous and unprovoked attack was made upon the Allied detachments landed by the French Admiral on Friday last, and many casualties have resulted, though full accounts have not yet been received. His Majesty's Government consider that the responsibility of King Constantine and his Government are deeply involved in this matter, and they are considering, in conjunction with their Allies, immediate measures to secure a radical solution of the situation which has now arisen.

On the motion for adjournment Mr. LYNCH called attention to the situation in Greece, where, he said, things were going

from bad to worse. Venizelist editors were being imprisoned without trial, and the most unfair treatment was being exercised towards inhabitants who were friendly to the Allied cause. The Government had encouraged their enemies by their hesitating counsels and weak action until the problem was now a hundred times more difficult than it was a few weeks ago.

Mr. DILLON said that a few days ago the Foreign Office gave a distinct pledge that the supporters of M. Venizelos would be effectively protected. M. Venizelos had telegraphed that nothing was being done to protect his friends. They were now exposed to systematic terrorism and prevented from joining the National Army. The history of the Greek matter had been a history of blunders perfectly unparalleled in civilised annals. A year ago this country had a clear treaty right to intervene in Greece, and the justification of our landing in Salonika was the lawful invitation of the lawful Government of Greece. When the King of the Hellenes broke the Constitution of his country we had a clear right to go in as the protectors of the Greek people. Instead of that we stood idly by while the Greek King who invited us to quit spent millions of German money in organising a system of terrorism and intimidation against our friends in Greece and in endeavouring to overcome the voice of the Greek people. When we had deliberately put ourselves in the wrong we served the King with a notice that he was to deliver up his artillery. What right, in the circumstances, had we to do that? When he refused we advanced upon Athens with a domineering expedition, and in such force that we met with a most humiliating and disastrous reverse.

Mr. ELLIS GRIFFITH said that this country had not been very fortunate in its championship of small nationalities. We went to war mainly because Belgium was attacked. The state of Belgium was known to all. Incidentally we went to war to protect Serbia and Montenegro, and they were to a large extent overcome. The last small nation was Roumania, and her position was one of which we had no reason to be proud. We had gone to Greece and had taken a certain portion of her territory, but the position was that the King of the Hellenes was against us. Why in the world did not the Government recognise that fact? Was not the failure of the Gallipoli Expedition due in no small part to the influence of certain of our enemies in Greece? We had encouraged Venizelos, who was regarded by some as a traitor to his King, but we had delayed doing everything he required, and what had happened within the last few days was most humiliating. Why did not the Government make up their mind once for all as between King Constantine and M. Venizelos? The Government had nothing to lose by a free and frank discussion. As it was, they had created a feeling of disquietude throughout the country. If they wished to secure the confidence of the country they should adopt a definite policy, support M. Venizelos, and make his position secure.

Egyptian Cotton.

Mr. PREYMAN, answering Major Hunt, said that, according to returns published by the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the quantity of Egyptian cotton imported into the United States during the year ended July 31, 1916, amounted to 195,500 bales of 750 lbs. weight. The quantity imported in the previous twelve months was 174,400 bales: the average of the preceding four years was 116,800 bales. These figures included a certain amount of Egyptian cotton which was subsequently re-exported to Canada.

Soudan Wheat.

Lord R. CECIL, in answer to Mr. Fell, said that it was probably the case that every effort was being made to stimulate the production of wheat throughout the Turkish Empire. His Majesty's Government were in communication with the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments in regard to the possibility of increasing the supplies of wheat available for export to this country. The matter would be examined with the utmost care and expedition.

The Austro-Hungarian Government has asked the American Red Cross Society to discontinue relief work in Belgrade and other parts of Northern Serbia after the supplies now in hand have been distributed. No reason has been given for this step.

HELP ROUMANIA

By coming to a Meeting at the Palace Theatre

(kindly lent by the Directors),

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, at 3 p.m.,

held by the British Women's Hospital Committee in aid of

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS (London Units).

In the Chair: SIR JOHNSTON FORBES-ROBERTSON.

The LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, BISHOP BROWNE, Miss COMPTON,

Miss DORIS KEANE, FATHER N'OLAI, Mr. PETT RIDGE,

Mr. BEN TILLET, Miss LINDA F. HAGEBY.

NATIONAL ANTHEM, Sung by Mme. CLARA BUTT.

The Palace Theatre, Tuesday, December 12th, at 3 o'clock

Tickets: 3s., 2s., 1s., to be obtained at Box Office, Palace Theatre, and at 21, Old Bond Street, W. If you cannot come to the meeting, please send a subscription to LADY COWDRAY, 16, Carlton House Terrace, W.

Our Object is to Win the War, to Prevent a Compromise Peace, to Uphold British Honour.

A MASS MEETING IN HONOUR OF THE SMALL NATIONS

(Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania and Greece) will be held in the

QUEEN'S HALL, on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m.

Speakers—

Miss ANNIE KENNEY, Mrs. DACRE FOX & Representatives of the Allied Nations.

Chair—Mrs. PANKHURST.

The National Anthems of the Allies will be sung by Eminent Artists (see further notice).

Tickets, 2/6, 1s. and 6d., can be obtained from the Queen's Hall Box Office, and the W.S.P.U. Offices, 114, Gt. Portland Street, W.

Women's Social and Political Union, 114, Great Portland Street, W.

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815
COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT
FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES
Illustrated Catalogues on request
ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms, Mufti,
Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits,
Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements,
Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits
4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE,
LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

"'Per Mare per Terram.' New Version."

On Tuesday the *Morning Post* published a leading article, with the above heading, which expresses a feeling experienced by many Britons on reading of the event to which it refers. We quote the first portion of this article:—

"British and French marines to the number of 600 to-day marched out of the Zappeion under a strong guard of Greeks."

The quotation is taken from the published telegram despatched from Athens on Saturday. We beg our readers to read the citation again. It records the greatest humiliation ever inflicted upon the Royal Marines, who suffered it together with their French comrades, and it was inflicted by the British Foreign Office, whose policy is directly responsible for the ignominy, confusion, vacillation, and anarchy now prevailing in Greece. If the reader will endeavour to picture a battalion of the Guards marching out of Wellington Barracks "under a strong guard" composed of the least desirable alien inhabitants of Whitechapel, he will gather a faint notion of the degradation which Viscount Grey and his colleagues have brought upon the honour of British arms. The soldiery of King Constantine are a mob; the King himself a traitor to his country, and, as regards the Allies, a common defaulter; and the British Government allows his ragged regiment to "guard" the Royal Marines. The Allied troops had been landed because neither the King of the Hellenes nor his Ministers could keep order in the capital, so that the friends of the Allies, the men of M. Venizelos, whom the British Government has formally recognised as an Ally, were being shot and imprisoned by King Constantine's people. The Allied forces were attacked without provocation, and what was the sequel? The landing of reinforcements and the instant suppression of the mutineers—insurgents—bandits, or whatever they are? Not in the least. British and French Marines were marched out "under a strong guard" of these same ruffians.

The article proceeds to ask "By whose orders?" and to attribute the responsibility to the Foreign Office. It hazards the opinion that—

It is possible, since the Royal Marines and the British seamen are accustomed to enforce and to maintain justice, law, and order, that had not the Foreign Office policy been carried into execution there would be some Greek assassins the less in Athens at this moment, and the Germanised King and his Germanised Ministers would be under arrest on board a ship-of-war of the Allies.

Italia Irrendenta.

There is much discussion about the national claims, Italian or Southern Slav, to the lands of "Italia irrendenta." We do not purpose entering into the merits of these claims just now; but it is certainly advisable to hear, from time to time, the opinion of competent authorities on the matter. One of these authorities, M. F. Beaudoin de Courtenay, a well-known Russian philologist and a member of the Russian Academy of Science, recently wrote in the Russian paper *Den* as follows:—

Generally, it would be interesting to ascertain the facts of the racial and national position of the countries which the Italians call irrendentist countries. This position is known to many, but not to all. I am, personally, well aware of this position, through my own observations. As a student of the national customs, I have travelled along and through certain parts of the Austro-Italian theatre of war, and have stayed in nearly every village there.

In not one of these provinces which are being claimed by Italian irrendentism is the Italian—or, generally speaking, the Roman—element in the majority. The strong Italian or Roman element only exists in two Austrian provinces—namely, in the southern part of the Tyrol and in the south-western part of Gorizia.

We must not forget that the population of Italy herself is not composed only of Italians born and bred. In the north-eastern parts, in the territory which is adjacent to the Austrian provinces Carniola and Gorizia, there are over 30,000 men speaking the Slav language.

Throughout the Irrendentist provinces of Italy the non-Italian element prevails. More than three-fifths of the population of the Tyrol is composed of Germans; more than three-fifths of the population of Gorizia are Slovenes. It is true that in Istria there are a few small towns the population of which is entirely Italian; but, taken as a whole, Istria's population is only 30 per cent. Italian, the remainder consisting of Croats and Slovenes. Carniola is, as a whole, one of the purest—from an ethnographical standpoint—Slovene provinces. The whole of the Carso is inhabited by Slovenes. The population of Croatia, Dalmatia, and all the islands in the Adriatic consists of Serbo-Croats. In Dalmatia the number of people of Italian nationality is insignificant.

Russia and the Straits.

In a leading article, "Our Russian Ally," *The Times* (Tuesday) expressed satisfaction with the explicit statement made by M. Trepoff to the Duma regarding the

Allies' recognition of "the right of Russia to the Straits and to Constantinople," adding:—

Absolute agreement on this point exists among the Allies. Freedom of navigation will be enjoyed by Roumania, "now fighting—not for the first time—in battle side by side with the flag of Russia." While this explicit statement reveals nothing new to those who have followed the process of the diplomatic consolidation of the aims and interests of the Allies during the war, it is satisfactory that the existence of this agreement should have been solemnly proclaimed to the representatives of the Russian people in the Duma.

After recalling Mr. Asquith's statement, made to the members of the Council of the Empire and of the Duma who visited this country last May, that the British Government and people considered the complete agreement established between the two countries in regard to Eastern affairs "one of the most gratifying results of our Alliance," the article proceeds:—

They knew already, from the statement made by Mr. Asquith to the members of the Council of the Empire and of the Duma who visited England last May, that complete agreement had been "established between Great Britain and Russia in regard to Eastern affairs," and that the British Government and people consider this agreement "one of the most gratifying results of our Alliance." But it is well, at a moment when German intrigue is particularly busy in Russia, that the fact should be unequivocally declared to the representatives of the Russian people. We are convinced—indeed, we know—that Russia will extend to the rights and interests of Great Britain the same large-minded treatment which Great Britain has gladly promised to the traditional aims and interests of the Tsar and his subjects. Germany tried long and too successfully to foment distrust and suspicion between England and Russia and to keep us apart. Now we have come together, and we mean to stay together.

The people of England and the Western Allies have no desire to interfere with the development of Russia in accordance with her own genius. They desire to see her happy and prosperous, with a free outlet to an open sea, and able to live her own life in her own way; for they know that her own way will be the way of peace and of large-minded humanity.

A Land of Promise—Unfulfilled.

The December *Blackwood* contains an article entitled "Mesopotamia," which gives a capital description of the region between Kut and the head of the Persian Gulf, and of the appalling conditions amidst which our gallant troops have had to live, march, and fight. The writer, an officer, who naturally remains anonymous, was, like many other travellers, agreeably surprised by his first glimpse of the palm-lined Shatt-el-Arab. Basing himself on Mr. David Fraser's somewhat sketchy description, he had expected apparently to find a sandy desert. Instead he discovered that—

Both shores of the river, right down to the water's edge, were densely clothed with the tall, graceful date-palm, vines trailed from tree to tree, the scarlet pomegranate peeped in the undergrowth, and pink and white clusters of oleander dipped over the water's edge. . . . Grassy banks as green as any on the Thames itself, and myriads of palms swaying gently in the breeze, casting deep reflections in the water, left the impression that here was the Land of Promise.

Unfortunately he found, as others have done, that the promise is not fulfilled. A survey from the steamer's bridge showed that the belt of vegetation is of the narrowest; the desert lies behind; and, for that matter, the palms themselves are few and far between as soon as one leaves the Shatt-el-Arab and enters the Tigris. The descriptions of Busreh under British occupation, of the natural features of the country up-river, and of the Arabs and their manners and customs will be read with interest and profit by anyone who still wishes to learn what Lower Mesopotamia is like. But even more interesting are the passages describing the march to Orah in the advance that was to relieve Kut, of the fighting at the Hannah and Es Sinn positions, and of the "Julna's" gallant, but, alas! fruitless, attempt to run the blockade. All these things must be read in the original. But here is a passage describing part of the march from Kurnah. "Marching," we read, "was no pleasure now, but real hard work."

Men and animals would constantly slip and fall, and fatigue parties had to be told off to unload packs and help the mules on

FOR INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

to their feet again; great masses of clay would adhere to men's boots, increasing in size with each step, and only breaking away with their own added weight. There were marshes and creeks to be forded where the water would at times rise to one's waist. Biting winds and frost had taken the place of the phenomenal heat of July and August, and the discomfort of marching in wet boots and trousers needs to be experienced to be realized. Added to this was the discomfort of having to bed down for the night on ground sodden with the rain, and to scramble into one's wet things in the morning when the pools by the wayside were frozen, and so to march for hours through more puddle and marshes.

The Caucasian Front.

Writing in the *Birmingham Post* (December 4), Mr. Edgar Wallace observes that "the Turk seems to be testing the Russian line on the Caucasian front." He continues:—

Possibly he anticipates a renewal of the Russian offensive, and he has certainly had intelligence that the Russian is preparing to make some move or has been considerably reinforced, otherwise these reconnaissances conducted by important forces would not have been made. The army in the Caucasus usually does its best work in mid-winter. The Turk has every reason to believe that he will be subjected to pressure at this point. Indeed, he himself has directly challenged Russia to an offensive in Armenia by sending his divisions against the Roumanian. Turkey is the new recruiting ground for the German Army, and Turkey has enjoyed a long spell of quietude. In the course of the past eight or nine months new divisions have been formed and new strength has been acquired, but the Turk had some leeway to make up, for he lost heavily in the Gallipoli campaign, in the earlier battles of Mesopotamia, and very heavily in Armenia. To-day he is rather an unknown quantity, for we have very little information indeed as to the strength of his field armies or the size of his reserves. Possibly in the near future we shall have an opportunity of seeing his strength tested. He at any rate would seem to anticipate some such development.

King Constantine: A Greek Valuation.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* published last Friday an interview with Mr. Eumorfopoulos, chairman of the London Greek Committee, who, without mincing matters, said openly what most Greeks in this country have long been saying among themselves. Among other things, he stated:—

King Constantine has allowed his passions to guide him and his jealousy—for he is childishly jealous of Venizelos—to completely extinguish his judgment. By his directions all the just demands of the Entente are met in a carping spirit and with an ill-grace that the words "benevolent neutrality" try vainly to hide.

What are the "vital interests" of Greece of which we hear from the Tatooi Court? Certainly not Greek lives, which are being sacrificed by German submarines without protest; nor Greek territory, as Kavalla has gone and the King's Army remains in Athens; nor yet Greek honour, in view of the violation of the Constitution and of the Serbo-Greek Treaty. I am forced to conclude that the "vital interests" of the nation are centred at Tatooi, that the noble heritage of ancient Greece is being squandered to maintain a Prussian Court in the land of freedom.

Until Dousmanis, Streit, and Metaxas are removed from the councils of King Constantine no reliance can be reposed in the Royal undertakings.

The Roumanian Situation.

The *Statist* (December 2) is inclined to believe that the German attack on Roumania "is really induced by distress in Germany and the necessity felt to relieve that distress in some way or other."

Roumania had kept out of the present war so long that economically she was in a good position. Therefore, if Germany can treat her as Serbia was treated, Germany will be able to take possession of a very large booty; and, consequently, may hope that, for several months at all events, relief will be given. Looked at from that point of view, the operations in Roumania are of the highest interest. It is little to the credit of Entente Governments that they have not foreseen this and taken measures that would make Roumania reasonably safe. It is to be feared that although we have been assured again and again that the Entente Governments are in close and constant communication regarding a uniform policy in the war, there is not, as a matter of fact, the unity of command and strategy which is so absolutely necessary. If Russia were better prepared she, of course, alone would have been able to dispose of the German attempt.

Our Policy in the Near East.

In an article entitled "The Grecian Burlesque," the *Outlook* of December 2 regrets profoundly "the weak defence of the Government's policy in Greece put up by Lord Robert Cecil last Tuesday." After analysing the speech, the article concludes:—"It may, however, be said of him in extenuation that he would not commit himself to an opinion as to whether the policy adopted by the Allies was good or bad. Indeed, he wound up his defence upon a note of real humility."

The mischief of it is that there is not merely public opinion in this country to be considered. We have vast and vital interests in the Near East, and intelligent neutrals or belligerents reading

a summary of Lord Robert's speech would be likely to make two deductions: first, that when British policy does not happen to be in agreement with one or more of the Allies, it is meekly surrendered in the cause of peace; and, second, that whereas to support us carries no guarantee of protection, treachery and obstruction can be indulged in without fear of reprisals. Either of these deductions would be highly prejudicial to British prestige among primitive and warlike peoples, who do not understand diplomatic conundrums, but can appreciate the virtues of force and good faith.

The Turks' Misfortune.

The old British liking for the old Turk seems to take a lot of killing—probably because it is so very British. He is to-day our enemy, and we recognise the fact; but we do so reluctantly, because we see that he has been misled; and we still admire his good qualities, amongst which his courage takes high rank. It is a significant fact that those who have fought against him are the most ready to speak well of him. A writer who contributes lively notes, under the heading of "The Periscope," to the *Scots' Pictorial*, says:—

I shall be called a pro-Turk if I confess to having a very warm side for the Turkish soldier. It is a fact, nevertheless, that if the Turkish Army were trained by British drill sergeants they would be the finest troops bar none. The Germans have not been long in learning that. Ask any Anzac what he thinks of the regular Turk as a fighter and he will wax eloquent over his fearlessness, courage, devotion, hardness, and, last but by no means least, his anxiety to play the game. The Turk is a clean fighter, who will succour his fallen opponent and respect the rules of warfare. The irregular, the Bashi-Bazouk, and other riff-raff troops who are found fighting for the Sultan are a totally different type. The less said about them the better. German methods may temporarily succeed in persuading the Turk to fight, but brute-force discipline is certain to produce a bad effect in the long run. I am sorry for the Turk, because he is governed by the most corrupt set of rascals on earth.

That is the tragedy of the Turks! They have always, or nearly always, had rulers unworthy of them, thus proving that a people does not always get the Government it deserves.

Articles to Note.

"The Light that Failed in the Near East," by Dr. E. J. Dillon; and "A Day at Babylon," by Lewis R. Freeman, in the *Contemporary Review* (December).

"Simeon Radev" (No. 2 of "Enemy Portraits"), in the *New Europe* (November 30).

"The Foreign Office Again," by "Diplomatist," in the *English Review* (December).

"The Children of Egypt," by Arthur E. P. Weigall, in the *Cornhill* (December).

"Mesopotamia," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (December).

"More Light on the Twelve Days," in the *New Statesman* (December 2).

"The Difficulties in Greece," in the *Saturday Review* (December 2).

"Luxor as a Winter Health Resort," by Selwyn Brinton, in the *Builder* (December 1).

"Carmen Sylva—Poetess and Queen," by D. M. Ford, in *Our Own Gazette* (November).

RUSSO-PERSIAN FRIENDSHIP.

Under date of December 1, Reuter's Teheran correspondent reports:—

The Grand Duke Boris Vladimirovitch has arrived in Teheran after visiting Kasvin. At the outskirts of the town his Imperial Highness was welcomed in the name of the Shah by Prince Shoua-es-Saltaneh, the Shah's uncle, accompanied by a number of high Persian officials and by members of the Russian Legation. The Grand Duke will visit the Shah to-morrow.

Under date of December 4, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports that the following despatch has been received there from Teheran:—

The Grand Duke Boris on Saturday paid a visit to the Shah, to whom he presented, on behalf of the Tsar, a handsome silver vase. Yesterday the Shah gave a luncheon in honour of the Grand Duke, and expressed great joy at his visit to the Persian capital, in which, he said, he saw a pledge of the consolidation of relations of friendship and neighbourliness between Russia and Persia.

The Grand Duke expressed his satisfaction at having been selected as the first representative of the Imperial family to visit Teheran, and to confirm in the name of the Tsar the hope of the further consolidation of the traditional friendship of Persia and Russia.

A Sofia telegram announced that the German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian Ministers to Greece had arrived in the Bulgarian capital last week. The Turkish Minister returned directly to Constantinople by way of Lule Burgas.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In an interesting letter received by the last mail, our Correspondent at Nicosia informs me that the copper mines at Skouriotissa continue to be worked for an American company. There are two resident American engineers.

When I heard that M. J. Gennadius, the Greek Minister in London, had resigned his post because he was no longer able to identify himself with the policy pursued by his Government, I called and asked him to make a statement. Beyond confirming the report, however, his Excellency would say nothing, and, of course, his refusal to speak was strictly right and proper. With the Minister, the Consul General in London, and the Consuls at Liverpool and Manchester, also "went out," which shows how Greeks who know Britain and what she stands for regard King Tino's sinister activities. It is a pity, because Greek commercial interests in this country were being carefully watched and safeguarded and excellent relations had been maintained.

It is interesting to recall that the Greek consular service in Liverpool has been established since 1852. The first consul was Mr. D. N. Gianacopoula, and he was succeeded by Mr. D. Th. Ralli and Mr. M. A. Ralli (members of a well-known local firm, one of whom has been High Sheriff of Denbigh), and Mr. E. D. Barfi. Mr. Malandrinos was appointed to the office in 1893, and held it until he resigned recently—a period of twenty-three years.

The continued receipt of serious news from Roumania, winding up with the enforced abandonment of Bucharest, serves to emphasise the position of Germany if it had been possible to force her to rely for her supplies entirely upon food which she could import on payment. If that had been possible, if the effectiveness of the British blockade had operated, the next few weeks would have been serious indeed for the Huns. Unfortunately, however, this does not seem to be probable at the moment. Roumania cannot be said to be defeated—as defeats are counted—but with the steady advance of the enemy we must face the possibility of the latter being able to secure from the occupied territory large supplies of the commodities of which they stand much in need. We have yet to learn what the Roumanians have done in their retreat: whether they have been able to leave empty granaries and oil depots, and so reduce to a minimum the spoils which the Germans hoped to secure. I hope this will prove to be the case, for, apart from the hardships which would fall to the lot of our Roumanian friends, it would be disastrous to the Allied cause if the Huns were able to obtain sufficient supplies to enable them to carry on to next harvest time.

It is not surprising to hear that Roumanian Consols continue to weaken on the London Stock Exchange. This was inevitable when the Germans captured Toigoristea and made progress on the way to Ploesti, in the oil-field region, where are many refineries and the principal pumping and storage station of the Gov-

ernment pipe line. It is unfortunate for shareholders in the Consolidated—which holds more than 5,000 acres of oil-bearing land—particularly because last year (ended June, 1915) the concern earned nearly £80,000 net profit.

Interest will be taken in the publication of the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee of the Business Conference of representative British Chambers of Commerce. The principal of these urged that enemy ships "shall not be free after the war to extend their share of the world's carrying trade until the enemy has replaced all ships lost by the Allies owing to the enemy's piratical methods, and that no peace terms which do not provide for such replacement should be considered." I should like to think that our own and the Allied Governments will adopt these proposals. The toll which has been levied on shipping by the Germans is grave, and quite apart from the fact that these maritime outrages have been indiscriminate and committed without a thought as to the fate of crews, the destruction has been thoroughly wanton.

And not only ourselves and our Allies are concerned. Neutrals will have heavy bills to present to Berlin. There is scarcely a maritime nation in the world that has not suffered; the wicked campaigns against Norwegian and Danish ships and, to some extent, against Swedish and Greek, are too recent to be forgotten; and I hope that when the time comes no mawkish sentiment or desire to make the way of peace easier will stand in the way of these claims being enforced.

Congratulations to the P. and O. and the able men who steer the concern to triumph. During the past year the success achieved has been on an unparalleled level; earnings were phenomenal, and the dividend declared on the deferred stock is the greatest in the history of the company. A full summary of the report for the year is to be found in our City pages, and it will be seen that the net profits amounted to £717,500, an increase of £286,300 as compared with 1914-15. It is noteworthy that this result has been won despite the fact that half of the company's fleet of steamers is held by the Government at rates which prevailed before the war, and that no fewer than five vessels have been lost during the year. The accounts are again presented in "simplified" form, which precludes an out-and-out analysis—if, indeed, any be called for.

A special correspondent of the *Paris Journal* paints a harrowing picture of the condition of the people of Old Serbia, particularly the agriculturists. In a recent article he spoke of the nameless atrocities committed by the enemy in the early days of the occupation, of the massacres, and of the famine to which the country was succumbing. Stocks of food which were estimated to be enough to last the whole population for two years had immediately been commandeered with the most pitiless thoroughness. In particular, thousands of pigs had been driven off by the Germans. The whole of this season's harvest had also been requisitioned, so that by the end of the year the people would be starving. These things must be kept in view for the day

of reckoning. Meanwhile, there is a Serbian Relief Fund which I commend to charitable attention.

As a journalist who has worked in three continents I have followed the recent developments in connection with Reuter's Agency with much interest. At the extraordinary general meeting of the company, held last week, the shareholders confirmed the arrangement to sell the concern, a summary of which appeared in the last issue of *THE NEAR EAST*. The offer came from the chairman of the company, the Hon. Mark Napier, and his friends, and it was to purchase, for the sum of £550,000, which was equal to £11 for every £10 share, the undertaking and assets of the company, which would include the whole of the shares of the British Commercial Bank, Ltd. It was stated that the directors were strongly of opinion that the shareholders would act wisely if they confirmed the sale, which not only would provide sufficient to pay them £11 for each £10 share as consideration for the transfer, but ensure that for the future the agency would be in a position to carry on its business entirely free from influences hostile to British interests either during the war or afterwards.

The shareholders have done well to accept the offer, for despite all the labours of the company and of the manager of the bank to secure increased earning power, the £10 shares had for some time fluctuated between £4 10s. and £6 17s. 6d. For the last three years the shareholders have received no return on their invested capital, and there is little doubt that they will do exceedingly well out of the transaction. Reuter's Agency is at any rate saved to British commercial interests, and I think Mr. Napier, and those who have acted with him in this delicate negotiation, deserve thanks and congratulation.

The methods employed in Egypt of obtaining commercial information continue to arouse criticism in the country. One point complained of is that there are too many import firms and commission agents who act as inquiry agents for firms abroad. This complaint was made recently to the Chamber of Commerce, which comments as follows in its *Journal* for November:—"Our correspondent asks how it is possible for a man who is a commission agent himself to give information, with impartiality and discretion, when he is asked to report on a competitor, or the clients of a competitor? The inquiry service of the local banks, also, leaves much to be desired, the same information being often given on half-a-dozen different firms, and there is much too much use of stereotyped forms of reply such as 'New firm, means unknown, must be seen working,' which is, of course, very prejudicial to the interested parties, about all of whom it is easy enough to obtain reliable information, were the necessary trouble taken. What is really needed is a thoroughly reliable and impartial commercial inquiry office whose whole time and energies are devoted to obtaining and classifying information for the use of firms abroad desiring connections in this country."

COMMENTATOR.

Trade Problems in Egypt.

British Exporters' Neglect of Present Opportunities.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt continues to wage war against the apathy of British houses towards the trading possibilities in Egypt, and in the November issue of the *Journal of the Chamber*, Mr. J. Murray has a striking article on the subject. Writing under the title of "British Exporters and the Egyptian Market," he says that the market has generally been underestimated both by our export merchants and manufacturers. Very rarely is found an English manufacturing firm actively interested in Egypt, "and among the export merchants, outside of the textile trades, it seems a mere handful who derive any considerable part of their business from Egypt."

"Under the circumstances, the United Kingdom's share in Egypt's import trade must be deemed as large as could reasonably be expected. Egypt is, of course, comparatively regarded, a market of limited possibilities for a great many trades, and that is generally the whole explanation why British firms spend so little attention upon it. They have mostly preferred to follow the main 'runs' for over-sea trade, and in the line of these Egypt does not lie, whatever geography may have to say in the matter. With the increasing stress of international competition, however, the minor and isolated markets cannot be so indifferently regarded, and our traders are, in fact, revising their outlook upon the world's markets, as may be observed in various directions."

Bad Debts—A Moral.

"There are, however, it must be said, a number of British manufacturers in whose books Egypt stands for nothing more than bad debts. In their casual way, these unfortunate manufacturers had accepted orders without closely ascertaining whom their correspondents were, and they are still waiting for their money. In many cases, manufacturers complain that Egypt requires a much cheaper kind of article than they produce. This kind of objection, however, which one used to hear so frequently, with reference to almost any market, is happily far less common nowadays, thanks to the influence very largely of the younger men in our industries. And the war has administered a wonderful filip to our manufacturers in this direction, by awakening them to the serious encroachment of enemy competition in their overseas markets."

"With the invaluable assistance and encouragement of the Board of Trade, who collected and exhibited to our manufacturers a great variety of samples of the more successful lines of enemy goods, numerous firms have taken up, during the war, the production of new and cheaper articles, more adapted to the tastes and conditions of various markets, and many other firms now engaged upon the production of munitions have the intention of doing likewise as soon as they are free to pursue their ordinary business. Meantime many of the new lines of British goods have been successfully introduced to export buyers, and are reported to be winning ground for British trade in Empire markets."

Enemy Businesses.

"It has been asked why British exporters are not more alive to the opportunities of acquiring the business of enemy houses in Egypt, as they are being wound up. The question is important in view of the limited number of British houses in Egypt, and attention might usefully be drawn to it through the Commercial Intelligence Branch of our Board of Trade, who have the best means of knowing the circles likely to be interested."

After referring to the sale of the Nigerian properties, Mr. Murray writes:—

"The mention of Nigeria brings to mind a striking illustration of the way in which our merchant houses have developed British trade in outlying markets, which otherwise would in all probability have remained all but unnoticed by our manufacturers. The West African trade has been 'created' by our merchant houses, and, thanks to their efforts, is catered for by considerable numbers of our manufacturers."

The Merchant System.

"The merchant system has its drawbacks, but British manufacturers are still generally grateful for the convenience it represents in export trade, and, in the interests of developing our trade with Egypt, the most hopeful course would be to attract more attention to it among our merchant houses. The merchants dealing in the general requirements of the market could do much to educate our manufacturers as to the goods required and, in being able to sell to the merchant houses, on practically home trade terms, the manufacturers would have a far readier interest in the market than if it were a question of dealing direct with Egyptian buyers."

"Egypt would in any case be a market of more interest to our merchants and our manufacturers if they knew more about it. In view of the enquiries received for the most elementary information about the country, one is astonished in realising how little Egypt is known, even to our bigger and more enterprising manufacturers. The Chamber's Report on Opportunities of Trade resulting from the elimination of enemy competition contained much needed information, which has served in more than one case within my knowledge to beget a more active interest in the possibilities of business with Egypt. The growth of advertising in the Chamber's monthly *Journal* also witnesses that an active propaganda to interest our manufacturers in Egypt is not hopeless."

A Case in Point.

"A certain Egyptian firm of commission agents recently circulated a proposal among London export merchants for the financing and execution of their orders on this side. Perhaps they were finding that few of our manufacturers were in a position to sell on long credit, and through the intermediary of a merchant house here hoped to overcome the difficulty. This function of financing overseas orders is the main service of the merchant houses to British export trade and explains their great position in our trade system. Proposals like that of the firm referred to are certainly of interest to our merchants, and on such lines the merchants' co-operation would be of great advantage to British trade with Egypt. One important house whose attention I drew to the Egyptian firm's offer were found to have already given it their consideration, although hitherto, I believe, they have given no attention to Egyptian business."

"The Federation of British Manufacturers, which has just been formed is the first really national organisation in this country concerned with trade, and it has abundant opportunities of useful service. Groups of manufacturers not competing in their production are beginning to be formed to establish direct representation in particular markets, and are being remarkably well supported. China, especially, in this connection is receiving attention. Egypt's turn may come presently."

SHIPPING NOTES.

Empire Chambers of Commerce Proposals.

The following summarises the resolutions dealing with British shipping after the war which have been adopted by the Executive Committee appointed by Business Conference of representatives of Chambers of Commerce throughout the Empire held in June:—

Enemy ships not to be free after the war to extend their share of the world's carrying trade until the enemy has replaced all ships lost by the Allies owing to the enemy's piratical methods. No peace terms to be considered which do not provide for such replacement.

A lower scale of tonnage dues and port charges to apply in British ports to British-owned vessels.

Privileges in British ports to be accorded to Allied and neutral shipping equivalent only to corresponding privileges accorded by Allied and neutral countries.

Enemy shipping to pay in British ports double dues paid by other shipping.

British Government subsidies in no case to be granted to enemy shipping.

Foreign tonnage in Empire ports to conform to Empire conditions regarding shipping.

Shipping laws and regulations to favour the shipment of goods from one port to another within the Empire in vessels under the British flag registered in the Empire, or in vessels belonging to Allied Powers.

No agreements to be entered into by British shipping companies with foreign shipping companies without the cognisance of the Board of Trade or other Ministerial authority.

Measures to be taken to prevent foreign goods from being carried in British ships from British ports at less rates than similar British goods.

Unfair treatment or preference to foreign goods to be reported through the British Imperial Council of Commerce to the Board of Trade.

Any British shipping company giving preference in freight to foreign goods, the steamers of such company to pay port and other charges without rebates.

Fearful Loss of Strick Liner.

Lloyd's agent at Plymouth telegraphs that some books from the British steamer *Serbistan* (belonging to the Strick Line Ltd.), a tin canister containing various papers relating partly to the *Serbistan*, and a Bible marked inside "Capt. John Griffith, 29, Snowdon Street, Port Madoc, North Wales," were picked up on November 24, six miles south-west of Eddystone. The *Serbistan* left Brest on the afternoon of November 16.

Russian Reprisals.

Russia has refused to recognise the hospital ship *Bulgaria*, of the Bulgarian Black Sea Shipping Company, two Russian hospital ships having been torpedoed in the Black Sea by the Turkish Fleet.

Torpedoed Vessel.

Vessels torpedoed by the enemy during the week include the following: Greek steamer *Michael* (2,410 tons; built in 1890). Cargo valued at £200,000.

As the tenders received for the purchase of wheat in stock at the Delta Adult Reformatory, Cairo, were not satisfactory, new tenders were advertised for, to be sent in by November 25, 1916.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 30 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (if inde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 119. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 758.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGERABY.
P. O. B. 1905. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.
(AN ANZLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARREHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

PERSIAN MONEY VALUES.

A correspondent who has been travelling on relief work in the Russian Caucasus sends to *Common Sense* some remarkable figures about the Persian exchange. "Most of us believe that the credit of Russia and England is quite as good as that of Persia, yet in the exchange market Persia stands higher than either. The immense imports into Russia, both from England and from Persia—where a Russian army is operating—have produced a sale of rouble paper without any corresponding demand. . . . Between Russia and England there have been credit operations—loans—which have served to prevent the full drop in the value of the rouble in terms of the pound sterling. But Persia has not acted similarly, and we find that the sovereign has been dragged down to the level of the rouble, although there is little or no trade now between Northern Persia and England. In changing a pound sterling into Persian currency we lose about 29 per cent. of its original parity value; in purchasing roubles with our sovereign, we gain about 53 per cent.

"In the relief districts the price of food-stuffs has risen enormously. Taking the pre-war standard as 100, the present price at Tabriz is 254, at Urumia 283, and at the Armenian town of Van 338. Thus we are well within the mark if we take 88 per cent. as the average rise in prices for the relief undertaken from Tiflis as a base, and 154 per cent. as the rise in Persian prices. For goods bought in Tiflis the gain on exchange is more than compensated by the loss on increased prices, the purchasing powers of the sovereign being reduced to 81 per cent. of the normal. In Persia, where both exchange and high prices tell against English purchasers, the efficiency of the sovereign is reduced to the low figure of 28 per cent."

ENEMY PROPERTY IN EGYPT.

The following Proclamation by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt appears in the *Journal Official*:—

"Whereas by the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, provision was made for obtaining particulars of enemy property in Egypt; and whereas it is important, on the other hand, to obtain particulars of all property in enemy territory belonging to persons resident or carrying on business in Egypt, and of all claims of such persons against enemy persons and Governments;

"Now I, Archibald James Murray, in virtue of the powers with which I am invested as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief his Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt, hereby order as follows:—

"1. Every person resident or carrying on business in Egypt who is entitled to property of any description whatsoever in enemy territory, or who has any claim against an enemy Government or against any person who is an enemy person within the meaning of Article 1 of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, shall make a detailed declaration of such property or claim within thirty days from the publication of the present Proclamation.

"2. Declaration shall be made to the Public Custodian of enemy property in Egypt at the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, and shall be in such form as the Public Custodian may direct.

"3. For the purposes of the present Proclamation:—

(a) The word 'person' shall include companies, partnerships, and associations of persons corporate or unincorporate.

(b) The term 'enemy' territory shall include all territory of any State at war with his Britannic Majesty, and all territory in the effective military occupation of any such State."

Recent events in Abyssinia have drawn attention to the banks of the Red Sea and of the Indian Ocean, where France possesses important economic interests, too little known, says a Paris contemporary. These interests are not only concentrated in the great port of Jibuti; they range themselves along the Yemen Coast, where France occupies a position of first-rate importance from a commercial point of view as far as the distant shores of the Persian Gulf, where French merchandise is very much in demand, but where the French flag—except on the small islets of Muscat—has not made its appearance for less than a quarter of a century.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has been more unsettled than for some time back, and there has been a disposition on the part of traders to restrict their purchases. More bearish influences have prevailed in raw cotton circles and values in American cotton are nearly a penny a lb. lower than the top. The political crisis and the unfavourable military position have had a disturbing effect upon trade generally. Sellers of yarn and cloth have not given way in price equal to the drop in the raw material, but producers have found it much more difficult to sell.

Considerable activity has recently occurred in piece-goods suitable for Egypt, but shippers this week have been less disposed to purchase freely. Large contracts, however, are on the books, and it is to be hoped that there will not be any serious depreciation in values before such supplies are cleared abroad.

Some speculative purchasing has occurred for certain Near Eastern outlets, but buying has been very irregular. For India fewer wires have come through, making offers for cloth and bleaching descriptions continue to attract more attention than grey staples.

No general support has been given by China, although it is said certain standard makes are wanted in Shanghai. Home trade buyers have been less inclined to anticipate future wants. The position of most manufacturers remains healthy, and there has been no running after fresh orders.

American yarns for home use are easier on the liver in sympathy with the lower rates in Liverpool and New York. Individual spinners, however, have been stiff, and concessions in price have not been easily obtained. So far as sales are concerned, it has been a smaller week than for a long time back.

Prices in Egyptian yarns have also given way somewhat, but producers are indifferent sellers, and mills in Bolton and district continue busy. In connection with the wages dispute the Government has stepped in, and although an actual settlement has still to be arranged, it is quite impossible for any strike to take place.

COTTON SPINNING IN 1916.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of Lancashire cotton spinning companies for the twelve months ending November 30, 1916. The list contains particulars of 62 concerns. The total paid up share capital of these companies amounts to £2,230,639, with loan capital of £1,192,616. Of the sixty-two companies sixty have made a profit for the year and two a loss. The total profit for the twelve months after paying interest on loans and allowing for depreciation amounts to £250,188. The profit on share capital works out at 11.22 per cent. per annum against less than 1 per cent. per annum in 1915.

The total value of the plant of these mills, including machinery, is £2,702,989. The year opened with spinners of yarn in a fairly healthy position, but business has gradually become still more profitable, and at the moment the production of the mills is deeply sold at remunerative rates, the margin of profit being healthier than at any time since the beginning of the war. Employers have been harassed by the shortage of labour, and the output of machinery is much less than in pre-war days. The sixty-two mills contain 1,821,574 mule spindles, 3,351,453 weft spindles, and 374,972 ring spindles.

A ridiculous and mischievous rumour is interfering with the urgent work of recruiting men for railway construction in Mesopotamia. The *Madras Mail* learns of many cases in which men at the last moment hang back because they have been told by ignorant and irresponsible people that, though recruited for non-combatant work, they may be made to take part in fighting. Every man recruited enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State, wherein it is specified in what capacity he is to be employed, so that employment in a combatant capacity would be a gross breach of faith.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply to Ports and Light-houses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, of iron, steel, etc., required for the financial year 1917. (December 22.)

Agents Wanted.

A well-known firm in Birmingham is desirous of appointing agents in the principal towns of Egypt for the sale of yellow greases, belt greases, soluble oils, colours, varnishes, etc. Further information on application to the British Chamber of Commerce, 6, rue l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria.

Accepted Tenders.

The Egyptian Ministry of War has accepted the following tenders—

For the supply of cotton seed oil into the War Department Stores, Tûra, by Messrs. J. Riches and Co., Cairo; £E7,275.

For the supply of caustic soda into the War Department Stores, Tûra, by the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, Ltd., £E917.

For the supply of talc into the War Department Stores, Tûra, by Mr. Maurice Ab. Israel, Cairo, for the total sum of £E61,200 millimes.

COTTON GROWING IN MOROCCO.

Experiments in cotton-growing in Morocco have gone on uninterruptedly, in spite of the war, under the direction of General Lyautey. Before the declaration of war satisfactory results had been obtained by a few colonists at Colomb Bechar, Ravat, Ain-Zibet, and Souk-el-Raba (says *The Times* Trade Supplement for December). A sample of the crop was submitted to a Liverpool house in November, 1913, and estimated to be worth from 11d. to 1s. ginned, and to be more resisting and finer than most of the Egyptian and Georgian cottons.

In 1914, 35 hectares (87 acres) were sown; in 1915, 12 hectares (30 acres); and in 1916, 45 hectares (112 acres). The crops were abundant, in spite of unfavourable circumstances, due to migration and to late picking. The yield per hectare (2½ acres) was 1,000 kilos (2,200 lbs.) for the variety known as Abassi; 1,400 kilos (3,080 lbs.) for Accabari; and 1,000 kilos for Porto Rico.

The verdict of the experts on the new plant, Porto Rico, was as follows:—"A very fine cotton—white, brilliant, with very long, fine, and nervous silk." On the market, whereas the rates of the various varieties ran from 60 fr. to 100 fr. (£2 8s. to £4) for the 50 kilos (110 lbs.), Porto Rico fetched 200 fr. (£8). The receipts per hectare in 1915 were, for Abassi, 2,240 fr. (£89 12s.); 2,408 fr. (£96 6s. 8d.) for Murabi; and 4,000 fr. (£160) for Porto Rico.

Morocco is regarded as the future cotton-producing centre for France. It has a splendid system of rivers, running plentifully all through the year. The Oued Sebou, Oued El Rivia, Oued Sous, Oued Moulouya, with their muddy waters, can easily irrigate the high valleys and the plain.

In a lecture delivered in London last week Mr. D. F. Pennefather, M.P., discussed "The Empire and the Cotton Plant." From Egypt and the Sudan, said Mr. Pennefather, came about 1,500,000 bales of cotton, much of it being, on account of its qualities, used as silk. Russia produced about a million bales, upon the whole fairly good. From Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and Turkey came about 2,000,000, some of it used in woollen fabrics.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, December 7.

Currents.

There has been only a moderate activity in the market during this week, but prices are well maintained. The situation in Greece is causing considerable uneasiness, and unless favourable developments soon ensue the effect in the currant markets here, as well as in Greece, will be grave.

Sultanas.

The demand is good, and a fair amount of business has been done in Afghan and Australian fruit at full prices.

Raisins.

About 138 tons of Valencias were offered at public sales this week and met a slow demand, only a small part having been disposed of at late rates; quarter boxes common to good sold at 52s. to 55s., and seedless at 62s. to 65s.

Seeds.

Linseed continues to be very firm and slightly dearer this week. London-Calcutta, spot and afloat, is quoted at 110s.; whilst December-January is offered at 112s. with few buyers at that figure. Ordinary Bombay, December-January, quoted to-day 113s. Rapeseed is firmly held; bold Ferozepore, December-January, finds buyers at 90s., whilst Toria, ditto, is quoted at 93s. Cotton seed is quieter, but quotations advanced

since last week; Sakelarides, loading, is quoted £19 12s. 5d., London. Mustard seed is in moderate demand and practically unchanged. Rangoon beans show a slight advance on the week, both for spot parcels and for arrivals. Canary seed is in better demand for export. Spanish and Morocco are obtainable at late rates.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been quieter this past week; spot pipes sells at £53 5s.; barrels, ditto, at £54 5s., landed terms. Rape oil is firm, but with little doing. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £52; English refined, barrels, £54 to £56. Cotton oil is very firm for crude spot pipes at £50, refined pale nominal, and barrels sweet at £59 to £60 as to make. Olive oil is also very firm, Spanish spot selling at £68 per tun, ex store, in barrels. Soya oil is steady at £46 5s. for December-January shipments.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes.—All recent arrivals of Egyptian have been cleared and a fair amount of business has been done in December shipments at £14 10s. ex ship. English made cotton cakes are sparingly offered at £15 12s. 6d. to £16 2s. 6d. Linseed Cakes.—The market is practically bare of stocks, whilst offerings for shipment are very limited, the average quotations being £18 to £19 10s. per ton, ex mill, for English made

cakes, and American at £17 2s. 6d. per ton. Maize germ meal, white African, can be obtained only in small quantities at about £16 15s. per ton; and English made at £16 15s. to £17 2s. 6d. per ton ex mill.

TOBACCO IN ALGERIA.

The British Consul-General at Algiers reports that an American syndicate has for some time been negotiating with local tobacco merchants with a view to the acquisition of their businesses, and that it has secured from the large majority of them an option to purchase within the next six months.

In this connection the Consul-General has forwarded an extract from the local Press, dated November 1, containing the report of a Commission appointed by the Governor-General to consider, *inter alia*, the whole question of a tobacco monopoly. The Commission recommends (1) the institution of a partial monopoly of tobacco, comprising the taking over by the State of the production and importation of the raw leaf tobacco and the general sale of manufactured tobaccos; (2) the institution by the State of a model manufactory; and (3) State encouragement of independent manufacturers. It is thought that by these means the producer would be protected from any violent fluctuations in prices, and the interests both of the consumer and of those traders who elect to remain independent would be safeguarded.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT**COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.****THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.****The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.**The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Projected Volga-Don Canal—Link with the Black Sea.

The British Acting Vice-Consul at Rostof-on-Don reports that, according to the local press of September 13, the project for the construction and equipment of a Volga-Don canal, as designed by the Russian Minister of Ways of Communications, has been approved by the Government. A party of engineers has been appointed to carry out detailed technical surveys and to consider other questions connected with the execution of this large enterprise. The projected canal will play an important part in the economic development of south-eastern Russia and of the Volga and Don Basins. Grain from Tsaritsain and timber and ore from the Urals will thereby obtain a direct outlet to the ports of the Sea of Azof and thence to the Black Sea. Moreover, the canal will make it possible to supply coal to all the chief cities and industrial centres of the Volga and surrounding country from the rich coal district of the Donetz Basin. It is thought that there will be a prosperous future for Rostof, which will be the outlet for the products using the new route.

The Sudan Railways.

The Sudan railway authorities intend to relay the remaining portion of light rail track between Atbara and Abu Hamed with heavy section rails, and thus complete the work begun in 1912. For this purpose the new sleepers are being creosoted at Atbara, so that they will be safe from the attacks of white ants. It is well known that the Sudan railway service has an installation at Atbara by means of which creosote oil is introduced into the capillary pores of the sleepers as follows:—The sleepers are placed in trolleys,

which are pushed inside a large air-tight steel cylinder. The air is then sucked out of the cylinder by means of electric pumps, and when a vacuum is created in the cylinder and in the pores of the sleepers the oil is admitted into the cylinder from a large storage tank, and it works its way into the core of the wood. When the cylinder is full, more oil is forced into it by means of pumps, and this ensures the sleepers being saturated. When this is done the oil is worked back into the storage tank by means of pumps, and the sleepers are taken out. Creosote oil is a poison to the white ant, and wood treated with it will not be attacked by this ant.

Russian Railway Projects.

The railway programme of the Russian Government continues to receive great attention in the Continental Press. It includes one project intended to develop the Volga districts and to connect the Ural region and Central Asia with transit lines to Moscow and Petrograd. The following railways have been under consideration:—Galitch-Kazan-Bogatoe line (on the Tashkent Railway), 834 versts, estimated to cost 88,000,000 roubles; or, alternatively, a Manturoff-Kazan-Bogatoe line (710 versts), to cost about 75,000,000 roubles; or a line from Galitch to Kazan and Orenburg (1,213 versts), to cost 123,000,000 roubles; or a Manturoff-Kazan Orenburg line (1,080 versts), to cost about 110,000,000 roubles.

Electric Tramways.

Russian municipalities have shown great readiness in adopting comprehensive electric tramway schemes, says the *Financier and Bullionist*. The list of towns now possessing such systems, as well as electric stations, is a long one; and previous to the war the list of other municipalities seriously discussing the establishment of electrical tramways and

lighting systems was remarkably long. The German tentacles that had spread over the Russian municipal system and so largely controlled the tramway systems, being now cut, there is another field open for specialists in foreign tramway systems—there are some such in Britain.

Public Works Wanted.

Sufficient has been said above to show that Russia is not only in urgent want of public works, but that her readiness to adopt the same is evidenced in her Budgets, where large sums of money are entered for the express purpose of their creation. But it requires a few moments' reflection, perhaps, to realise that Russia's immense population of 170,000,000 contains few very large towns, and that the population, therefore, is very widely distributed, and is made up of many villages and towns of various importance, each requiring the aid of the skilled engineer and the money combination. The call, therefore, is not for the execution of a few gigantic engineering projects (of course, there are such), but rather for the endowment of a large number of important communities with a series of public utility works, constituting valuable investments both for the respective communities and contractors concerned.

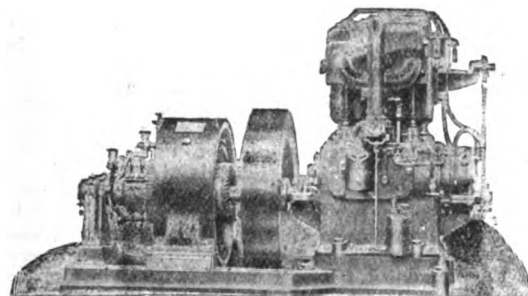
Geared Steam Turbines.

Geared steam turbines are making great headway in the domain of marine engineering. Last year, of nine turbine-engined vessels built, with a view to classification in Lloyd's Register, six had geared turbines. At the present time, with the same object in view, there are fifty-two vessels under construction in which geared turbines will be fitted. Of these twenty-five will have Parsons single-geared turbines, and twenty-seven will be equipped with Curtis double-reduction geared turbines.

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, ENGLAND.

OIL AND GAS ENGINES.

Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.



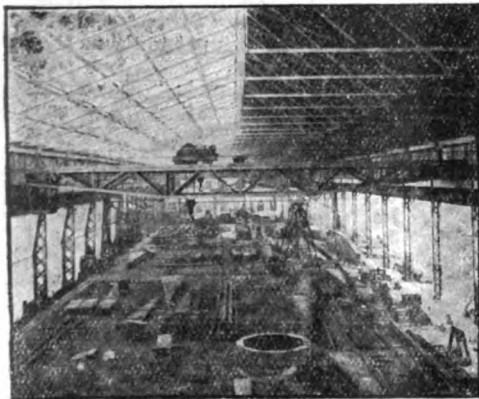
Suitable for
driving:—
Dynamos, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.

Foreign Branches and
Agents:

INDIA.
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dilsiz Zade Han,
Stamboul. Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.,
Cairo.



20 Ton Overhead Electric Travelling
Crane.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS AND OTHER RAILWAY PLANT

(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers.)

SUCH AS

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes, Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements.
Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "BLUIFF, LONDON."

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.

The 19th ordinary general meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Ltd., was held on December 4 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ernest Hamilton (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. R. Branch) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The record of your ships' services for the past 12 months is briefly as follows: a certain number of your boats have from time to time been requisitioned by the Government for various purposes. Some of these ships have subsequently been released, and again requisitioned at a later period. All such ships as were left in our hands have been used for ordinary trading purposes as tramp steamers, with the exception of the s.s. *Kosseir* and one other which had to be kept as a reserve for the *Kosseir*, the *Kosseir* having been used to maintain the Cyprus mail service. This service has not been a source of profit, but we were bound to it under the terms of our contract with the Government, and the fact that it is no longer profitable is an incident of the war and one which we have got to face. Our old contract with the Egyptian Government, whereby we were subsidised to the extent of £6,000 a year with the obligation to maintain certain mail services, has naturally had to be very much modified, the Constantinople mail service having been for obvious reasons impossible. As the agreement now stands, we are in receipt of a reduced subsidy, with the obligation to maintain certain services in the Red Sea, and with a further obligation, if called upon by the Government, to run a mail service between Alexandria and Piræus.

The result of the year's working is satisfactory by comparison with the profits of former years. (Hear, hear.) I do not, however want shareholders to run away with the idea that the satisfactory results obtained are entirely due to the war or to causes arising out of the war. They are, no doubt, to a very great extent due to the abnormally high freights which have ruled during the past 12 months, but they are also in some measure traceable to the generally improved condition of the company. During the past few years several much-needed reforms and economies have been instituted. The fleet has been reduced in size and very greatly improved as regards efficiency, and last, but not least, the debt on the steamship *Osmanieh*, which has for the past ten years been hanging round the neck of the company, has at last been paid off. It must be remembered, too, that in normal times a certain number of our ships were very profitably employed for about six months of the year in the Egyptian pilgrim traffic, but for the remainder of the year—not all, but a certain proportion—they had to be laid up at considerable expense to the company, as there was no opportunity of suitably employing them. During the past twelve months there has been no laying up of ships. All have been constantly employed except when under repair, and I think it must be a source of real gratification to all connected with the company that so many of our ships have proved of service to the country in the national crisis. (Hear, hear.) Though such Government service is naturally less profitable than ordinary trading, I am sure that none of us for one moment regret that these ships have been called upon to help the country in its need. (Hear, hear.)

I wish to go rather closely into the question of the dividend which it is recommended should be paid on the Ordinary shares. The amount of this dividend has been the subject of very considerable discussion and debate, and I wish to take the opportunity of putting before the shareholders the main reasons which have actuated us in arriving at a decision. I do this for the following reason—namely, because, although I feel personally convinced that we have done the right thing this year in recommending the dividend which you will presently be called upon to approve, I am very anxious that shareholders should not

necessarily look upon this as a precedent which would govern future years. What I mean is, I am very anxious that, in the event of our profits for the coming twelve months being in the neighbourhood of the previous twelve months, Ordinary shareholders should not feel aggrieved if the directors do not think it expedient to recommend another dividend of the same proportions as the present one. The present dividend amounts, together with the bonus, to 25 per cent. The amount distributed is split up into dividend and bonus for the following reasons: It was felt that on one or two occasions in former years the company had earned profits which might legitimately have been distributed among the Ordinary shareholders. This was not done at the time for prudential reasons, anticipating certain possible adverse conditions which in the event did not materialise. It was felt that some reparation was due to the Ordinary shareholders for their disappointment on these occasions, and I think I may say, broadly speaking, that the 10 per cent. bonus was aimed at being compensation in some measure for the failure of the company to declare an Ordinary dividend on the occasions I have indicated. I again say that I think we have done right in declaring this dividend and bonus—(hear, hear)—but I particularly want the directors to have a free hand and free discretion with regard to the future. We are this year carrying forward £23,500, which is a reasonable amount, but by no means excessive, under the circumstances.

The obvious reason for not distributing profits up to the hilt is the very great desirability of accumulating a reserve fund by means of which we may in the future be able to add to the strength of our fleet, and in this way so increase our earning capacity that a good dividend on the Ordinary shares may be paid regularly, and not sporadically as at present. (Hear, hear.) Our ships this year have undergone many very greatly needed repairs both as regards structure and machinery. By the time we have done with them I think they will all be good serviceable ships of which we shall have no reason to be ashamed, but they are very far from modern. I merely mention this so that shareholders may realise the paramount importance of the company being in such a financial position that it may be able to take advantage of any opportunity that offers for acquiring more modern tonnage in the future and so competing successfully with other shipping companies. (Hear, hear.) The acquisition of such modern tonnage should be the means of prolonging, if not of maintaining permanently, a good dividend on the Ordinary shares. I think even Ordinary shareholders will agree that it must be mistaken policy to divide profits up to the hilt when the necessity of replacing some of our older ships in the near future seems so very imminent. It will probably be of interest to shareholders to learn something with regard to the investment of such capital sums as have fallen in owing to the sale or sinking of certain units of the fleet. The steamships *Minieh*, *Caloubieh*, and *Prince Abbas* were hypothecated to the trustees for the Debenture holders, and the proceeds of these three ships and the floating dock at Alexandria, which has been sold, have been handed over to the trustees for the purpose of investment and for the partial liquidation, if need be, when the times comes, in 1918, of the Debenture debt. The steamships *Saidieh* and the *Assouan* were free ships—that is to say, they were not hypothecated under the trust deed—and the proceeds of these have been invested by the directors in War Loan and Exchequer bonds. (Hear, hear.)

I should not like to close without making some reference to the splendid work of the Alexandria staff. Our new manager, Mr. Curwen, has for two consecutive years forgone the three months' holiday to which he is entitled under his agreement with the company. Anyone who has had experience of the climate of Alexandria in the three hot summer months will realise that this means no insignificant sacrifice. I think all of us connected with the company feel proud of its achievements during the past 18 months and of its greatly improved condition. It is always a pleasure and a pride to be associated with a concern which is on the upward grade, and I think we can all say, without any fear of contradiction, that the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company is very decidedly

on the upward grade. (Hear, hear.) I beg to move: "That the report of the directors, together with attached statement of the company's accounts as on the 30th June, 1916, duly audited by Messrs. Edwin Guthrie and Co., be and they are hereby adopted."

Mr. Francis Allen: Gentlemen,—It is unnecessary for me to add anything to what the Chairman has just said, and I have very great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

After some questions had been asked Mr. Hugh Reeves said: My Lord and Gentlemen,—I do not wish to ask any questions, but I should like to congratulate you on the excellent results of the past year's trading. I was very pleased to hear you state that we had rendered a national service in placing our fleet at the disposal of the Government. I think nowadays that those people who are in the fortunate position of having rather better incomes from something which is connected with war work need not be afraid of hiding their light under a bushel and putting away their profits so that nobody can see them. This is the most satisfactory account we have ever had, and I only wish that you had a larger body of shareholders here to congratulate you. We are certainly a fairly small family. We have only £300,000 of capital, and all I can imagine is that those shareholders who have not come here are so satisfied with the excellent report which you have published, or we fortunate shareholders have bought all their shares already. I was a little bit disappointed that you referred to the probable distribution on the Ordinary shares in the future, because shareholders have only to study the balance-sheet, notwithstanding the very clear remarks you have made, to see what our position is. Obviously our fleet is very much undervalued in the balance-sheet. Those who happen to know Egypt, even to the extent I do, will know that your land and buildings are very much under-valued. Roughly, after setting aside sufficient to pay your debtors and your open trade creditors you have a surplus of £100,000. If you add that to your fleet and your land, we shareholders have a property worth nearer one million of money than anything else, clear of all debts. (Hear, hear.) Now, if you can manage to pay us a dividend on that big asset proportionate to its huge capital value, we, of course, are particularly satisfied. On the other hand, if you, the Board, make careful reserves to replace some of our ships you will be entirely supported by us in doing so. There is one other point with regard to which I noticed a distinct omission in your speech—that is, you forgot to tell us what you, the members of the Board, have had to do during the past year because of the nature of this business, which was previously carried on almost entirely locally and is now almost worldwide. That is something which we shareholders should not forget, and I do not think those who have thought of it have forgotten it. I have given notice of a resolution which I should like to move presently—not that it will in any way compensate the Board, if it is passed by the shareholders, for their additional work, but it will record the fact that we shareholders are not unmindful of the good work which they have done. I should like to support the motion for the adoption of the report. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a final dividend of 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 10 per cent., on the Ordinary shares of the company, for the year ended 30th June, 1916, be and is hereby declared payable on the 30th December, 1916."

This was seconded by Mr. Francis Allen, and, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Reeves said that as the company had been very prosperous during the past year he had given notice of the following resolution: "That the company defray the income-tax on all directors' fees payable for the period covered by the accounts before this meeting." He had already stated why the shareholders should recognise the excellent services rendered by the directors. They had more than doubled the "take" of the company this year, and they were working for the same fees. If they could in any way approach such a result next year he thought they would have from the shareholders' side of the table a suggestion

that they should be better remunerated, because they had been deprived of the services, by absence, of several of their colleagues, owing to the difficulty of getting from one side of the world to the other. Mr. Bowen Rees had been unable to attend any Board meetings, Mr. Head had been in the Army service, and Mr. Wellhoff and Mr. Swinglehurst had been in Egypt and had not been able to get here. It would therefore be realised that the gentlemen sitting in London had had great difficulties to contend with. They had been engaged in fresh business, and yet they had handled matters in an extremely satisfactory way for the shareholders, and he hoped that they would support him in passing the resolution.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Societe Generale de Pressage.

The report of the Board of Directors of the Société Générale de Pressage et de Depots, which was read before the annual general meeting on October 30, states that during 1915-1916 479,527 bales, weighing 3,604,352.62 cantars, were pressed, against 536,850 bales, weighing 4,066,073.97 cantars, during the preceding year. Cleaning by machinettes amounted to 879,758.40 cantars against 1,222,528.14 last year. A profit of £E33,348 was declared after writing off expenses, interest on the 1898 loan, and depreciation. This allowed the distribution of a dividend of 10 per cent. per share and a return of P.T. 100 per thousand cantars to the pressers. In addition a bonus was declared, being half of the 4 per cent. retained on the profits of 1913-14. Thus shareholders received £1 16s. per share, 3 per cent., or 12s. per share having been paid last March—making altogether a dividend of 12 per cent. or £2 8s. per share. Mr. F. Allemann was elected to the board of directors in the place of Mr. C. L. Allemann retired, and Messrs. W. R. Carruthers and T. A. F. Critchley were re-elected.

Nile Cold Storage.

The annual general meeting of the Nile Cold Storage Company was held in Cairo on November 11 in the presence of shareholders representing 5,674 shares out of a total issued capital of 9,638 shares. Dr. Herbert Milton, the chairman of the company, presided. In moving the adoption of the balance-sheet and directors' report for the financial year ending June 30, 1916, the chairman drew attention to the fact that as in the previous year, the satisfactory profit which had been made resulted from the heavy turnover of the company's business, which for the year under review was close upon three-quarters of a million sterling. He also pointed out that the shareholders were to be congratulated on the successful reconstruction of the original capital of the old company, a large proportion of which had in earlier days been lost. The capital of the new company, as of the old, was now £50,000, and he calculated that the original shareholders of the old company who had had sufficient courage to retain the shares through thick and thin had received in the form of cash dividends a return representing about 10 per cent. per annum on the original outlay. Mr. Astley P. Friend was re-elected a director of the company; and Messrs. Russell, Harris, and Co. were re-appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

COMPANY REPORTS.

P. and O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30 last states that, after making provision for depreciation on ships and investments and for various appropriations, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £78,182 brought forward from last year, of £669,645. The directors propose a 12 per cent. dividend and 6 per cent. bonus on the original deferred stock, free of income-tax, and a 6 per cent. dividend and 6 per cent. bonus on the deferred stock recently created, free of income-tax, leaving £85,329 to be carried forward to next account. Some property not now required by the company has been sold at a profit. Several outstanding unadjusted accounts, for which provision had been made in previous years, have been closed, leaving credit balances. These factors, combined with the result of the year's operations, admit of an increase of 2 per cent. in the dividend and 1 per cent. in the bonus, and an addition to the reserve fund of £126,000. In the statement of accounts the book value of the fleet, plant, payments on account of ships under construction, property, stores, investments, and cash have this year been brought together as a matter of convenience. Debenture stock to the extent of £100,000 has been redeemed, but the company has power to re-issue this at any time. The expense of loading and discharging the steamers, owing to the rise in wages, has greatly increased, and the cost of victualling, running, and working the ships, to which reference was made in the last report, has been much higher than it was during the previous year, in addition to which London dock dues have been augmented to cover the higher rates paid for labour, and the Suez Canal Company's tariff has been raised. The company's fleet has been reduced by nine steamers during the year. The company has suffered severely by the loss of the services of these ships. The two mail steamers which have been under construction for some time have made a certain amount of progress, as well as two large vessels with refrigeration which were ordered in the early part of 1916; but construction has been greatly delayed owing to Admiralty requirements. As soon as the building yards are in a position to construct mercantile tonnage with a prospect of assured delivery, several new ships will be ordered. The company has acquired practically the whole of the ordinary shares of the New Zealand Shipping Company, Ltd., paying for them by an issue of £905,820 P. and O. deferred stock, which was authorised by an extraordinary general meeting of the stockholders held on September 7. This stock ranks *pari passu* with the stock previously issued, and carries dividend and bonus for the six months ended September 30, 1916. The P. and O. Company's shares in the New Zealand Shipping Company ranked for the final dividend for the year ended June 30, 1916. This has been received and brought to account. Half of the P. and O. Company's fleet has been in the service of the Government during the past year at pre-war rates. Meeting, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C., December 13, at 11 a.m.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the twelve months ended August 31 states that the gross profits are

£E99,505.181, from which has to be deducted general administration expenses, £E2,065.578, and interest on debentures, £E3,604.269, leaving a net profit before writing off depreciation of £E93,835.344. The directors have set aside for depreciation of the various factories, £E11,323.258; writing down the value of the patent rights in connection with the new oil processes, £E2,000; provision made for completion of new works at Moharrem Bey for the exploitation of the new oil processes, £E20,000; and amount transferred to reserve for bad and doubtful debts, £E3,000, leaving a balance of £E57,512.086, which, added to the balance carried forward from last year, makes a total of £E118,642.878. The directors propose a dividend of 12½ per cent. on the share capital, and that the balance of £E57,974.478 be carried forward. Meeting, 22nd inst., 3.30 p.m., Alexandria.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meetings.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, Ltd., will be held at Alexandria on Friday, December 22, at 4 p.m.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company will be held at Alexandria on December 22, 1916, at 3.30 p.m.

An extraordinary general meeting will be held immediately after the seventeenth ordinary general meeting, when the following resolutions will be proposed: That the articles of Association be altered in manner following:—Article 92 shall be cancelled and the following Article substituted therefor, namely: "The remuneration of the Directors shall be the sum of £2,000 (two thousand pounds) per annum, which sum shall be divided among them in such proportion and in such manner as they shall agree, or in default of agreement equally."

Alexandria and Ramleh Railway.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Alexandria on December 19. Agenda:—1. To receive and consider the annual statement of accounts and balance-sheet and the reports of the directors and auditors thereon, and to fix the amount of dividend. 2. To elect auditors for the ensuing year and fix their remuneration. 3. To elect directors in the place of those retiring by rotation. 4. To increase the directors' remuneration for the past year from £600 to £1,000.

Oil Outputs.

Bibi Eibat.—Production week ended November 26, 854 tons.

British Maikop.—Production week ended November 25, 31 tons.

European.—Production week ended November 26, 75,900 poods.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

Notice is given that Coupon Serial No. 24 on share warrants to bearer of this company for interim dividend declared of 5 per cent. (less income-tax) in respect of the year ended December 31, 1916, will be payable on and after November 14, 1916, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., London, Cairo, and Alexandria.

Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates.—The Bank of England announce the numbers of 407 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates which have been drawn for redemption on January 1, when interest thereon will cease.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focsani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Pl-eshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000.

Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298-05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

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

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

THROGMORTON STREET,

Wednesday Evening.

There has been much less doing this week, no doubt owing to the political situation and the depressing Balkan news; but prices have remained, generally speaking, very firm, and to-day there has been a renewal of demand from Egypt for Agricultural Bank shares, with a fair business passing at about 5½.

National Banks have been quiet, and are rather easier at 14½. Behéras have been in demand, and have further jumped about ½ to 7½, but so far without business.

Delta Lights have been a firm spot, with buyers in the neighbourhood of 5½; a few hundred Delta Lands have changed hands at 9s. 1½d. Salts are rather quieter, in the neighbourhood of 24s., but not much business is being done; Khedivial Mails, after being up to 35s. 9d., closed quieter also, round 34s. 6d.

In New Egyptians, some further good buying carried the price up to 9s. 6d., but they are quieter again at about 9s. 3d. A few Sidi Salems changed hands at about 10s., and some United Lands at 11d.

In Greek securities, in the early part of the week some fair business was done in Monopoly round 49½ and 49, in 1884 at 53, in Rente at 42, in 1914 at 74, and in Rails at about 63. Some Currant Bonds changed hands to-day at 90. Since Monday, however, the market has been practically at a standstill owing to the very disquieting news from Athens.

News from Roumania has naturally depressed the markets. There has been a further relapse in Consolidated, which were pressed for sale and received very little support. Prices fell back 1s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.

Russian Oils were generally inactive, but North Caucasians were easier at 24s. 3d. Egyptians were quiet. Anglo-Persian Preferences were dull at 19s. 9d.

BRITISH BANKING AND EXPORTS.

Mr. G. P. Brown (manager pro tem. of the Manchester Branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank) opened a debate recently at the Athenæum in that city, the subject being "Is our present Banking System adaptable to the requirements of the Export Trade?" He said that Germany built up in a comparatively short period, say twenty to thirty years, a superb export trade, totalling at the end of 1913 £510,000,000, mainly by reason of a more elastic banking system prevailing in that country than in our own. He suggested that it is worth while considering whether the British financial world has hitherto been guided sufficiently by national considerations, and whether it is not possible in future to give wider facilities for the promotion of export trade and the national industries which feed it, without sacrificing anything that is sound in British banking practice. The difficulty was owing to the smallness of the Joint Stock Banks' own capitals and reserves in proportion to their huge deposits repayable practically without notice.

This made it necessary, Mr. Brown said, that the banks' principal consideration, first, last, and all the time, must be to keep their funds liquid. The Government should stand behind the existing banks to the extent of offering them advances, in case of emergency, up to a limit of 5 per cent. of the amount of their deposits and current account balances. Assuming goodwill and a ready response on the part of the banks, this would make available sixty millions sterling for the very same purpose as those for which the British Trade Bank is suggested, as it would to this extent entirely remove the bugbear of fear of sudden withdrawals.

The resolution was carried by a substantial majority.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA PROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price.	Price Dec. 1.	Present Price.
July 27, 1915.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	72	72
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907 ..	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1908 ..	80	46½	47
City of Alexandria 4½, 1909 ..	99	75	76½
City of Constantinople 5½ Bonds	96	67½	67
Egypt Gov. 3½ Guar. Loan ..	93½	68½	69
Egyptian 5½ Unified Debt ..	98	79½	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5½, 1890 ..	88	68	68
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890 ..	82½	61	63
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1896 (2½%)	80½	67	68½
Greek 5½, 1881 ..	57	54	54
Do. 5½, 1884 ..	56	54	53
Do. 4½ Monopoly, 1887 ..	49	49	49
Do. 4½ Rentes, 1889 ..	45	42	42
Do. 5½, 1890 ..	56	51	52
Do. 5½ Fndg. Ln., 1893 ..	54	50	50
Do. 4½ Rents, 1902 ..	77	63	63
Do. 5½ Nat. Ln., 1907 ..	94	90	90
Do. 5½ Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Do. 5½ Currant ..	—	—	89½
Montenegro 5½ Loan ..	82½	50½	50½
Persian 5½ Loan (1911) ..	91	75	74½
Roumania 4½ Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 460p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4½ Unified Bonds ..	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4½ Loan, 1885 ..	103	77½	77½
Do. 4½, 1891 ..	94½	—	76
Do. 4½ Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 ..	84	66	65
Do. 4½ Loan, 1902 ..	82½	—	—
Do. 4½ Unified ..	79	54	54½
Do. 4½ Loan, 1908 ..	65½	36½	36
Do. 4½, 1909 ..	69	34	33½

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4½ Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	7	7
Do. 3½ Bonds Red. ..	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ Guar. Bonds Red. ..	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank ..	12	12½	11½xd
Bank of Abyssinia ..	—	—	—
Bank of Athens ..	£2	3	3½
Bank of Roumania ..	8½	8½	8½
Eastern Bank ..	5	80½	78½
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank ..	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited ..	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt ..	13½	14½	14½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ C.P. ..	8	5½	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearers ..	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5½ Debs., Red. ..	98	80	80
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I. ..	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II. ..	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	11½	11½
Do. do. 6½ Cum. Pref. ..	22	12½	12½
Do. do. 4½ 1st Deb. ..	87	57	57
Do. do. 5½ 2nd Deb. ..	101	59½	59½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4½ ..	80	54½	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ % ..	90	74	74
Do. do. 3½ Bonds ..	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	17/6	1
Do. 5½ 1st Deb. Bonds Red. ..	—	92	92
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt ..	—	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	—	—	—
Do. do. Def. ..	8½	6½	7½
Behéras Co. ..	4½	3½	3½
Do. Pref. ..	2½	2½	2½
Daira Sanieh ..	—	7/8	—
Do. Def. ..	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5½ 1 Mt. Db. Rd. ..	9½	9½	9½
Do. Delta Land and Inves. ..	98	86½	85
Do. Gov. 4½ Irr. Tst. ..	5½	6½	6½
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	1½	1½	15/9
Gharbiyah Land Co. ..	—	—	—
Do. Founders ..	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt ..	—	97	97
Do. 5½ Debs. Red. ..	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5½ Cum. Pref. ..	98	7½	7½
Do. 4½ 1st Chgs. Debs. Rd. ..	97	75	75
New Egyptian Co. ..	93½	93½	9/3
Sidi Salem Co. ..	—	—	10/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands ..	1½	-79	-79

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co. ..	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12/6	13/-	100
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. ..	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels ..	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ 1st Mtg. Deb. ..	—	25/6	25/6
Do. do. 5½ Debs. Red. ..	99½	92½	93½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	24½	24½	24½
Do. 5½ 1st Mtg. Debs. Red. ..	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord. ..	—	35/9	34/6
Do. do. Pref. ..	—	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ 1st Mt. ..	90	94½	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7/500) ..	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels ..	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	12/6	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Persian ..	19/6	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields ..	3/1½	3/0½	3/0½
Roumanian ..	11/-	8/-	8/-

PARIS BOURSE.

Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	445	—	—
Canal de Suez ..	4035	4,110	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	660.50	660	—
Turkish Unified 4½ ..	59	—	—
Egyptian Unified 4½ ..	88	—	—
Serbian, 1896 ..	60	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON NOVEMBER 18.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 86	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11½	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Behéras	L.E. 54	—	—
Do. priv.	L.E. 3½	—	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Fr. 126	—	—
Bons de Panama	Fr. 107	—	—
Cassa di Boonto e di Risparmio (New)	Fr. 69½	—	—
Do. Privilegiée	Fr. 90	—	—
Cheikh Fadi	Fr. 76	—	—
Urbanes et Rurales	£ 2½	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte ..	£ 1	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	L.E. 8	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 4	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 80	—	—
Unifiée	—	—	—
Privilegiée	—	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—	—
Do. Fondateur	£ 24	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 30	—	—
Nungovitch Hotels	£ 24	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 3½	—	5½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3½	—	—
Do. Ord.	35/-	—	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 4	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 104	—	—
Do. Jouissance	Fr. 154	—	—
Egyptian Markets	25/-	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 220	—	—
Do. Div.	Fr. 180	—	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Fr. 190	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	Fr. 280	—	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 600	—	616
Do. 1886 Oblig.	Fr. 320	—	322
Do. 1903 ..	Fr. 249	—	280
Do. 1911 ..	Fr. 286	—	287
Delta Lands	—	—	—
Port Said Salt	37/-	—	—
Cotton Ginners	9½	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	P.T.	—	—
United Lands	—	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	34	—	—
Do. Fond	10	—	10½

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.	1916.
	Week ended	Week ended
	Nov. 25.	Nov. 23.
Cattle markets	715	1,059
General markets	359	350
Cattle markets closed	1	2
Receipts (£) ..	1,074	1,409
Total from commencement of year (£) ..	45,987	48,766

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended November 10, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
	£.	£.
Oct. 31-Nov. 10	6,475	8,947
April 1-Oct. 31	98,011	122,281

EGYPTIAN TARIFFS.

The Egyptian Journal Official of November 4, 1916, contains the following revised Tariff Valuations (No. 2) for use in assessing Customs duties on coal and coke imported into Egypt, with effect from November 1 to 30, 1916, the duty being leviable at the rate of 4 per cent. :-

Description.	Valuation per ton of 2,204lbs.
	£.
	Millièmes.
South Wales coal—Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, etc.	4-850
Newcastle, Sunderland, and other North country coal, South African and Indian Lancashire, Yorkshire, North Wales, and Scotland ..	4-400
Gas coal (Newcastle) for use in gas factories ..	4-350
Briquettes (patent fuel) from Swansea and Scotland ..	5-350
Dust slack coal, and small coal of any origin, also rubble culm and duff (excluding auzes) ..	4-000
Foundry coke and Cannel coal ..	6-000
Gas coke of any origin, including chemical coke ..	5-120
American, Belgian, and French coal ..	5-120
Anthracite coal of any origin ..	5-250

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packing), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoth, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 293.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	145	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	152	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	161
Cairo	147	The Soul of the Polish Race ..	153	Egypt's Finance and Trade ..	162
Cyprus	148	Another "Ayesha"	153	Trade Rivalry and How to	
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Ruins in Ceylon	153	Meet It.. ..	163
Relief for Syria.. ..	148	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	154	Produce Report	164
Young Turk v. Arab	149	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST ..	159	Shipping Notes.. ..	166
The Future of Palestine		LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	165
(Estelle Blyth).—I.	157	The Moslems of Cyprus (M.		Engineering Notes	166
LEADING ARTICLE—		Irfan Bey)	150	Egypt's Cotton Pest	165
"The Right Thing at the				Company Meetings	167
Right Time"	156			Company Notes	167
				On 'Change	168
				Stock and Share List	168

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Germany's offer of an armistice in order to negotiate peace terms lost nothing in its setting. A sudden summons to the Reichstag, following upon mysterious allusions in Sofia to epoch-making announcements that were to bring joy to the peoples of the Central Alliance before Christmas, had prepared, if not the world, at least the German people for much. We can but hope that they will be duly grateful to their rulers for what they have received. Certainly the offer concerns the Central Powers more than it does the Allies. The reply of the latter has already been given many times in advance. Nor are they likely to be favourably impressed with the manner in which the intentions of the German Government have been made known. "Our troops," said the Chancellor, "had so shaped conditions that they had given a security which was not only complete, but still greater than ever before," and, after a reference to the "unparalleled genius," Hindenburg, who, we are told, does not rest, "military operations progress. Simultaneously by strokes of the sword new firm foundations for our economic needs have been laid. . . . To these great events on land heroic deeds of equal importance were added by our submarines. . . . The Empire is not a besieged fortress, as our adversaries have imagined, but one gigantic, firmly disciplined camp with inexhaustible resources." In other words, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg celebrates the apotheosis of German militarism, which the Allies are determined to destroy.

Whether the German Government believes in the picture on which the Chancellor lavished so much paint we have no means of knowing; but it was in this spirit that the Note to the Allied Powers containing the offer of an armistice was drafted. There are references to the "unconquerable strength" of Germany and her Allies; they "have gained gigantic advantages over adversaries superior in number and war material. Our lines stand unshaken . . . the whole situation with regard to our troops justifies our expectations of further successes." If this be the case, it is very evident that there is no common ground on which the Central Powers and the Grand Alliance can meet to discuss peace terms. A Germany so confident of itself, or rather German militarism so firmly established, remains as great a menace to the world as it was before August, 1914. The Allies do not expect the Germans to understand their point of view, and there is, therefore, no need to waste words in the reply to these overtures. Briefly put, that point of view is that a world under

German domination, with German militarism free to rattle the sword at will, has become intolerable and unthinkable. The Allies may not put forward the German claim to a monopoly of Divine assistance, but they refuse to accept as final a dispensation which allows the negation of all laws, human and Divine, to triumph. They believe in the ultimate victory of Right and Justice over organised aggressiveness and brutality, and for that reason know that sooner or later they will be able to dictate peace on their own terms.

The German Note to the Allied Powers was a proposal to enter forthwith into peace negotiations. No mention was made of the terms which the Central Powers were prepared to accept, but statements, apparently inspired, issued in America, point to a proposal for a return to the *status quo ante bellum*, with certain important modifications. Among the latter are enumerated the creation of new kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania and changes in the Balkan boundaries, "but, at least, part of Serbia and Roumania to be restored." The restoration of Belgium and the occupied districts of France would be counterbalanced by the return to Germany of her African colonies. Unfortunately for Germany, the day has passed, and with it the authors of the policy, when British interests in the Balkans were regarded as *nil*, and when the cession of Cyprus without conditions was considered a suitable *douceur* for Greece's observance of her treaty obligations. There will have to be changes in Balkan boundaries, but not in the way anticipated by the Central Alliance. It may be that three years of war will be found to have simplified the problem by putting entirely out of court both Bulgaria and Greece as at present constituted. In any case the Allied Powers will be guided by the interests of future peace in Europe, and neutrals, to whom, together with the Pope, Germany especially appeals, will be able to judge the extent to which the German terms of peace hold out to small nations the prospect of guarantees for their "existence, honour and liberty of evolution."

At no time could the German offer of peace have been considered as a feasible proposition by the Allied Powers, but, least of all, at the present moment. Russia, Great Britain and France have in these last few days consecrated themselves afresh to a vigorous prosecution of the war. That deadly will-o'-the-wisp—an early collapse of the Central Powers—which has lured the Allies into the pitfalls and quagmires of half-heartedness and procrastination, has at last been scotched, when the list of possible mistakes has been well-nigh exhausted.

Even at Germany's estimate of her own strength, a struggle to the bitter end is accepted. But the Allies cannot afford to overlook the sting in the scorpion's tail. "If, in spite of this offer of peace and reconciliation, the struggle should go on, the four Central Powers are resolved to continue it until a victorious end, but they solemnly decline every responsibility for this before humanity and history." By such words Germany may hope to ease her conscience for further exhibitions of frightfulness and super-frightfulness, and it is in this sense that the German Press dots the i's and crosses the t's of the Note. It may be well for the Allied Powers to meet these eventualities with an indication of their future policy. Germany's rulers will have realized by now that sooner or later a day of reckoning must come. Let it be clearly made known to them that, while for the German nation as a whole only honourable terms of peace are intended to be imposed as a result of its unsuccessful appeal to the arbitrament of war, for those responsible as the authors or instigators of the crimes and outrages which have sullied Germany's conduct of the war, terms of peace by no means honourable to them will be reserved.

The reconstruction of the British Government has led to the creation of a War Cabinet of five members, which will be practically in daily session, and will be responsible for the general supervision of war policy. Apart from the implicit confidence felt throughout Great Britain in the energy and determination which this Cabinet brings to the conduct of the war, those who are specially interested in the Near East have reason to be particularly gratified with the inclusion among the five of Lord Curzon and Lord Milner. The experience of the former in India and in Persia, the intimate knowledge that the latter has of Egyptian affairs, and the wide interests of both are a guarantee that the policy of ignoring the British Empire's close concern in Near Eastern and Middle Eastern affairs is a thing of the past. In Mr. Balfour, who succeeds Lord Grey of Fallodon, the Foreign Office has a Secretary of State whose breadth of vision and knowledge of the world justify the hope that a régime of *laissez faire* will make way for a more vigorous part to be played by Great Britain in the councils of Europe. Lord Curzon's appointment is most opportune at a time when a revision of the relations between Russia, Great Britain, and Persia has been rendered necessary by the events of the war. A general understanding between the two Great Powers has been reached; but the details, it is understood, have still to be filled in. We may hope that in the final arrangement equal provision will be made for the interests of the three States.

After the capture of Bucharest and Ploeshti the German advance in Roumania has slowed down, but it would be premature to speak yet of a definite check. In the north the Austro-German forces have been temporarily stayed and even counter-attacked. The left of the Russo-Roumanian line, however, has been bent back at one point across the Jalomitza, and it is probable that the whole battle front must still be withdrawn. Meanwhile, the German troops hurriedly concentrated for the Roumanian campaign may be found more useful elsewhere now that there has been a considerable shortening of the enemy's line. German headquarters will have to choose between the relative value to their propaganda purposes of a further advance in Roumania and an attempt to overwhelm the Allied Army in Macedonia. The attraction of the former will be that it may yet yield some of the stores of grain which have been so conspicuously absent in the territories already conquered. On the other hand, there is evidence that the Bulgarians resent the loss of Monastir, and feel that their particular ambitions are receiving less attention than they deserve.

The Allied forces that captured Monastir have been able to make little headway immediately beyond the town. East of them, however, the Serbians are still not to be denied, and few days pass without some ground being wrested from the Bulgarians. The

strength of the enemy's counter-attacks north of Monastir points to his having been reinforced already. It remains to be seen, therefore, whether the Serbian gains will cause a Bulgarian withdrawal on the west before the whole line has had time to be strengthened. From other parts of the Macedonian theatre there has been little news during the past week. The grip of winter is fastening upon the country, and must retard operations, if it does not stop them altogether. In this connection, however, it may be recalled that the outstanding feature of General Milne's despatch, to which a brief reference was made in these pages last week, was the obviously subordinate part that the British troops were called upon to play in the plan of campaign. Such operations as were undertaken during the period under review had no definite objective in view, but were launched merely to support the main movement on the left of the line by preventing the Bulgarians from moving supports freely from one point to another. The policy of passive warfare for which the Salonika force has stood for so many months raises grave doubts regarding the Allies' interpretation in the past of the art of war. To contemplate this army still waiting without further support for von Mackensen to turn south and to reinforce the Bulgarians, with or without Greek co-operation, must cause misgivings. The resolve taken in Great Britain, France, and Russia to introduce more vigorous prosecution of the war has been reached not a day too soon. In no quarter, it would seem, is the speeding up of the Allies' efforts more urgent than in Macedonia.

A fortnight has passed since Greek forces opened fire on detachments landed from the Allied Fleet, but the Entente Powers have not yet exacted reparation for the outrage from King Constantine and his Government. The position is admittedly an awkward one. The long delay, however, points to the absence of close co-operation between the Allied Powers, who seem to be back again in the position in which they found themselves at the outbreak of the war, when every decision was subject to an almost interminable exchange of telegrams between the different Governments. If, as is hinted, the presentation of the Note to Greece has been delayed because one or other of the Ministers in Athens had not received his instructions, it is high time that the Allies arrived at a stage of sufficient mutual confidence which would enable two or more to act in cases of emergency in the name of all. For reasons that are amplified elsewhere in this issue, it is essential that King Constantine and his Army should be brought to book at once, and valuable time is thus being lost.

As a preliminary measure of exacting reparation a blockade of Greece has been established. The objections to land operations in the event of Greece not acceding to the Allies' demands are so obvious that it would be thought that naval power would be relied upon as the chief factor in the solution of the problem. No long time, therefore, is needed to collect the force required to support the terms of the Allies' Note. In these circumstances each day's unnecessary delay is a matter for regret. Immediately after the events of December 1 Athens was given over to outrages, official and unofficial, upon those who were known to be in favour of the National Movement at Salonika or supporters of M. Venizelos. The particular horrors by means of which King Constantine and the Greek Government sought to rival the Abdul Hamid régime in Constantinople at its worst may now have ceased owing to the perpetrators' courage having predeceased their lust. Realization of the possibility of being held to strict accountability caused them to stay their hand, but the crimes remain; the victims are for the most part still in prison, their property pillaged or destroyed. In view of the promises so lightly given by Admiral du Fournet to protect the Venizelists, the Allies have a double obligation to act expeditiously. As the worst consequences of the ill-fated landing might have been avoided by a vigorous use of the Fleet's guns, it is a matter of surprise that the French Government has not felt called upon to cut short the delay in retrieving its Admiral's omission on that occasion.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 23.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner, accompanied by Lady McMahon, proceeds to-night for a short trip to Upper Egypt. He will travel by special train to Luxor, and thence by steamer to Assuan, and is expected to return to Cairo in about a week's time. According to present arrangements, Sir Reginald Wingate will arrive from Khartoum with his Staff on December 20 in order to take up his duties as High Commissioner.

The Air Raid.

The local Press is still discussing the recent air raid and its unfortunate effects. The list of casualties, which was first given as 39—14 killed and 25 wounded—has now increased, and stands to-day at 50—22 killed and 28 wounded. The difference in the total is due to the fact that some of the wounded proceeded straight to their homes, and nothing was officially known about them for several days. H.H. the Sultan, ever in the van where public charity is called for, has ordered an inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the wounded and of the families of those killed, and has expressed his intention of personally affording financial assistance to those requiring it. This characteristically generous act has greatly affected the masses, who realise that their sovereign takes a personal interest in their welfare. The air raid has also shown the Sultan in another and praiseworthy light. When the news of the bombing of Cairo was received at Heliopolis, the Palace officials at once lowered the Sultanic standard and removed the tents which had been erected for the escort during his Highness's stay there. As soon as he heard of this, the Sultan gave orders that the standard should be at once rehoisted and the tents put up again.

This air raid took everyone by surprise. Many had thought that the Germano-Turks might quite conceivably attack Cairo from the air; but as they made no such attempt when they were so much closer to the Canal, and the time rolled by without anything of the nature taking place, everyone concluded that the Huns considered the venture scarcely worth embarking upon.

Although he was lucky in the number of his victims, the raider missed an excellent opportunity, which will certainly not occur again. All preparations have been made for further raids, which are now fully expected to follow.

The publication of the German communiqué announcing that during this raid Cairo railway station was destroyed, and the permanent way seriously damaged, has enabled the Egyptians, who, to their cost, know the real facts, to take the true measure of all announcements from Central Empire sources. It is to be hoped that it will lead them to realise what little faith can be put in German versions of war events.

The "Our Day" Appeal.

Once again Egypt has exceeded all our expectations; for her contribution to the "Our Day" appeal has this year reached the magnificent sum of £85,000. Last year no less than £115,000 was subscribed; but at that time the "Red Cross" was the only object before the Egyptians to appeal to their generosity, and a certain amount of pressure was brought to bear in the form of letters from the High Commissioner and other high British officials. This year, however, the people have been left to themselves. Beyond the initial publication of the appeal when it came out from London, no call has gone forth from the Residency or Government offices. Despite this and the even more important fact, as pointed out in THE NEAR EAST of the 10th inst. just to hand, that there was still looming in the near distance the Kitchen Memorial, with its own peculiar appeal to them, the Egyptians have come forward with a contribution which is a token to the world of their inherent generosity and of their loyalty to the protecting Power. To say that this response has come as a pleasant surprise is only giving mild expression to the feelings of the local British authorities when the result was made known to them.

The Upper Nile Projects.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, proceeded on Monday evening on a short visit to the Sudan. Although officially nothing is to be ascertained on the subject, I have reason to believe that his journey is directly connected with the Upper Nile irrigation projects. Certain valuable and interesting data have been lately obtained, as a result of the research work carried out during the past two years; and it is highly probable that, when Sir Murdoch returns to Cairo next month, a definite decision will be taken as to the direction in which serious construction is to be undertaken next year.

Sultanic Decorations.

Last Monday's *Official Journal* contained a long list of the decorations conferred by H.H. the Sultan on members of the naval and military forces which have been engaged in the defence of Egypt during the past two years. The list includes General Sir J. G. Maxwell and Rear-Admiral Sir R. E. Wemyss, on whom the first class of the Order of the Nile has been conferred, and the Duke of Westminster, who receives the Mohammed Ali Gold Medal.

A long list of honours is expected to be published on the 17th prox. on the occasion of the anniversary of the accession of Sultan Hussein. The various administrations have for some time been busy drawing up and revising the lists of eligible officials and notables. Very stringent rules have been laid down, and these will be strictly adhered to in the selection of those persons whom the Sultan will be asked to honour with a grade or a decoration.

Lecturing at the Camera Club last week, Professor W. C. Anderson said that during his visits to the Balkans he had never left a Bulgarian town without knowing that he had been swindled, but in a Turkish village he never lost a penny. The Turk gave him bread and salt freely; the Bulgarian sold him whatever he could, and then stole it back again.

A Reuter's message from Addis Abeba, after describing the recent fighting in Abyssinia and the defeat of Ras Mikha'il, says that Lidj Jeassu, the deposed Emperor, was never in the fighting, and nothing certain has been heard about him since his escape from Dire Daouwa. It is thought that he is hiding in the Dukali country. The Government has sent a large force to search for him.

Our Cairo "season" contemporary, the *Sphinx*, is to resume publication on the 16th inst., and will, as usual, continue to appear until the end of March. Miss N. Griffiths will again occupy the editorial chair, and, in spite of the difficulties attendant on the production of a paper in Egypt just now, the *Sphinx*, judging by the programme it has set itself, promises to be more interesting than ever. It will, as hitherto, remain a purely social, non-political, and non-controversial illustrated journal, and among its features will be original sketches by Mr. J. A. Sheppard, author of "Zig-zags at the Zoo," illustrations from the French Army Official Photographic Service, a second series of articles by "Greenshirt," author of the series entitled "An Idler in Cairo," etc.

Incorporated
A.D.
1720.



Head Office
ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON, E.C.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for
liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued to cover loss incidental to	FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUAR. ANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK, — THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —	at lowest possible premiums.
---	--	------------------------------------

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. M. L. Bell, Manager.
EGYPT—CAIRO: Everard Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.
Count Michel A. de Zogheb, Cairo Manager.
ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABBARI STORAGE COMPLY.
CYPRUS: NAJEM HOURY.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, November 25.

Greek Feeling and the War.

The Greek Press continues to express entire sympathy with the cause of the Allies for reasons of patriotism. Cyprus, it is hoped, will not fall behind Egypt, which contains so large a community of Cypriots, and which is heart and soul with the Allies. Greeks in Egypt have taken the lead in showing their patriotism by deeds as well as words.

Government Officials' Pay.

A large number of Government officials have held meetings at Nicosia, in order to combine in pressing their claims for higher rates of pay, on account of the increasing difficulty in making both ends meet.

The New Archbishop.

The election of the new Greek Archbishop took place on November 24, at the headquarters of the Orthodox Church in Nicosia. The Bishop of Papho, as *locum tenens*, presided. The Bishop of Kyrenia, Kyrillos, received 49 votes, and the Abbot of Kykkou 23, out of a total of 77; three electors abstaining from voting. Unanimity was not expected. The Primate, who is of advanced age, has been Bishop of Kyrenia since 1895. In 1900 both he and his namesake, the Bishop of Kition, were elected Archbishop by contending parties, and a deadlock ensued which lasted for nearly ten years. In 1910 a reconciliation took place, and the Bishop of Kyrenia retired in favour of his rival, and returned to his see, with the title of President of Kyrenia, in lieu of Metropolitan, which he has borne till now. He is a man of high character, an eloquent preacher, and widely esteemed. He is not of robust health. After thanking the Holy Synod and the chosen body of electors, he stated that he could not look forward to many years, but that he would devote the remainder of his life to the welfare of his flock and to the great and acknowledged needs of the island church. These no doubt call for drastic reforms, which it is generally hoped will now be no longer delayed. Among the principal are the raising of the clergy to a higher level, the wiser administration of church and monastic revenues, and the building and equipment of various schools.

WHO WERE THE HITTITES?

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, held last Tuesday, Dr. A. E. Cowley read a paper explaining and criticising the views on the Hittite question of Dr. Hrozný, Professor of Semitic Languages at Vienna. Dr. Cowley stated that there were two classes of Hittite inscriptions to be deciphered, cuneiform and hieroglyphic. In the first of these we had a known system of writing expressing an unknown language; in the other we had the much greater puzzle of an unknown system of writing concealing an unknown language. It was with the former only that Professor Hrozný had concerned himself. Dr. Cowley detailed the inscriptions which had as yet been discovered. The most important, he said, were those found in the years 1906 to 1912 by Winckler at Boghaz-keui, the Hittite capital in the north of Asia Minor. Some of these were in Semitic cuneiform, and could be read with comparative ease, others, though written in cuneiform, were in a language which was certainly not Semitic. On the material at his command Dr. Hrozný had formulated a theory that this people, living in the north of Cappadocia, beyond the Halys, shut in on the west by the non-Greek states of Asia Minor and on the east by the Kingdom of Van, in close contact with, and strongly influenced by Babylonia, spoke an Indo-European language, and one, moreover, belonging to the western branch rather than the eastern. Dr. Cowley examined at some length the evidence as yet advanced in support of this theory, concluding that it was not proven, but that we ought not to reject it off-hand, because we have not all the material on which Professor Hrozný bases it. We must wait for the publication of the new texts.

A short discussion followed.

Lord Reay, who presided, in the course of some remarks, moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Cowley, said that among the Caucasian languages there was a large mass of material which had not been very fully explored, in which, perhaps, clues might yet be found to the problems involved.

The Russian Ministry of Public Instruction has opened at Kazan a high school for young Tartar girls. The local newspaper, *Uzdiz*, sees in this a sign of the intellectual development of Russian Mussulmans.

RELIEF FOR SYRIA.

REGRETTABLE DELAYS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 21.

The fact that well-known neutrals, who left Syria this summer, have confirmed the previous reports that over 80,000 souls have perished in that unhappy country, either directly, through inanition, or indirectly, through disease brought about by poor or insufficient food, has roused the relief committees in England and America to energetic action. Syrians here have been watching with the deepest interest and satisfaction the magnificent movement in England, in which so many prominent Englishmen are taking part.

In America, the land of practical action, the desired solution seems to have been reached. The American Red Cross agent here recently received a telegram from New York informing him that a ship had been given to the Syrian Relief Committee, and asking that the President of the Cairo Relief Committee should remit the funds that he had now available. On the next day another telegram was received by the Cairo Committee from the New York Syrian Committee to the effect that the American Government has placed a steamer at the disposal of the committee, that further sums were required for the purchase of the necessary foodstuffs, and that a remittance of these sums by cable was required. To these two messages the Syrian Committee, to the effect that the American Government has a requested authority from the Allies to send a steamer from Egypt, and that their reply and the remittance of funds must depend upon the reply. Meantime a telegraphic assurance was requested as to whether it was clearly ascertained that the admission of the steamer to the port of Beyrout was definitely agreed upon.

The American Committee for the relief of Syrians and Armenians in Turkey then replied in the affirmative, and asked again for the remittance of the available funds. The Cairo Committee replied that negotiations had already been begun with the representatives of the Allies regarding the sending a steamer from Egypt, and that no further advice could be given before the receipt of the official reply. And again the question was asked whether the United States had an unequivocal assurance from their Ambassadors in London and Constantinople that the ship would be allowed into the port of Beyrout. The reply affirmed that Turkey and the Allies have granted permission for the relief ship to enter Beyrout, and again required a telegraphic remittance of the available funds. The Cairo Committee's reply was that the remittance of funds was impossible without a special licence from the Allies. And there the matter has since stood.

In this connection it is painful to record that, in spite of the fact that the Grand Rabbi and the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, as well as other spiritual heads, have been given their due place on the General Committee, and that it was clearly laid down in the rules of the committee that the funds to be collected were destined for distribution to all sufferers in Syria, irrespective of creed or denomination, few, if any, subscriptions have been made by Moslems or Jews in this country. This deplorable apathy has apparently reacted on other important centres in Egypt, such as Alexandria, Tantah, Mansourah, etc., where the Syrian community is fairly important, and some of its members are wealthy; for very little has been done, and several wealthy Syrians, who have, unfortunately, a poor reputation for munificence, have taken this as an excuse for not subscribing to the fund.

Sooner or later Syrians abroad will have to return to their country. For, once it is freed from despotic rule, they are sure to find there more prosperity and real happiness than in any other country; and if only they realized that by allowing the destruction of their compatriots at home they are indirectly destroying their own future happiness and prosperity, even the most miserly among them with any practical sense would no longer stint his help.

Fears are entertained about the fate of the relief funds or foodstuffs if the Ottoman Red Crescent were to have a hand in the distribution, and to a certain extent such fears are not unjustified. On the other hand, the Americans' moral and material interests in Syria are such as to make the depopulation of the country a very serious problem for them. Therefore, even apart from humanitarian considerations, the American Red Cross in Syria may well be expected to make the fullest possible use of the relief funds and foodstuffs.

YOUNG TURK v. ARAB. THE INTOLERANT "UNIONISTS."

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 10.

I am able to send you another document which the Grand Shereef has allowed to be published now that the right time has come. It constitutes yet another proof—if such be needed at this late hour—of the treacherous policy of the "Young Turks" in regard to the Arabs, of their overweening pride, and of their carefully prepared plans for the utter destruction of the Arab national spirit.

At the time when El Sayyed Kassim Zeinal, the deputy for Jeddah, proposed in Parliament: (1) the establishment of primary schools in which Moslems should be instructed in the Koran and learn to commit it to memory; and (2) the recognition of Arabic as the official language in Government departments, he was supported by all the Arab deputies and even by some of the moderate Turks. The Majliss was, however, stirred to its depths; there was tumult among the Unionists; and their spokesman, Hussein Jahid, made a most arrogant retort:—"Speak not of the Arabs, nor mention here their language or their books. Let them not think that they are anything but a negligible quantity. Let every Arab deputy know that what the Committee of Union and Progress does not decide upon the Majliss shall not decide upon." This declaration provoked loud and indignant protests on the part of three prominent Arab deputies—they have since been hanged in Syria—and the incident would undoubtedly have ended in a scuffle, had not the President hastily closed the debate and adjourned the sitting.

That same evening a deputation from the Unionist Club, headed by Hussein Jahid, proceeded to the residence of Shereef Abdullah; and there a discussion took place, which was of such a momentous character as to make the meeting an event of real historical importance. This may be seen by the following translation of a letter sent by the Shereef Abdullah to his father, the Grand Shereef:—

"Had I known, oh my father, that the Arabs were 'a negligible quantity,' as I have heard to-day in Majliss el Mabouthan [Parliament], I should have far preferred staying in Rabegn or Yambo, and the primitive tent-life of the desert, to living in your sumptuous palace dominating the hill of Buyukdere, and spending one minute in the hall of the Majliss to hear what every Arab soul must abhor. Who ever thought that I should hear from Hussein Jahid and his compeers words of threat and intimidation, on account of certain legitimate demands laid before the Majliss by the Deputy for Jeddah? The fact of these demands being purely Arab made the Unionists fly into a rage and foam; and you will realize the gravity of the situation when I tell you that the session was adjourned on account of the heated discussion and dispute that ensued.

"You can imagine my state when Hussein Jahid, accompanied by his clique, actually said in my own house: 'You Arabs shall not be able to revive your tongue in the Ottoman Empire, so long as the Unionist Government is at its head. And the Book which you so extol, and of which you are so proud, on account of its Arab origin, shall unfailingly be translated into Turkish, so that Turkish eyes shall no more pass over Arabic sayings.' What would you do, oh my father, when I tell you what Hussein Jahid said about you on Anwar's [Enver's] behalf: 'The voice of the Arabs was low before your father succeeded to the Emirship of Mecca; but as soon as he took up the post this voice began to grow louder and louder, until it almost stopped the progress of our programme. But we have taken our precautions and the necessary measures for stifling it; because if the Arab traitors were to be allowed power in the Empire, then all our hopes and our people would be consigned to perdition'?

"All this I heard, by thy truth, oh my lord and father, from Hussein Jahid, and I do not wish to repeat further sayings—which would only stir thy anger and provoke thy displeasure—uttered by those traitors

who, but yesterday, were holding up their arms to implore our help, and who now, through the power of the Committee Club, have risen to the might of a Sultan. It is my wish now to retire from this Majliss. In reply to all those foolish and deluded utterances I only said that the Arab nation does not need to resort to the exercise of power to regain its rights, and has too much sense to afford you an occasion that you have been seeking all along. We, the Arabs, are persuaded that if our pacific endeavours shall not prove sufficient to make us regain our usurped rights, Allah will be the guarantor thereof at the very end. For to Him the unknown is an open book.—Your obedient son,

"ABDULLAH."

After this moving missive was gone through his Highness passed to the reader a copy of the paper *Al Islah* (Reform), which used to be published in Jeddah, and which was suppressed simply because, following this incident, it made some outspoken comments on the Unionists and the declaration of their spokesman that what the Committee does not decide the Majliss shall not decide.

A SERBIAN HERO.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN ANTULA.

During the four years that the Serbian Army has been fighting it has suffered enormous losses. Many of Serbia's best officers have been killed, as well as a large number of distinguished writers, students and others. Quite recently the London and provincial papers reported that "the valiant cavalry captain, Nikola Antula, the brilliant literary critic and historian, fell gloriously on the field of honour."

Born at Belgrade, in 1885, and a member of a prominent Serbian family, Nikola Antula was educated in the capital, completing his University course, with distinction, in 1909. He then became a teacher in one of the best secondary schools in Belgrade. In the autumn of 1913 he went to Rome in order to study, in its rich libraries and records, the literary connection between Serbia and Italy. He devoted his chief attention to the period of the renaissance in the literature of Ragusa, which, as is known, flourished exceedingly under the influence of Italian letters of that time. He was a brilliant literary critic and historian, and great hopes were entertained about him in Serbian literary and scientific circles. The Chair of Ragusan Literature at Belgrade University was reserved for him. He wrote several essays on the old Ragusan poets, as well as on modern Serbian novelists.

His studies, however, were interrupted by the two Balkan wars and the present war, in which he bore an heroic part, entering as a reserve cavalry second lieutenant, later being promoted to captain. He distinguished himself by his heroism in all the principal battles of the Serbian campaign—Kumanovo, Bregalnitz, Rudnik, Monastir. Though never wounded, he was twice attacked by typhus in its worst form, after the retreat through Albania. In the bloody fighting at Crna Reka, last November, he found a glorious death whilst in command of a cavalry advanced guard detachment.

His death is a very great loss to young intellectual Serbia, and is deeply deplored in that unfortunate country. May his death be not in vain; may it mark a step forward on the road to final victory!

A telegram from Constantinople, received by way of Amsterdam, and dated the 7th inst., reports that the Turkish Senate has adopted a Bill for a supplementary credit for the War Ministry of £15,000,000. The telegram adds that wireless communication between Constantinople and Athens has been re-established.

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE MOSLEMS OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I shall be deeply grateful, on behalf of the Moslems of Cyprus, who have always been known for their loyalty to the British Government, if you can find room for the enclosed letter in your valuable paper.—I am, etc.,

M. IRFAN.

Nicosia, Cyprus,
November 19, 1916.

Nicosia, Cyprus,
November 19, 1916.

To Arnold J. Toynbee, Esq.,

C/o the Clarendon Press, Oxford.

Dear Sir,—My attention has been called to the following extract from pp. 235-36 of your chapter on Greece in a book entitled "The Balkans: A History of Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, Roumania, Turkey" (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1916):—

"The whole population of the island (i.e., Cyprus) is Greek in language; while under an excellent British administration its political consciousness has been awakened, and has expressed itself in a growing desire for national unity among the Christian majority. It is true that in Cyprus, as in Kreta, there is a considerable Greek-speaking minority of Moslems who prefer the *status quo*; but, since the barrier of language is absent, their antipathy to union may not prove permanent. However important the retention of Cyprus may be to Great Britain from the strategical point of view, we shall find that even in the balance of material interests it is not worth the price of alienating the sympathy of an awakened and otherwise consolidated nation."

I beg leave to point out that the statements that "the whole population of the island is Greek in language," and that the Moslem minority is Greek-speaking, are diametrically contrary to the facts. According to the latest census (1911), the population of the island amounts to 274,108 souls, of whom 56,428 are Mohammedans and 217,680 non-Mohammedans. Of the above the census shows that Turkish is the mother-tongue of 55,213 persons, and Greek of 216,310, the balance of 2,585 being made up of persons whose mother-tongues are English, Armenian, Arabic, and other languages.

In support of my facts, which are so well known to those acquainted with Cyprus as to be beyond all dispute, I venture to draw your attention to the official publications of the Island Government—e.g., the Report on the Census of 1911 (London: Waterlow and Sons, 1912), the High Commissioner's Annual Reports, the Cyprus *Official Gazette* (published simultaneously in English, Turkish, and Greek), etc. I would also state for your information that the debates in the Legislative Council of the colony are carried on in the three official languages—English, Turkish, and Greek.

Permit me to add that your inference that Cyprus should be handed over to Greece, because, as you say, the inhabitants, both Moslem and Christian, are Greek-speaking, is the more insidious by reason of the analogy erroneously drawn by you with Crete, whose Moslems, unlike those of Cyprus, are of the same race as their Christian fellow-islanders. It has never occurred to anyone acquainted with Cyprus to suggest that the Cypriote Moslems are other than the descendants of the Turkish conquerors of 1571 and of Turks who subsequently settled in the island.

In view of the importance to the Moslems of Cyprus, who are most anxious on no account to be severed from the British Empire—to which they are proud and happy to belong—that mis-statements such as those to which I draw attention should not pass unchallenged, I am communicating a copy of this letter to the Press.—Yours faithfully,

M. IRFAN

(Moslem member of the Legislative Council of Cyprus).

CHRISTMAS FUND FOR SERBIAN SOLDIERS.

The Serbian Army is facing a second Christmas in exile, unable to receive letters or parcels from their homes. They know nothing of their relations except that they may be in dire distress. The British Workers in Serbia want to send a Christmas present to each of the soldiers they grew to know and admire, and, in order to raise funds for the purpose there has been formed the British Workers in Serbia Christmas Present Fund for Serbian Soldiers (Registered.) The Executive Committee consists of the Hon. Lady Whitehead (President), Miss A. J. Dickinson (Chairman), Miss E. Benjamin (Hon. Treasurer), Miss Bradshaw (Hon. Secretary), Miss E. Cargin, Miss Christobelle Ellis, Mrs. Jan Gordon, Mr. H. C. M. Hardinge, Dr. R. M. Morison, R.A.M.C., Miss Pearce, Dr. E. M. Tindal Robertson, Dr. Soltan, Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, and the Rev. H. E. Simpson.

It is proposed to send tobacco, and, if possible, sweets, ordered from Salonika—thus avoiding delay and expense of transport. £2,000 is required immediately. The Serbian Christmas Day falls on January 7th. Those who desire to show their sympathy to the Serbian Army are invited, either to send a cheque—no matter how small—or to apply (at 3a, Clareville Grove, S.W.), for 6d. collecting cards, which must be filled up and returned with the money by December 26.

THE NILE VALLEY.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

At the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, on the 6th inst., Professor Flinders Petrie delivered a lecture on the formation of the Nile Valley, viewed from the geographical and geological standpoints. Lantern slides illustrated his various points. The first of these showed the desert, not covered with sand, as in the story-books, but with flints or stones, as the traveller usually finds it. One slide showed a road made by clearing away flints, so old that it went back before even what are usually considered prehistoric times. It was in the upper desert, and very many thousands of years must have passed since men used it. Other slides showed the Nile Valley as a trench worn by the river through the rocks. The rocks were sandstone in the upper valley, limestone in the lower, with an eruption of granite at the first cataract. Geological investigation showed that the region had not always been desert, nor always at the present sea level. Two distinct wet glacial periods could be traced, with the sea level much higher than now, and two warm, dry, inter-glacial periods, when the sea was much lower than at present. The evidence was to the effect that these changes were not confined to Egypt, but concerned the whole of Europe; and Professor Petrie showed by maps the configuration of Europe and Northern Africa when the sea covered what is to-day the Russian Plain and the Mediterranean was united with the Red Sea; and what it was like at the other extreme, when the coast line of Continental Europe extended as far as Iceland and the Mediterranean and Black Seas became a chain of lakes, like the great lakes of North America. The first warm inter-glacial period was that of the Heidelberg man; but there was no trace of man in Egypt at that very early time. The second inter-glacial period showed a great accumulation of flint implements of Chellean type. The third warm and dry period was that of the cave man, who carried flint implements to the highest perfection they ever attained.

Slides showed the similarity of flint implements of Egypt with those of Western Europe at this period, and Professor Petrie explained that this similarity was easily to be understood. Five thousand years would give plenty of time for a type of tool or weapon gradually to make its way across the entire distance, and five thousand years was but a small part of the time that implements of this sort were in use. Most of these chipped flints, he added, were probably grubbing tools, used for getting up the roots of plants. We to-day have greatly improved our vegetables, but in very early times the root of a plant was commonly the most valuable part for use as food.

Other slides showed views of modern Egypt, and the lecturer explained the country's wonderful fertility. The Egyptian sun, he said, was not so hot as that of the Tropics, but it was much more constant. Then, the cultivated land consisted simply of the bed of the river, covered with water during part of the year, but left uncovered sufficiently long for tillage. Under the most favourable conditions three crops a year could be grown on the ground, while date palms could grow over the top, but would still let as much light through as elsewhere on an ordinary cloudy day.

BULGARIAN RULE IN MACEDONIA.

Under date of December 9, Reuter's correspondent in Corfu forwards a statement issued by the Serbian Press Bureau regarding Bulgarian rule in Macedonia. From this we take the following passage:—

"The Moslem population, although the Bulgarians are allies of the Turks, were maltreated and terrorised. Omar Bey, one of the notabilities of the town and president of the Municipal Council under the Turkish *régime*, fled to Constantinople. Rapine was so common and regarded as so natural that even the public authority took part in it. The furniture was taken from the houses of our officials at Monastir and in other towns and sent to Sofia, where it was distributed among the Bulgarian officials. The leading citizens protested, but only with the result of incurring Bulgarian odium. To sum up, the Bulgarian *régime* in Macedonia has been one of murder, rapine, and terror. It was the same procedure as was carried out by the Bulgarians under the Turkish *régime* when they endeavoured by terrorism to crush the Serbian sympathies of the Macedonian population."

The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on December 10, refers to an interesting article on "The Ambush of Athens, December 2," in the *Journal de Genève*. This article, he reports, suggests what would have happened if a German squadron had been lying where the Allied warships are stationed. "Athens would have been bombarded and reduced to ashes." It writes: "The Parthenon and the Acropolis would have shared the fate of the Cathedral of Rheims and the Library of Louvain. Thank Heaven French and English mariners have resisted such temptation."

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

BALKAN COMMUNICATIONS.

Before the Liverpool Geographical Society on Monday night Mr. Charles Woods lectured on the subject of "Balkan Communications." The situation in the Near East, he said, was now so complicated and so all-important that he proposed to discuss the different rôles of the various railways in the present war, and to explain some of the events which were now taking place. In certain instances he omitted details, and spoke with reserve, not from any want of forethought, but because he was particularly anxious not to say anything which ought not to be said, and because he was desirous of not contravening any regulations which were now in force.

In the earlier part of his lecture, Mr. Woods explained the enormous importance of the Danube, not only as a thoroughfare for traffic, but also as an obstacle to through communication between the North and the South. By the subjugation of Serbia and the co-operation of Bulgaria, the Central Powers secured full control over a large section of the southern bank of that river. But so long as Roumania held a long length of the northern bank, and so long as Roumania or Russia held both banks near the mouth, Germany was not able to use the Danube as a through means of communication between Central Europe and the Black Sea, or as an alternative route to the Great Trunk Line from Belgrade to Constantinople.

After explaining the importance of the Cernavoda Bridge, Mr. Woods went on to point out that, unfortunately, the very considerable rectification of the frontier insisted upon by Roumania during the Balkan Wars had not enabled that country to protect the bridge and the port of Constantza. But the disasters which were now taking place in Roumania were due not to local conditions, but to the fact that that country was not and could not be in a position to meet an attack from the North and the South. That combined attack would never have taken place had the victors in the second Balkan War behaved with greater moderation at the time of and after the Treaty of Bucharest, and had the Allies early in this war insisted upon a recreation of the Balkan League. That this was not arranged, and that Roumania was allowed to enter the war under the circumstances she did was responsible for her misfortunes—misfortunes which would never have taken place had the Allied operations in the East been preceded by successful and far-seeing diplomatic preparations.

After showing that the entirely inadequate system of railways which existed in the Near East largely resulted from the opposition of the Turkish Government, and pointing out that the most important line in the Balkan Peninsula was that which connects Belgrade with Constantinople, Mr. Woods went on to discuss the three railways which affect the Salonika operations, and to explain various aspects of those operations themselves. The first of these railways was that which connects Salonika with Nish, and follows the valleys of the Vardar and the Morava. Throughout the war the significance of this line had been enormous. Prior to the conquest of Serbia it was by way of it alone that the Serbians were able to maintain railway connection with the outer world. To-day it formed the centre of our position, so to speak, and constituted the route by which, if the Salonika campaign was to be successful at all, the Allies must sooner or later push forward an attack into the interior of the Balkan Peninsula.

To the right or to the east of this railway there ran a line connecting Salonika with Dedeagatch. It traversed the plain which lies between the Rhodope Balkans and the Ægean, and would sooner or later form the principal means of communication between Salonika and the right of the Allied position, and between that town and the various points from which it would be possible to push forward an Allied advance into the Rhodope Balkans. On the west of the Vardar Valley there was a railway from Salonika to Monastir. This line was of great importance because, running as it does more or less parallel to the Serbo-Greek frontier, it serves that considerable section of the Allied front which extends along or near that frontier. Moreover, giving access to various roads which run from it in south-westerly, westerly, and northerly directions, it may be destined to play an enormous rôle in our operations.

Dismissing the subject of communications in Greece with a brief statement that the railway system of that country has only just been connected with the remainder of Europe, Mr. Woods passed at once to the political situation. In regard to this question, he said that the worst expectations of those who had contemplated the difficulties connected with the inauguration of an Allied campaign in a neutral country had been realised. Since our arrival at Salonika the policy of the King of Greece had enormously hampered, if it had not actually frustrated, the objects of the campaign. That policy might or might not have been in accordance with the spirit or the letter of Greek neutrality; but, however this might be, Mr. Woods thought that if the Greeks had not kept their original promises and engagements—and he contended that these had not been kept—the Allies should have taken the matter into their own hands, and insisted upon the government of Athens adopting a policy which would not only be in the interests of the Allies, but would also safeguard the future of Hellenism. Personally, he would have liked to have seen the inauguration of an Allied policy destined not to separate but to bring the King and M. Venizelos together. Instead of this, we appeared first to have supported one party and then the other, and here, as elsewhere in the Balkans, we had waited until our suggestions, which might have been agreeable sooner, had only been treated with contempt. Cyprus, which much earlier in the campaign might have been accepted by Greece in

exchange for part of the Kavalla district, was a futile offer when made at a moment when the Hellenic Government knew that the cession of that district could not prevent Bulgaria from taking the field on the side of the enemy.

Again, the protecting Powers who were in a position to enforce constitutional government in Greece refrained from taking the necessary measures until the King had so strengthened his prestige that even to remove him from the throne would only have rendered the position worse confounded. As things stood at present the Allied Governments must either decide not to withdraw the blockade until the Royalist Greek army had been completely disarmed, or prepared at once to safeguard their interests against further Greek treachery.

In concluding his lecture, Mr. Woods said that military operations conducted in the Near East must be entirely unlike, and in most ways far more arduous than, those taking place elsewhere in Europe. The existing communications were quite inadequate for the movement and supply of large armies. In the Roumanian and Salonika theatres of war the railways available to the enemy were much more effective than those possessed by the Allies. Practically the whole area was mountainous, and the mountains for the most part consisted, not of regular ranges, but of disjointed rocky masses. The winding valleys, which often narrowed down to mere gorges, were shut in by sloping hills so forbidding that an advance across them seemed to be well-nigh impossible. The roads, except those in Bulgaria and a few main routes in other parts of the peninsula, consisted of the merest paths or tracks, strewn with rocky stones so enormous that one had to ride, stumble, or clamber along them as best one might. The existing bridges were either so narrow or so shaky that one crossed them only at the greatest risk. These conditions, together with the effect of the winter rains and snows, meant that motor vehicles, transport wagons, and big guns, upon which a modern army depended, were often useless; and special transport and mountain guns had to be provided for service on the numerous tracks which were not passable for wheeled traffic. Thus, if the Allies intended to further their cause in the Balkans—and the Balkans could not be abandoned—they must either inaugurate a new and more systematic diplomatic campaign, or prepare to send an army much larger than that possessed by the enemy who, so far, had accomplished practically everything he had attempted in the Near East.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL WORK IN THE NEAR EAST.

Presiding last Friday at a meeting of women interested in the work of establishing hospitals for our Allies in the Balkans, Lady Frances Balfour said that those hospitals had been entirely staffed and run by women from the first year of the war. It had been a great adventure, and a good deal of persuasion had been necessary to get governments at home and abroad to believe that such an enterprise could succeed. But the hospitals were now an established fact, and the women had proved themselves efficient surgeons, great organisers, and economical administrators. They had been the pioneers of movable hospitals along the front of our Allies.

Mr. E. P. Stebbing, who was transport officer of one of the units, delivered an address describing the experiences of that unit in Serbia last summer, and giving some account of the work it had done. Some of the incidents had a humorous side, such as those connected with the getting a heavy motor lorry along a road consisting of stretches of deep sand and patches of rock. A steep hill on the road from Salonika to Ostrovo was almost too much for them. However, the hospital arrived near the front, and took in its first patients on September 16. The first operation was performed next day, and after that work went on in the operating theatre from nine in the morning until late at night. In the first ten days it was the means of saving not less than forty Serbian lives. Had it had beds for 500, instead of for only 200, all could have been filled. The Serbians themselves were able to make but very inefficient provision for their wounded. There were bell tents, with straw on the bottom, for the bad cases, but the slightly wounded men sat or lay outside. Their doctors, however, did wonderful work. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. One of these showed the pillar that was erected by the 5th Serbian Infantry to commemorate the recovery of a portion of their country from the enemy.

We learn by inquiry that the latest unit sent out by the Scottish women went to Roumania by Russia, and arrived at the end of September. It was immediately sent up to the front, and, of course, retreated with the Roumanians. The latest news is that it is now at Odessa, and that all the equipment has been saved, except a motor-kitchen and a lorry. At the head of this unit is Dr. Elsie Inglis, who has had previous experience in Serbia. Under her is a staff of nearly eighty—cooks, orderlies, chauffeurs, etc.—all of them women.

On the occasion of the Yugoslav Congress at Pittsburg, the Serbian Prime Minister, M. Pashitch, has telegraphed to the President of the Congress that Serbia will never disown her brothers, and that she is determined to accomplish her divine mission to liberate and unite all the Yugoslav countries.

A Zurich message states that Herr Naumann, a member of the German Reichstag and author of the book "Mittel-Europa," the authoritative exposition of German aims in regard to the Central European League, has been sent on a lecturing mission to Bulgaria to revivify national enthusiasm for the cause of the Central Empires, which has shown a decline since the fall of Monastir.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Time's whirligig is indeed an erratic bit of mechanism. Sometimes it revolves so slowly that no mortal eye can detect its motion; at others its speed is positively dizzy. In regard to Near Eastern affairs the pace certainly seems to have been accelerating of late. Take, for instance, the case of Crete. On December 14, 1913, the ceremony of formally annexing the island to Greece was carried out by King Constantine amidst scenes of exuberant rejoicing. This, as was remarked in *THE NEAR EAST* at the time, marked "an event to which Greeks and Cretans alike have looked forward for generations." But now, less than three years after this popular demonstration, we learn from a Reuter's message that at a large meeting held at Canea on Sunday, December 11, "a resolution was unanimously passed declaring King Constantine dethroned and cursing him as a traitor to the nation and the Motherland." The message adds that "soldiers who were present tore the Royal crowns off their uniforms, singing patriotic songs." This second demonstration does not, of course, indicate that Crete wishes to sever its connection with "the Motherland," but it does look as if the Cretans had revised their estimate of King Tino.

That is a pretty turn of the whirligig. But King Constantine has nobody but himself to blame for his unpopularity outside immediate Court circles in Athens and the gangs of roughs and rowdies who have been bought by the Pro-Germans. Greeks who have not fallen under the pernicious influences that have been at work in the Greek capital have reluctantly come to the conclusion that "Constantine must go"; and, judging by the attitude of the communities in Paris, London, Liverpool, Manchester, Cardiff, and other centres where they are numerous, it would seem that they have reached the conclusion that he is even past praying for. It must, by the way, have been distinctly embarrassing for Prince George of Greece to learn this fact at the Greek church in Paris last Sunday. But since he is, I believe, a straightforward, plain-spoken person himself, he can hardly have failed to recognise that the decision to omit his brother's name from the prayers was justified up to the hilt.

Travellers in general, and especially those used to the swiftness and punctuality of the West, are rather apt to find fault with certain features of the Roumanian State Railways. But let us give praise where praise is due. I learn from a Roumanian correspondent that a little time ago at a level crossing on the Rimnic-Serat line a locomotive ran into a wagon drawn by two bullocks. As in the hypothetical case put to Stephenson, the result was decidedly "bad for the coo," for both oxen and cart were reduced to fragments. The driver, however, escaped—how he does not know. His six-year-old child, who was with him on the wagon, disappeared completely, to be found, howling but quite unharmed, on the front of the engine when it pulled up at the next station. Now, no Western engine could have done that. I do not doubt my correspondent's veracity. Indeed, I cannot, for he is a Scotsman!

The passages quoted in last week's *NEAR EAST* from the article "Mesopotamia" in the current "Blackwood" led me to read the original—and extremely interesting I found it. True, the description of the discomforts that our soldiers had—and still have—to endure in that "Land of Promise—Unfulfilled" is not exactly cheerful reading, especially if your knowledge of the country helps to make the picture all the more real to you; and the fact that the trials of the horses and mules "exceeded anything one can imagine" is unpleasant to contemplate, if you happen to be a lover of animals. But the cheerful way in which the writer deals with the mud, the muddles, and the rest of the Mesopotamian trials is a tonic for dyspeptics and pessimists; while his descriptions of encounters, peaceful and otherwise, with the Arabs are full of vivid touches. If you have not read the article already, I advise you to do so at once.

That, however, was not my object in referring to it. I notice that, in describing life at Orah camp, the writer mentions that: "Aeroplanes would start out each morning to scout over the enemy's positions to collect material for the making of maps, for of this theatre of the Great War no previous maps existed." The italics are mine, and I think they are warranted! On the military aspect of the question I do not wish to comment, of course. But is it not strange that this part of the world, in which we have had important interests for so long, has remained unmapped? British surveyors, amateur and professional, have been busy in other parts of the country. Rich, our Consul in Baghdad and a pioneer in Assyriology, made the first map of the

Tigris south of Mosul very many years ago; Chesney's work, on both rivers, is known to all the world; Jones surveyed all the district between the Tigris and the Upper Zab; and Collingwood, Bewsher, and Selby performed a similar service for a considerable portion of Mesopotamia and the region between Musseyib and Shenafiyeh. All this work, it is worth while noting, is incorporated in Kiepert's map—another case of German reaping where British sowed. But the southern part of the country has been strangely neglected. It is so flat, has so few features worth recording, and is so unattractive to most people, that probably nobody thought it worth worrying about till now!

The thought of Bucharest in the hands of the Huns must be painful to a great many people who are not Roumanian. It is—or was—such a bright, joyous, careless little city; and now—? Of course, it is only for a time. The Germans, the Bulgars, and the Turks will all go back whence they came, and Bucharest will recover from the feeling of uncleanness that they are bound to leave behind them. But it will take time: you cannot get the smell of an unclean thing out of your nostrils till long after the thing itself is removed; and so it must be in the case of the intruders in Bucharest. At the present time the city must certainly lack most of its charm. The "conquerors" cannot, one supposes, take away the fine buildings, though it is to be feared they will remove not a few of the art treasures, public and private. But to most visitors the greatest attraction of the city was its crowds—good-looking, cheerful, gay, lively folk whom it was a pleasure to watch. And now the streets are doubtless full of pot-bellied Prussians, beetle-browed Bulgars, and Teutonized "Young" Turks. Truly a sorry exchange! I only hope the restaurants and cafés had time to clear out, or destroy, their stocks of good things before the entry of the enemy, and that the *chefs* made good their escape. Bucharest knew most things there are to know in the way of "good living," and no doubt the Germans anticipated a "real good time" there. May they have been disappointed.

CORSAIR.

FOR WOUNDED ROUMANIANS.

The sympathy felt with the Roumanians in their present time of trial, and the admiration for the gallant resistance they have opposed to the invaders of their country, are so genuine and so widespread that it is remarkable that the Wounded Roumanian Soldiers' Fund has not met with wider and more generous support. The second list of subscriptions, which was published in *THE NEAR EAST* last week, only brought the total to £3,346 odd; and though the British public has almost innumerable calls upon its purse at the present time, this amount cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The explanation probably lies in the fact that the existence of the fund is not more widely known, and any of our readers who can bring its claims to the notice of their friends and acquaintances will certainly be helping a deserving cause. Further donations will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer (the Earl of Bessborough), at the Bank of Roumania, 27, Throgmorton Street, London.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post *THE NEAR EAST* for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad *THE NEAR EAST* is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galimani, 274, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepherd's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacalli and Compagny, 2, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calabotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugénides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafia's.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Sococ and Company, Calcea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SOUL OF THE POLISH RACE.*

The interest aroused by "Tales from Polish Authors" has inspired Mme. Else Benecke to provide us with another instalment, in collaboration with Mme. Marie Busch. Their book is a notable exception to the rule that a sequel fails to justify the good impression derived from its predecessors. It is a revelation of the genius of that brilliant race whose evolution has been arrested by faulty political institutions and the greed of their mighty neighbours. Despite inevitable differences in quality, the six translations which make up this fascinating work prove that Polish men of letters excel in the difficult art of compressing material for a novel into the compass of twenty pages.

In two cases the scene is laid in Eastern Siberia—a thrilling region of thick-ribbed ice to which many thousand Poles were exiled after the abortive rebellion of 1862. Appalling must have been their tribulations in that Arctic climate, and without a glimmer of hope that they would see their dearly-loved fatherland again. Yet most of the characters display a degree of resilience which is full of happy auguries for the future of Poland. It is probable that the author of "The Stronger Sex" owes something to the inspiration of Henrik Ibsen, but the atmosphere which he conjures up is infinitely more attractive than that of the Norwegians' sordid dramas. In this, and several of the stories, one detects a distinctly Latin quality, a blend between Maupassant and Zola at their best, with a subtle flavour which is essentially Slav. It traces the gradual deterioration undergone by an ardent and loving soul if it be left for years to vegetate in semi-barbarous surroundings. "The Trial" recounts a terrible instance of the Lynch Law which prevails in vital communities when they discover that official methods of preserving order are quite inefficient. It recalls the rough-and-ready justice meted out by the Vigilance Committees of California sixty odd years ago, although the savagery with which Polish peasants avenge their wrongs has never been seen in Anglo-Saxondom.

It would be invidious to select passages for quotation from a book which has not one uninteresting page. One rises from a perusal of its fascinating stories with the conviction that Poland will reach a higher destiny than has hitherto fallen to her lot.

F. H. S.

RUINS IN CEYLON.†

This book will be an admirable guide to those who wish to spend a few days examining the ruins of the famous Sinhalese cities. Miss Mitton has seen the mighty monuments of Egypt, which left her cold, and the many attractions of Burmah, which only amused and interested her superficially, but in Ceylon, among the stupendous ruins of the cities of Anuradhapura, Mihintale, Bolunasume, and other sacred places she felt from the first moment at home. The book collates and puts in compact and readable form all that most people will require to know of the achievements of the Sinhalese. The author's enthusiasm for Buddhist objects of worship, or adoration, sometimes leads her to exaggerate their historical worth unduly. The Mahamansa, on which the writer depends for her history, though a valuable record, is not always a safe guide. Justice is done to the invaluable work of the Ceylon Government in the work of restoration, but the writer well points out how the Sinhalese have remained indifferent to the fate of their noble cities. The book has many illustrations and maps, and a full index. It will be of great value to those who are interested in a wonderful civilisation which attracted the unbounded admiration of the East 2,500 years ago.

ANOTHER "AYESHA."‡

This book inevitably reminds us of some of Mr. Rider Haggard's early romances; and those who enjoyed "She," "Allan Quatermain," and "Cleopatra" will equally enjoy this weird story. In the "secret city" of Nefert, out in the "Great Desert," we are introduced to an assembly of characters as strangely assorted as any to be found between the covers of a single volume. There are Arabs—Moslems in name, but in little else, one fancies; a Christian monk fleeing from temptation, one Francis, who reminds us somewhat of Philammon in "Hypatia"; a trio of priests who have kept alive the worship of the gods of Ancient Egypt, and who plot and plan to restore that worship to its former greatness in Nefert; a band of ardent Christians, dimly reminiscent now of "The Last Days of Pompeii," now of "The Sign of the Cross"; and—besides many other old friends with new faces—Reinhild, a lady of surpassing

beauty, limitless self-assurance, a rather lurid past, and uncanny powers of mesmerism—or is it hypnotism?—which Ayesha herself might have envied.

The individual reader must judge for himself whether the assemblage of such a company of actors on such a stage is likely to provide good entertainment. But it is certain that the author handles his subject with a good deal of skill, and that once at least he is likely to catch the most hardened reader of romances napping. There are, too, many incidents that will appeal strongly to such readers. In a word, the book is quite a good one of its class, and anyone who wishes to escape for an hour or two from the realities of the present might do much worse than turn to its pages. Mr. Doke will often amuse them, and may occasionally make them think. But if they are sticklers for probabilities they should avoid the fickle Reinhild and her adventures; for they will find Nefert, its mixed inhabitants, and its strange visitors merely irritating.

BOOK NOTES.

A book of considerable interest to students of policy and diplomacy in the Near East is "My Russian and Turkish Journals," by the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. It is Lady Dufferin's account of events during the time when Lord Dufferin was British Ambassador at Petrograd, from 1879 to 1881, and afterwards at Constantinople, up to 1884. Mr. Murray is the publisher, and the price of the book is 10s. 6d. net.

We understand that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have issued a pamphlet on "The War Stamps of Salonika and Long Island." The subject is one in which many of our readers are interested.

H.E. the Serbian Minister contributes a Foreword to a little book on Mestrovitch (the Serbian sculptor) and Serbian Sculpture, of which Mr. Yusuf Ali is the author and Mr. Elkin Matthews the publisher.

Anyone looking out for a book as a Christmas present to a boy should bear in mind the late G. A. Henty's "With Kitchener in the Sudan." Messrs. Blackie have just issued (at 3s. 6d.) a new edition of this popular book.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton published on Monday "The Stealers of Light," by Marie Queen of Roumania. The price is 6s.

Messrs. Philip and Son have issued recently a "Strategical Map of Mesopotamia and Asia Minor," and a War map of the Balkans, at 2s. 6d. net each.

A report on "The Treatment of the Armenians in Turkey" has been issued as a Blue Book by the British Government, and is being published for general circulation by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. The report presents an approximately complete collection of first-hand evidence on the atrocities that have been committed. The documents come principally from neutral residents in Turkey, who have made their way out of the country, but there are also some of German authorship.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Pan-German Plot Unmasked. By André Chéradame (Translated by Lady Fraser). John Murray. 2s. 6d. net.)

My Russian and Turkish Journals. By the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. (John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

The Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund has received the following translation of a letter which was sent to the Governor of Fiji from a native province in that part of the world. The communication is headed "Somosomo, August 8: The news of the sad end of Lord Kitchener caused a wave of profound sorrow to pass over the whole of this province. We felt what little we could do to show our deep feeling and our veneration of him who served the late Queen Victoria, the late King Edward VII., and King George with all his strength and with all his might. In the irreparable loss thus sustained by his Majesty the knowledge of high duties loyally accomplished can be no small consolation. In conjunction with the heads of the Churches a Memorial Service was arranged, in which a collection for war purposes was taken. The sum realised was £162 13s. 8d. I desire to record my appreciation of the cordial support extended to me in this matter by the Roman Catholic priests and by the Methodist ministers."

THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT

may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locomas, Walms,
Bamias, &c.
Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.



* "More Tales by Polish Authors." Translated by Else C. M. Benecke and Marie Busch. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 5s. net.)

† "The Lost Cities of Ceylon." By G. E. Mitton. (John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

‡ "The Queen of the Secret City." By Joseph J. Doke. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Dec. 16	1916. Dec. 2		1335. Safar 19	5677. Kislev 20
17	3	Friday	20	21
18	4	Saturday	21	22
19	5	Sunday	22	23
20	6	Monday	23	24
21	7	Tuesday	24	25
	8	Wednesday ..	25	26
		Thursday		

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Serbia, who was born at Cetinje in 1888.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George, fourth son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1902.

The King has consented to open the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, Finsbury Circus, formally in February next. A further announcement will be made shortly in regard to the date of the ceremony.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of Mohammed Ali on Sir Henry McMahon, and the Order of El Kamel, First Class, on Lady McMahon, personally bestowing the insignia on the former.

H.E. the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch visited the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Clarence House on Monday afternoon.

The Duke of Westminster is making good progress towards recovery from his recent illness.

H.H. the Aga Khan and H.E. the Serbian Minister are among the writers who send messages to the *World* (December 12) on the subject "1917." Both messages are full of quiet confidence and determination to win.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh has received from the Serbian Minister in London a letter thanking him for the courtesy shown to him and his friends during their recent visit to the Scottish capital.

M. Burilliano, formerly of the Roumanian Diplomatic Service, and Madame Burilliano left London for Paris on Sunday.

M. Metaxas, a former Greek Minister in this country, was recently appointed Minister at Washington. News reached London last week that the vessel by which he was travelling from Marseilles was torpedoed, and that M. Metaxas had been landed at Alexandria.

M. Slavko Grouitch, who is now at Corfu, will take up his duties as Serbian Minister at Berne at the beginning of the New Year.

Captain George Lloyd, M.P., arrived in Khartoum on November 20, on a short visit to the Sudan. He stayed at the palace as the guest of Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate.

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page have returned to Khartoum North after a stay of two months in Egypt.

M. George Bonoesco, of the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Eastbourne.

The engagement is announced of Earl Curzon of Kedleston and Grace Elvina, eldest daughter of the late Mr. J. Monroe Hinds, formerly American Minister at the Court of Brazil, and Mrs. Monroe Hinds, and widow of Mr. Alfred Duggan, of Buenos Ayres.

The marriage arranged between Captain James L. Willcocks, M.C., Black Watch, only son of General Sir James Willcocks, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., and Muriel Kathleen, younger daughter of the late Colonel Gordon-Price and of Mrs. Gordon-Price, of Ootacamund, India, will take place to-day at St. Peter's Church, Cranley Gardens, at 1.45 o'clock.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Glasgow, between Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Liddell, D.S.O., Inspector-General of Telegraphs, Cairo, son of the late Captain J. Liddell, R.N., of Rodlease, Lymington, and Theresa, elder daughter of Paul Rottenburg, Esq., LL.D., Glasgow.

The engagement is announced of Captain Roderick (Eric) McLeod Mitchell, Yeomanry, son of Roderick Mitchell, J.P., Imperial Consul for Persia in London, and Mrs. Mitchell, of 1, Terrace Houses, Richmond, and Iris, daughter of Percy Rexford Parsons and Mrs. Parsons, 42, Draycott Place, S.W.

It was reported last week (not in *THE NEAR EAST*) that Commander Locker-Lampson, who was in command of a British armoured car unit in the Dobruja, had been wounded. This was incorrect. Reuter's Agency reported last Friday that it was Lieutenant-Commander F. W. Belt who had been wounded, and that Commander Locker-Lampson had arrived in England.

The following casualties to the British armoured car unit referred to were also reported by Reuter: Lieutenant W. C. Ingle, and Petty Officer Crawford, wounded; Petty Officer Armstrong, accidentally injured. Lieutenant F. H. Mitchell, Chief Petty Officer Curzon, and Petty Officers A. Maillard, P. D. Higgins, D. Howell, and H. S. Mortlock are missing and believed to be prisoners. The unit in question, after operating in the Caucasus and in Persia, made a further remarkable journey to Odessa, and thence to the Dobruja, where it joined the Russo-Rumanian armies.

Dr. G. A. Reisner, of Harvard University, has left Cairo for the Sudan, where he will conduct excavations at Kerma on behalf of Harvard. He is accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Reisner, Mr. Robert Williams, F.R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Travers Symons.

Colonel C. P. Lynden-Bell has returned to Silchester from the Russian-Turkish Frontier, and is shortly to give lectures in different parts of England for the Russian Red Cross and to promote Anglo-Russian friendship.

Corporal R. E. Millingen, of the machine-gun section of the London Scottish, is at present in England on leave from the front. He goes into an O.T.C. at the end of the year. Corporal Millingen was recently awarded the Military Medal, since when he has been wounded.

The Serbian Relief Fund has received a letter from Mr. E. P. Warren, the administrator of their hospital unit No. 6, stating that he reached Monastir on the day following evacuation by the enemy, and was at once allotted a building in every way suitable for a military and civil hospital.

Prince Abdul Karim Khan will preside at a meeting of the Central Islamic Society, to be held to-morrow afternoon (December 16) at Caxton Hall, Westminster, at four o'clock. Viscount de Potier will read a paper on "Moslems in non-Moslem States, the Balkans, Russia, etc."

On Wednesday afternoon Miss Edith M. Durham read a paper, entitled "Albania, Past and Present," at a meeting of the Central Asian Society. Owing to pressure on our space, we are reluctantly obliged to hold over a report of this lecture until next week.

A special committee has been recently organised for the purpose of sending Christmas gifts of food to Serbian prisoners of war in Germany and Austria-Hungary. The committee is under the patronage of Queen Alexandra, and is working under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund (5, Cromwell Road), which has undertaken the despatch of the gifts through its Prisoners' Committee in Berne. An operatic concert will be given at the Queen's Hall on the 19th inst., by M. Vladimir Rosing and M. Vassili Safonoff, in aid of the fund.

Under the patronage of H. E. the Serbian Minister the British Empire Union will this afternoon hold a matinee in aid of the Serbian Refugee Fund. It will take place at two o'clock at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, and an excellent programme has been arranged. Besides this matinee there will be an Allied tea party and concert at five o'clock at the International Hall, Café Monico.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. Horace Lambert Alexander Hood, of East Sheen Lodge, East Sheen, Surrey, formerly Naval Attaché at Washington and afterwards in command of the Royal Naval College, Osborne, who was killed in the Battle of Jutland on May 31, second son of the fourth Viscount Hood and heir-presumptive to the title, left unsettled estate of the value of £7,681.

Commander William Maitland-Douglall, R.N., aged 63, of Scotsraig, Tayport, Fife, A.D.C. to General Sir Arnold Kemball during the Turco-Serbian Campaign of 1876, and A.D.C. and Secretary to General Kemball in the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-8, left property, exclusive of real estate, of the gross value of £51,000.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The appointment of Lewa Kelly Pasha, Officer Commanding Egyptian Cavalry and, since the operations against Darfur, Officer Commanding the Western Frontier Force in the Sudan, as Governor of Darfur Province, has been officially announced in the *Sudan Gazette*. His appointment is retrospective from May 23 last.

Kaimakam H. A. MacMichael Bey, hitherto Senior Inspector Khartoum Province, who accompanied the Darfur Expedition as Political Officer, has been appointed Sub-Governor to that Province.

Bimbashi Bally, Inspector, Upper Nile Province, has been transferred to the Intelligence Department at Khartoum to succeed Major H. Lewis, who reverted to his British unit on November 1.

Captain Arthur C. B. Critchley-Salmonson, D.S.O., Royal Munster Fusiliers, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi. He has been posted to the 11th Sudanese.

The *Morning Post's* Stockholm correspondent reports that, according to *Svenska Dagbladet*, the Serbian Government has decided to establish a Legation at Stockholm and to appoint a Minister there who will represent Serbian interests throughout Scandinavia.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (November 12) Mr. Sophronios Papadopoulos has been appointed Chief Clerk to the Chief Commandant of Police, in the place of Mr. Th. Perdikes, who is retired on pension; and Mr. Cigathocles Christophides has been appointed Chief Clerk to the Commissioner of Kyrenia.

THE NEAR EAST.

Any Newsagent or Bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of the *NEAR EAST* every Friday morning.

Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, a post card addressed to the Manager, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C., will oblige.

Bimbashi (temporary) E. Keith Roach, Khartoum District, has been transferred to Sudan Government.

The *Sudan Times* announces:—

Lieutenant Algernon J. R. Lamb, D.S.O., 2nd Dragoon Guards, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Lieutenant Cyril G. Martin, V.C., D.S.O., Royal Engineers, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and has been posted to the Military Works Department.

Lieutenant Guy A. Heineky, 4th Hussars, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and has been posted to the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Bimbashi G. F. Hudson-Kinahan, 2nd Battalion, has been transferred to 3rd Battalion, and has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Kaimakam C. Cassidy Bey, M. B. Medical Corps, has been transferred to the Recruiting Department.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Lewa Selim Musally Pasha has been transferred from disponibilité to the Medical Corps, in the Sudan. Musally Pasha is an able physician, and has been attached to the Egyptian Army Medical Corps for a long time. During the Balkan War, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society sent him in charge of its missions, and he distinguished himself there, and was granted the honorary rank of Lewa by the Sirdar in recognition of his good work.

OBITUARY.

It is announced that Brigadier-General Duncan John Glasfurd has died of wounds. He was second son of the late Major-General C. L. R. Glasfurd, Bombay Staff Corps, and entered the Army in 1893, obtaining his commission in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He served in the Boer War, and was in the advance on Kimberley and the operations at Paardeberg. He was twice wounded during the campaign, and had the Queen's Medal with three clasps. In 1901 he served in Jubaland against the Ogaden Somalis (medal with clasp), and in 1902-4 he was again in Somaliland, commanding the 4th Somali Camel Corps. He was mentioned in despatches, and had a clasp to the East African Medal. On the outbreak of the present war he accompanied the 1st Australian Division on the General Staff, and was present through the whole of the operations in Gallipoli. He was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel, and this year received his brigade command in the Australian Imperial Force. About midsummer he was slightly wounded; recently he was again wounded in the front trenches, and died the same night.

Major-General William Dalrymple Thompson, C.B., of Iver House, Bucks, who served in the Crimea, died last week at Princess Christian's House, Windsor. Born in 1833, and educated at Cheltenham College, he entered the Army in 1852, and reached the rank of major-general (retired) in 1884. In the Crimean campaign he was present at the siege of Sevastopol and the assaults on the Redan, and was dangerously wounded, being mentioned in despatches, awarded the medal with clasp, the Turkish medal, and appointed Knight of the Legion of Honour. General Thompson commanded the 1st Battalion 17th Foot in the Afghan War, and took part in the capture of Ali Musjid, the action of Chenar, the expeditions into the Bazar Valley, and the actions at Kabul River and Maidenack. He was again mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with clasp and the C.B.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

Major-General A. T. G. Pearse, late R.A., has died in London at the age of eighty-two. He took part in the Crimean War in 1855, when he received the medal with clasp, the fifth class of the Mejidieh, and the Turkish Medal. He also served in the Indian Mutiny, obtaining the medal with clasp.

Commander Edward Hamilton Currey, R.N., who died suddenly at Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, had retired from the Navy but had been re-employed for the war. He was fifty-nine years of age. Commander Currey as lieutenant of the Monarch served with the Naval Brigade landed for service in the Sudan with the Nile Expedition for the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum (1884-5). He was the author of "Sea Wolves of the Mediterranean."

The *Egyptian Gazette* of November 24 reports that news has been received in Egypt of the death at the front of Mr. W. A. T. Allen, who for many years was secretary of the Bohera Company at Alexandria. Mr. Allen, who left Egypt in 1908, was at the outbreak of the War in the service of the Government railways at Buenos Ayres, and was at home on leave. He at once joined the O.T.C., and obtained a commission in the 18th Liverpool Regiment. He went to the front in France, and met his death on October 18 while organising an attack. His brother officers, in a letter to his widow, say: "His devotion to duty and his inspiring bravery at that critical hour will never be forgotten. We mourn the loss of a comrade, whom we had learned to admire as a gallant soldier and a true English gentleman." Mr. Allen has a brother at Alexandria, Mr. A. H. Allen, of the Egyptian State Railways.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes:—Amongst those who have laid down their lives for their country is Mr. A. Mackay, son of Mr. J. W. Mackay, collector of Customs at Limassol, who is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, British official in Cyprus in point of service. Much sympathy is felt with the family in their bereavement.

We regret to learn of the death a short time ago in New York of Colonel John Frangoudis, brother of M. Demetrius Frangoudis, of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, of Alexandria. Colonel Frangoudis was formerly A.D.C. to King George of Greece, with whom he was a great favourite; and when the King was assassinated he vainly endeavoured to protect him against the assassin. He was in America at the head of a military mission, and met his death as the result of inadvertently touching an electric wire during the testing of a new artillery invention.

Amongst the casualties at the British front in France reported on November 22 occurs the name of Second-Lieutenant W. D. Semple, King's Royal Rifle Corps, eldest son of Colonel Sir David Semple, Director-General, Public Health Department, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. At the outbreak of the war Mr. Semple was an undergraduate at Cambridge, but he threw up his studies and joined the Army in September, 1914, receiving a commission in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Early in the summer of 1915 he was sent to the front in France, and had been continuously in the fighting line over a year. He was grenade officer of his regiment, and in that capacity had seen much hard fighting at close quarters. It was during one of these attacks, when leading a party of his men who entered the enemy trenches, that he was killed on June 29. For some time he was reported as missing, and it was hoped that he might have been a prisoner in Germany, but evidence which has lately come to hand proves that he was killed. He was twenty-one years of age at the time of his death.

The death of Dr. Thomas B. Hamilton, medico-legal expert to the Egyptian Government, occurred at his residence, Cairo, on November 23, at the age of 38. Amongst those present at the funeral, which took place the following day, were Sir William Brunyate, Dr. Dobbin, Dr. Keatinge, Dr. Beddoe, Dr. Madden, Major Philips, Major Pringle, and a deputation of students from the Kasr-el-Aini Medical School.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

EGERTON.—On December 3, at Tenantrees, West Stafford, Dorchester, the wife of Philip R. le Belward Egerton, Sudan Civil Service, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

BARRY—TODD.—On the 5th inst., at the Parish Church, Bromley, Kent, William Verner Barry, of Khartoum, to Edith Perceval, daughter of the late Francis Lambert Perceval Todd, of the Admiralty, and Colyton, Devon.

DEATHS.

MCPHERSON.—Killed in action, on November 16, Major Donald William McPherson, Brigade Major, Indian Infantry, eldest son of the late D. W. McPherson, Deputy-Accountant-General, Simla, and of Mrs. H. M. McPherson, and beloved husband of Sybil McPherson, aged 37.

MAYO.—On December 8, at 5, Amherst Road, Bexhill, Penelope, second and last surviving daughter of the late William Mayo (formerly of Constantinople), of St. Leonards-on-Sea and Dulwich, aged eighty-three.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.53; Room, P.T.23; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year R and—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1916.

"THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME."

One of the first problems to engage the attention of the new War Cabinet in Great Britain will have been the solution of the *impasse* that has arisen in Greece. It brooks no delay, as the safety of the Allied force in Macedonia to a great extent depends on a settlement which, whether the methods of arriving at it be satisfactory or unsatisfactory, must be final. Here, then, is a test case for a Government formed for vigorous action. In other directions measures for the future conduct of the war must be elaborated slowly, though decisively; but in Greece there is an urgent need for immediate steps. The sequence of events may be briefly recalled. On November 16 Admiral du Fournet, on behalf of the Allied Governments, demanded, as a result of Greece's equivocal attitude, particularly with reference to the cession of the 4th Army Corps and of war material to the Bulgarians, the surrender against financial compensation of a certain number of batteries of field and mountain artillery, together with a proportionate quantity of shells, 40,000 rifles with ammunition, 140 machine-guns with ammunition, and 50 motor-vans. As Greece insisted that her attitude towards the war was one of strict neutrality, from which she would not depart at the bidding of either group of belligerents, it was evident that she could have no need for munitions of war over and above the recognised requirements of the country on a normal basis. On the other hand, as the events in Eastern Macedonia proved, the Allies had to face a very distinct risk of Greek munitions finding their way into German or Bulgarian hands. They proposed accordingly to restrict Greece's superfluous supply of guns and munitions. To the Allies' request the Greek Government returned a categorical refusal. Admiral du Fournet made a further appeal to King Constantine and his Ministers to accede to the demand, which could not be withdrawn, and he fixed December 1 as the date by which the surrender of the first instalment of the war material would have to take place. On that day, in the absence of any conciliatory overtures from the Greek Government, the French Admiral proceeded to land an Allied force, some 3,000 strong, at the Piræus, in order to enforce his demands. Greek troops, posted at places of vantage in and about Athens, opened fire on these detachments, which, in the face of superior numbers, were withdrawn and re-embarked, after having suffered a number of casualties. Infatuated by this military success, the Greek Government and its troops abandoned themselves to taking vengeance or venting their spite on the followers of M. Venizelos among their own countrymen. Athens and other towns were given up for a few days to orgies of organised violence and pillage.

This lapse of Greece from the behaviour of a civilized State to the condition of a negro republic in revolution constitutes the problem which awaits solution at the hands of the Entente Powers. The Allied Ministers remain in the capital; developments have been too rapid and unexpected to arrange for their removal, and so far the Royalist hordes have lacked the courage of the Boxers in China to lay hands on foreigners or the Allied Legations. As the ordinary channels of diplomatic communication have thus been left open, the Entente Governments are continuing negotiations with Greece. A fresh Note is understood to have been presented. Whether the new demands are made in one or two instalments, there can be little doubt about their tenour. Official Greece, having shown in unmistakable manner its hostility to the Entente, must be rendered harmless before it can threaten, in

co-operation with Germans and Bulgarians, the safety of the Salonika force, and, at the same time, must make some reparation for the treachery of December 1 and the outrages of the following days. The least that can be demanded is complete demobilization and the restoration to the Allies of control over posts, telegraphs, and railways throughout Greece. For the actual crimes that can be brought home to the Government and its followers separate expiation will have to be made. It is apparent, however, that the Allies in this way revert to the position that existed before Admiral du Fournet attempted to land wholly inadequate forces to deal with Greek recalcitrancy. If, therefore, the Greek Government remains obdurate, there will be no other course open to the Entente Powers than to adopt warlike measures against the country. Retribution, if it is to fall upon Greece at all, must come swiftly and overwhelmingly. The Allies will then have reached the point which Sir Edward Carson declared more than a year ago ought to have been their goal at that time—to make Greece afraid of them. It is the fear of Germany that has been King Constantine's guiding policy since the outbreak of the European war. He may have realized that for Greece the British Navy might prove an equally uncomfortable medium of chastisement; but, doubtless, he felt confident that there would never be behind it the same determination, still less the same ruthlessness. As the negotiations with the Entente Powers progressed, he has been confirmed in this belief, until he has ventured to make unofficial war upon them.

In the interval of preparing a joint Note for presentation to the Greek Government the Allies have declared a blockade of Greece. As a preliminary measure it is useful, and it happens to be for the moment the only line of action available. It would be a grave mistake, however, to suppose that the inconvenience which this step may cause will of itself moderate the King's hostility to the Allies. A few weeks will elapse before the pressure of a food shortage is seriously felt in Greece, and King Constantine, if left to his own devices, is capable of arranging that before then his German, Bulgarian, and Turkish Allies, with the support of his own forces, shall have tried conclusions with the Allied Army based on Salonika. Rapidity of action, therefore, becomes an essential element in the Allies' dealings with Greece. Any period of grace must be measured by hours, not days, and failure to satisfy at once all the Allies' demands must be followed by certain naval operations rendered possible by Greece's geographical position. The most obvious among these would be the complete destruction of the new line which links Larissa with the Salonika-Monastir Railway, and of a number of bridges within reach of the Allies' naval guns, including the important bridges over the Corinth Canal. Both the Larissa and the Peloponnesus railways could be cut at other points as well, and in a variety of ways the military ardour of the Royalists could be damped. There would be little need for insistence upon such measures, if it were not for the fact that even now the Allied Governments show little appreciation of the value of time in solving the Greek problem. A telegram from Athens to an Italian newspaper speaks of the British and Russian Ministers dining with King Constantine. All news from Greece is suspect, and we refuse to believe this particular piece of information until it has been officially confirmed. If it were true, a necessary preliminary to future action would be the immediate recall of the Ministers in question. The fact that such a message was sent from Athens is proof of the desire of King Constantine and his advisers to throw dust in the eyes of the Entente Powers and to gain time. Already the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in Paris has expressed to the French Government King Constantine's regret for recent events in Athens. By representing the events of December 1 as a regrettable accident the Greek Government may also succeed in prolonging the negotiations. In view of the danger of delay it would be well if the Allied Powers could agree that unless King Constantine accepts their demands in full the necessary warlike measures will be allowed to take their own course without further reference to the respective Governments.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

BY ESTELLE BLYTH.

I.

The future of Palestine and Syria is a problem that comes up for consideration from time to time, and, indeed, can never rest until these much-tried and deeply wronged countries are freed from Turkish rule. This now seems possible in the threatened collapse of the once-great Turkish Empire; and in view of it the future of Palestine assumes a more definite shape in our minds. Palestine is no lonely little island, lost in the midst of a great sea, whose possession is of little moment to any one; her position on the map makes her as real and vital a factor in the world's history now as she has ever been. The Russian pilgrims ardently believe that in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem is the actual centre of the world, and it is certain that in Palestine, which contains the dearest shrines of the Christian and the Jew, are centred some of the chief and most urgent problems of the world.

We shall start from a clearer standpoint if we consider Palestine and Syria as being quite distinct from one another. They are so, but because they are next-door neighbours and under the same rule, they are always spoken of together, and counted as one. The Turkish Empire has been for so long in a tottering condition that any interference with one part of it might well have caused the whole crazy structure to collapse—an undesirable complication from the European point of view; but now the cold hand of doom seems to be closing upon Turkey, and of necessity the question arises, "What will happen then? Who will have this part—and who that?" There is nothing more alluring and less fruitful than speculation on political problems; even now Turkey may be allowed to retain some of her old possessions; indeed, she must, though, let us hope, under the most vigilant supervision; the thought arouses in lovers of Palestine the fear that, as usual, *she* will be sacrificed.

There are many voices being raised now in favour of Syria passing into French keeping. It seems the best, almost a natural, solution of her question. France has long cared for Syria, and Syria for her; France has spent a good deal upon Syria, one way or another; there is something curiously akin between the two peoples, and it is pretty certain that Syria as a whole would welcome French rule. Syria would present a fruitful field for the exercise of that engineering skill in which France is so eminent; there are great mountains to be bridled by railways and roads, rivers to be spanned by bridges and harnessed for irrigation, valleys and plains to be cultivated for the use of men. For the purposes of our argument we will separate Palestine and Syria as completely as if such division did indeed exist.

The history and influence of a land are so largely determined by its geographical position and peculiarities, that there can be no real discussion of the future of Palestine without due consideration of her physical features, characteristics, and relationships. Briefly, then, it is a small, narrow strip of land running along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, dividing the sea from the desert, and presenting within its narrow confines geographical features as varied and distinct as its history—a land unlike any other, remaining mysterious, aloof, remote. Geographically it is an insignificant item on the globe, a highway along which successive generations of races, wars, conquests, changes, and governments have passed, raising clouds of dust and leaving many footprints, but not altering the character of the road at all. These all pass, but the road remains. Palestine stretches from the mouth of the Litany River (32° 20' N.) south to where the Wadi Ghazzi joins the sea (32° 28' N.) south of Gaza, and running south-east includes Beersheba. The western boundary is indefinite; Syria proper is the northern, and Jordan marks the east, but the point at which Palestine ends and the Arabian Desert begins is vague. The configuration of the land is thus exactly what Isaiah describes it: "A highway out of Egypt to Assyria." In these accepted limits Palestine is less than one-seventh of the size of Great Britain. "It is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven," said Moses. The chain of Lebanon runs north and south, Lebanon being divided from Anti-Lebanon by a narrow valley. Lebanon belongs to Syria rather than to Palestine, but from this range the four big rivers take their rise, flowing across the length and breadth of Palestine. The Litany runs west, the Barada (the Abana of the Bible) east, rejoicing Damascus on its way, the Jordan rises in Hermon and flows south to the Dead Sea, and the Orontes, rising in the upper valley between the two Lebanons, flows north to Antioch, then turns west to seek its outlet in the Mediterranean. Only the Orontes and the Litany find an outlet; the Jordan dies in the Dead Sea, and the Barada in the desert.

Palestine has three lakes, all famous. Lake Huleh, "the Waters of Merom," lies to the south of Lebanon, surrounded by swamps and thick jungles of papyrus reed. The

Dead Sea is nearly 1,300 feet below the level of the Mediterranean; its bitter waters wash a barren shore whereon no vegetable life is seen; it is the very type of desolation, of a land under a curse. The Sea of Galilee, on the contrary, is one of the chief beauties of Palestine; it is a deep, beautiful blue in colour, its waters are sweet and clear, though it is still subject to swift and terrible storms such as Christ rebuked long ago. "Jehovah hath created seven seas," said the rabbis, "but the Sea of Gennesaret is His delight." In Palestine, as in Eden of old, there goes up a mist from the face of the earth, her incense in the sacrament of dawn, for it is then that it rolls away before one's eyes, leaving the ground all moistened and refreshed before the real heat of the day begins.

Sir George Adam Smith in his wonderful book, "The Historical Geography of the Holy Land," defines very clearly the contour of Palestine, giving three great mountain ranges—the western, the central, and the eastern—whose bold sections and bi-sections divide the land into "a series of four parallel lines or bands running north and south," and form a barrier to the desert, thus:—

SEA	MARITIME PLAIN	THE CENTRAL RANGE	THE JORDAN VALLEY	THE EASTERN RANGE	DESERT
-----	----------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------

The central range is the "Mount of the Amorites" of the Book Deuteronomy. South of Hermon is a high plateau intersected by a deep ravine running north and south, which forms the bed of the Jordan and the Dead Sea. The Mountains of Moab, of Judea, and of Galilee, though interesting from a Biblical and historical point of view, need not be dealt with at length, being practically offshoots of the big ranges, as Carmel, with its bold head thrust outward to the sea, is a continuation of the chain of Lebanon. Still, there will rise to mind names dear to us from childhood, such as Tabor, the traditional Mount of the Transfiguration, with its steep sides covered by brushwood still sheltering wild animals, and its curiously flat top; Olivet, one of the hills that "stand about Jerusalem"; Ebal and Gerizim, from whose summits the blessings and curses could plainly be heard by Israel trembling in the beautiful valley below.

Palestine lies in the sub-tropical zone. The extraordinary differences in altitude and surface characteristics (it varies from 1,300 ft. below the sea level to 9,000 ft. above it) must greatly affect the climatic conditions and the temperament of the people. The average summer temperature is from 80°-90°, occasionally rising to 100°; we complain long before it reaches that point, however. The heat is never unbearable (except in the low-lying lands of the Jordan Valley, where the thermometer will register as much as 118°, and the ground opens in deep cracks, till the very natives themselves move their tents to higher places). In an ordinary way the stone houses are well adapted to keep out the heat. The rainfall is from 28 ins. to 32 ins.; snow falls frequently, but not every year; 12° of frost strikes us as being very severe. The rainy season is from the end of November to the end of February. "The former rains" begin at the end of October, "the latter rains" fall in March and April. January is cold and stormy, May and October are "sirocco" months, to be avoided by newcomers and travellers; in August the rising of the Nile brings heavy dews at night, refreshing the land when it is weary. Barley and wheat are sown in December and reaped from April to June; and millet, sesame, figs, grapes, melons, etc., from August to October. The chief grain fields are the Plains of Esdraelon and Sharon, some districts around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron, and, of course, the rich lands east of Jordan. The winds of Palestine are often referred to in the Bible. The south and west winds are refreshing ones, the north wind is a storm-bringer; the east wind, or sirocco (the people use the Italian word derived in the first place from their own "sharkiyeh," eastern), is a malicious wind—piercingly cold in winter, and dry and heavy in summer. The heat of Palestine is largely sun-heat; even on the hottest days (not sirocco) there is a touch of chill in the shade, and at sunset a treacherous coolness sets in, which may bring on fever if one is careless.

There are many springs in Palestine, and these, with the gracious dews, partly atone for the lack of rain. Water is stored in rock-hewn cisterns; when these run dry at the end of a long summer following upon a poor rainy season, fever and sickness crop up everywhere. In spite of this, nothing would induce the Turkish Government to tackle the question of the water supply, by no means an impossible

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers.

one to solve, nor would it let anyone else do so. Water and fuel are the two chief problems of life in the Holy Land. We discuss every fraction of the rainfall with all the earnestness it deserves, for on it, indeed, depend both health and food for the coming year; and the disastrous taxation on trees under Turkish rule, and their wholesale destruction, either for firewood or to escape the tax, have sensibly lessened the rainfall. The scarcity of wood, the difficulty of bringing it from long distances in a country where roads are few and generally bad, and the rise in prices consequent on these hard conditions, made this one of the gravest anxieties for the future just before the war; though Cardiff coal was obtainable, latterly it cost at least 80 fr. a ton, or £3 5s. All these things, taken in conjunction with a population rapidly increasing through immigration, for which no provision was made by the Government, made the question of one's daily bread an anxious one.

Despite the dead hand of Turkey on her, the fertility of Palestine is as amazing as it is wonderful. Everything grows out in the open, and, as it seems to us, under conditions that ought to prevent any self-respecting vegetable life from attaining maturity. The land, after yielding one crop will be scratched up, (for the primitive native plough does little more than disturb the surface), and planted again almost immediately; on the hillsides every little patch of soil amongst the rocks will be sown or planted, and with marked effect. Palestinian vegetables would demoralize an English market; we have cauliflowers that measure at least a foot across, and water-melons hardly to be spanned by a grown person's arms; to this day the grapes of Eschcol grow in clusters from three to four feet in length. We have in their seasons grapes, apricots, nectarines, plums, damsons, quince, mulberries, figs, lemons, oranges, prickly pear, pomegranates, and many kinds of nuts; in the season a rotl of grapes (6 lbs.) costs about 10d. (old residents consider the price excessive), and for a trifling present you may go into a vineyard and eat as many grapes and figs as you can manage.

And what of the flowers? From the semi-tropical vegetation of the Jordan Valley to the English flowers cherished in gardens, practically everything seems to flourish. The wild flowers in spring are wonderful, especially perhaps in Galilee. We have anemones, scarlet, white, mauve and pink (many people believe that they are "the lilies of the field" before whose glory that of Solomon paled), hyacinths, ranunculus, narcissus, honeysuckle, daisies, buttercups, cistus, cyclamen, irises, black arums, broom, mandrake, oleander, rose and white, thrift, hyssop, orchids, asphodel, acanthus, vetches of many kinds, unscented violets, roses, speedwell—all these, and many more whose names elude me now, grow wild. Besides these, which we may term native to the land, most English flowers flourish in gardens with a little care: cowslips, daffodils, primroses, sweet peas, pansies (we had some that shot up nine inches in height), violets, parma, white and blue, tube roses, chrysanthemums, asters, jasmine, heliotrope (this grew like a tree, at least ten feet high), begonias, geraniums, carnations, hollyhocks, pelargoniums; the list becomes unduly long, but it is not complete. When you have lived in Palestine and marked its lavish beauty and fertility under the most harrowing ill-treatment, as well as neglect, you realize that such expressions as "the glory of Lebanon," "the excellency of Carmel and Sharon," and "the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose," are no lovely fancy of the poet, no delusion of the over-fervid patriot, but the sober, literal truth. Palestine is still a land of corn and wine. We see the surface richness of her, but what of the treasures hidden within her—"the chief things of the ancient mountains and the precious things of the lasting hills"? Moses assured the Israelites that it was "a good land." "Thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass." But who has looked for it? About four years ago a Syrian found that his small plot of ground contained oil; he used it surreptitiously, and found it of excellent quality, but he kept the secret, for he knew what would happen if the Government got wind of his discovery.

(To be continued.)

A Rome report states that the inquiry into the causes of the fire which destroyed the Military School at Sofia has led to the discovery of a plot, and that the fire was initiated by a Bulgarian political party which was tired of German domination.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

DOMESTIC LIFE IN EGYPT: THE HOUSE OF THE BEY.

Mr. Eyed Ehsan El. Bakry, speaking last Monday before the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, said that the Bey in the time of the Mamelukes was like a Mediæval baron in Europe, a man with an armed following, and who lived by plunder. Those times, of course, had completely passed, but there were still Beys of an old stock—men sixty or seventy years old—unspoiled by contact with the West, and holding to many of the ancient ideas of the land. Such a man would not, however, continue to live in the great ancestral home. For one thing, this was, no doubt, situated in a crowded and unhealthy part of the city, and, for another, he had probably been a spendthrift, and, having squandered his resources, had retired to a smaller mansion, not greatly different from that of a nobleman in Italy or elsewhere in the South of Europe. Wherever the house was situated it was divided into two parts, the *Selamlık* and the *Haremlik*; the first of these contained the guest house and the apartments for the men. The other part was apt to be pictured by romantic artists as a place where lightly clad ladies sported with gazelles round a fountain. In actual fact it was simply a part of the house which was kept for the women and which a visitor did not enter unless invited. An old Bey of the type that he (the speaker) was describing would probably be a retired courtier or Government official. He would be an early riser, and, having little to do, like people of a similar class in other parts of the world, would occupy a good part of his time nursing an illness and cursing the servants. In his case the illness would not be gout. About ten or eleven o'clock he would probably go to a café, or he might sit outside his door watching the people going and coming and chatting with his neighbours. Perhaps a hawk would come along—hawkers were very numerous in Egypt—selling fruit, and the old Bey would want to buy some. After having been a spendthrift all his life, he would very likely try on this occasion to be an economist, and would spend an hour chaffering over a halfpenny. Having finally succeeded, and being in a good humour in consequence, he would perhaps fail to talking with the hawk. This would occupy until lunch time, when he would call a servant to give the man a meal. The hawk, after eating this, would probably sleep out the afternoon and go away well content. Old Beys of this kind were very kind hearted. By custom they were required to assist any poor relations, married or unmarried. In some parts, especially up country, a whole village would be inhabited by people of one family. Most of these, of course, would be poor labourers, and the one rich man among them would find the assisting of so many a great drain.

The *Haremlik* was presided over by the oldest lady of the house, not necessarily the wife of the Bey; it might be his mother, or even his grandmother. She was a very early riser, very fully occupied with the cares of such a large household, and spent a great deal of time in prayer. Her greatest pride was to be a very good housewife, but now a new generation of Egyptian ladies was springing up exactly like the child-wife of David Copperfield. There were many servants in a great Egyptian house—a porter to sit at the door and take the names of callers, a man to whom the porter called to conduct the visitor to the guest house, servants to make the beds, servants to wait at table, and so on. There would be a European servant, much disliked by the others, to attend on European visitors, and the old nurse of the Bey would probably be there, quarrelling with everybody except the Bey himself, whom she regarded as her son.

THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

Maulavi Sadar-ud-Din, speaking last Sunday before the Sufi Brotherhood, at 86, Ladbroke Road, W., said that the teachings of Islam were to be sought in the Koran—the book that was followed by 400 million Moslems. Its first phrase ran:—"All praise and worship is due to the Almighty, the Creator of everything that exists, who is the Lord and Cherisher of all the nations and of all the worlds." This was the theme that ran through the book. They would find there that the first principle of Islam was to cherish the devoutest possible respect for Divine commandments, to believe in and worship the only one God. The second principle was the love of all God's creatures. In another chapter the Koran said that the Moslem was he who believed in the unseen God, and, as a proof of the love that he had in his heart for his God, maintained prayers always. Moslems said prayers five times a day—the most devout said them even more often than that. Mohammed was always most regular and strict on this matter, and when his earliest followers were compelled in self-defence to fight the idolatrous inhabitants of Arabia, he would pray even on the battlefield. The Moslem did not reject the prophets who came before Mohammed; he believed in them all from Abraham to Jesus, and read both the Old and New Testaments. The same God had sent Abraham to rectify the mistakes of the people of that age, had sent Moses to redeem his nation from the bondage of Pharaoh, had sent Jesus Christ to set a very noble example of self-sacrifice, and had sent Mohammed when wickedness was rife in Arabia and most other parts of the world. The religion of all the prophets was the same, because all received a message from the same God.

The lecturer said there was no priesthood in Islam. He was regarded as a spiritual leader, and could lead prayers, but anyone else could do the same thing. There was perfect equality in the mosque. In the one at Woking you might find an English lord, an Egyptian princess, or an Indian prince in no conspicuous place, but in a back row or mixed up with the crowd of worshippers.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"A Great Advertisement."

In a leading article upon the fall of Bucharest *The Times* remarked that the German Press comments indicate that "our principal adversaries are disposed to recognize the very definite limitations of their triumph in Roumania." After pointing out future difficulties that the enemy is likely to encounter if he follows up the Roumanians, the article pays a tribute to "the sorely tried Roumanian forces" and "the Russians who have fought by their side." It concludes:—

The Germans boast that they have greatly shortened their line across Roumania, but they must be conscious that the latest of their campaigns has imposed a severe strain upon their diminishing resources in men and material. They have gained a great advertisement, they have found means to fight some time longer, but they are no nearer the victory they seek. Around the countries of Central Europe the Allied nations are ranged, armed, and aggressive, determined to fight on unceasingly, and as confident as ever in the ultimate outcome of their efforts. When the spectacular side of the invasion of Roumania ceases to impress, it will be found that Germany has obtained a success which contains many flaws, and possibly introduces fresh elements of weakness. The regret of the Allies at the course of the Roumanian campaign must remain unabated, but it presents no reason for despondency, and in that spirit we should now regard it.

Roumania and the Powers.

In his article ("The Light that Failed in the Near East") in the *Contemporary Review* Dr. E. J. Dillon writes:—

In July last Russia's instances again became pressing, and M. Bratianu found himself all at once confronted with two alternatives, of which one was wholly impossible and the other seemingly dangerous. The Tsar's troops were back again in the Bukovina. Their advance had been so rapid, and their successes so brilliant, that they reminded one of the days when Russia was known as the "steam-roller." And it was thought if Roumania could be got to throw her weight into the scale at this auspicious juncture, a knock-out blow might be dealt to the enemy in the Near East. If he had been free to hearken to the promptings of his own judgment, the Roumanian Premier would still have held back, because he had a presentiment that Hindenburg would again get the whip-hand of Russia, and if the Allied Governments had been directed by a keen-sighted statesman, they themselves would have held him back until spring, when the transport of munitions is relatively easier than during winter. But, as they lacked a statesman to guide them, they continued to press their suit, the gods heard their prayer, and M. Bratianu was compelled to resign himself to the only feasible alternative.

Islam and Modernism.

Under the above heading the *Spectator* (December 9) publishes a review of Professor Hurgonje's "Mohammedanism" from the pen of Lord Cromer, which, it is hardly necessary to add, will repay careful reading. Lord Cromer concludes his review by expressing doubt whether Professor Hurgonje's forecast, that "between Islam and the modern world an understanding is to be attained." He writes:—

All sympathisers with Mohammedans—and their name is legion in this country—will earnestly hope that Professor Hurgonje's forecast will turn out to be correct; but although it is with the utmost diffidence that I express even a shade of disagreement with so high an authority, I am bound to add that I do not feel as sanguine as he does. So far as my own experience goes, the Moslem world may, broadly speaking, be divided into three categories. In the first place, there are the canonists and the mass of the uneducated, who, as Professor Hurgonje very truly says, "still live in the illusion of the days of Islam's greatness." Those who hold to these views are indeed by no means defunct. It may well be that their influence will eventually decay, but the process will be very gradual. It cannot as yet be said to be even moribund.

In the second place, although the influence exerted by Christian propaganda on the Moslem world, considered as a whole, has been almost inappreciable, there can be no doubt that contact with Europe and the acquisition of European learning are producing an ever-increasing class of Moslems who are merely nominal believers in the faith of Islam, and who may be practically classed as agnostics. . . . It is conceivable, although I have never heard any evidence which leads me to think it is probable, that for purely political reasons greater unity amongst Moslems will be encouraged, and may possibly be attained. But Moslem agnostics have, as yet, shown no great disposition to hold out the hand of real fellowship to non-Moslems. . . .

In the third place, there is a small body of men, of whom Syud Ahmed, in India, and Mohammed Abdu, in Egypt, were typical representatives, who are labouring earnestly and intelligently to harmonise the creed of Islam with the requirements of modern thought. We may all wish them well. They have certainly exercised a limited amount of influence amongst the best type of Moslems. I cannot say, judging from my own experience, that I think that influence has as yet extended very deep. The difficulties that they have to encounter are,

indeed, formidable. Professor Hurgonje says that neither slavery nor polygamy is "indispensable to the integrity of Islam." This is so far true as regards slavery that some seventy millions of Mohammedans are now living contentedly in India, where the status of slavery has been abolished by the Legislature. But it has to be remembered that so drastic a measure as this is only possible by reason of the incorporation of India into the British Empire. Further, it may be said that there is a tendency amongst the higher classes to discourage polygamy; but it is the great facility afforded by the Moslem law to divorce rather than polygamy itself which tends to undermine that family life which is the acorn from which the oak of true civilisation is produced. Professor Hurgonje attaches a far greater degree of importance to the fact that it is still the duty of Moslems to regard all those parts of the world which are not yet subject to their authority as "the Abode of War." Personally, I should not have been inclined to attach such great importance to this theory. My own view would be that the great obstacle to reconciliation between Islam and Modernism is to be found in the immutability of the Sheriat, the sacred law of Islam. I have as yet never noticed the least disposition to permit the admission of the principle that the Sheriat can be changed. Without such a change a full understanding between Modernism and Islam is very difficult, and if the change is ever made, Islam would come out of the crucible with perhaps some of its essential dogma intact, but in a form differing almost wholly from the Islamism with which we are all now acquainted.

"An Open Enemy."

An article with the above title in the *Spectator* (December 9) begins:—"The Royalist Government at Athens has become an open enemy, and must henceforth be treated as such," a statement which nobody in this country would be inclined to deny. After reviewing recent events in the Greek capital, and referring to the "series of messages purporting to come from British correspondents, but containing opinions which those correspondents would certainly never have expressed," which are one of the results of the Royalist control of the cables and the censorship, the writer continues:—

The Greek King and Government had better understand at once that they have forfeited the right to indulgence—an indulgence which was practised even on the fatal December 1, and caused the Allied naval officers to fire a few shells more by way of warning one would think, than with a real intention to destroy. The King must know now that he is recognized as our enemy. It is not a question of our suffering a "trifling loss of prestige," but of his standing to have no more of those opportunities of salvation which the Allies have patiently offered to him. Of course, M. Venizelos, with his characteristic moderation, has never wished to destroy the monarchy. But if King Constantine forces our hand it may become necessary to remove him as a military precaution. Military measures, exacted by the situation of the Allies, cannot after all make punctilious concessions to Greek internal convenience. This is an argument which certainly would appeal to M. Venizelos as strongly as to any one, for his hopes for his country are indissolubly bound up with the fortunes of the Allies.

The article concludes with a plea for prompt action, and a reminder that "if the Germans menaced Salonika in force it would be too late to deal with Greece."

A National Shrine.

In an article entitled "Art Treasures of Roumania" a correspondent of *The Times* (December 8) points out that there are in that country, awaiting more careful study on the part of Western students, many treasures which would well repay closer investigation. He goes on to say:—

All who know the country have been filled with anxiety lest the Germans, in their onward march, should injure or destroy the great church of Curtea de Arges, one of the most imposing churches in Europe, successfully restored to something of its early magnificence by the late King. This extraordinary building was founded in 1517 by Prince Neagoe and his wife Despina, of Serbia, and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin.

. . . The Prince and Princess. . . determined that their cathedral should excel in beauty all that had preceded it, and in the days of its early glory it must have been magnificent indeed. Neagoe's successor, Theodosius, continued the work of his father, but it was Radul d'Afumatii who completed the building.

. . . In 1866, when King Carol visited the place, he found it largely in ruin. He took the advice of Viollet le Duc, who recommended an artist named Lecomte de Nouy, and under his skilful attention the great church was restored and reopened on October 12, 1886. Lecomte visited other great national memorials, the churches at Jassy, Horez, Cozia, Valcea, Padure, and Campulung, and from these famous buildings—all well worth study by the modern student of architecture—he acquired a good knowledge of sixteenth and seventeenth century Roumanian work. The building now re-erected is superb, with wonderful frescoes and mosaics, glorious bronzes, and rich marble, the whole place a glowing feast of colour; the architecture a strange mingling of that of the Arab and the Roman, eminently characteristic of the people whose national shrine it has become. In the interior the tombs of the founders and their successors belong

to the original building, but of the smaller objects with which Neagoe and Despina enriched their foundation there is but little remaining.

The Mismanagement of Greece.

In a note dealing with the attack on Allied troops at Athens and the maltreatment of Venizelists by the Royalists the *Nation* says:—

Greek narratives should always be treated with caution, but with some knowledge of the wholesale brutalities and massacres which the Greek army, under King Constantine, perpetrated against the Bulgarian peasantry in Macedonia in 1913, we have no difficulty in believing that there is much truth in these stories, even when allowance is made for panic. Even in the Balkans there is no mob quite so brutal and so cowardly as a Greek mob.

In the following note the writer declares:—

It is sufficiently clear that the whole Greek situation has been grossly mismanaged. The critics of Lord Grey insist, of course, that he ought from the first to have followed a policy of thorough-going coercion against Greece. On the contrary, the mistake, as we see it, was that a continual guerilla coercion was kept up, at the instance of the French military authorities. Steps to secure full control of the actual war zone were plainly necessary as military measures. It is the ineffectual interference in the purely domestic concerns of Greece proper, and especially the measures of police taken at Athens, which have done the mischief. It was a policy of half-measures, which irritated but did not intimidate. These mistakes will have their sequel, and further coercion is now inevitable.

Germany and Roumanian Supplies.

The Military Correspondent of *The Times*, in reviewing the results of "The Roumanian Retreat" (December 9), writes:—

If the disasters of Rumania, deeply though we feel them, do not materially affect the ultimate issues of the war, and even in a sense are stimulating, because they substitute hard facts for baseless visions, the assistance which our enemies will receive from the seizure of the corn crops of Rumania also promises to be much less than is generally supposed. The average yearly consumption of cereals by Germany and Austria is about 60,000,000 tons, and the total amount of grain believed to have been in Rumania last month was under 6,000,000 tons, more than a third of which at least is required for the consumption of the Rumanian population. Of the residue, much will have been destroyed, a good part has been shipped to Russia, and another important part is stored upon the Lower Danube and at present out of harm's way. The amount of grain in Rumania last month was approximately equal to the import of Germany and Austria from abroad in a year of average crops, but we have also to remember that the enemy's crops are not average now, that his people are hard pressed for food, and that of the Rumanian corn crops not a very large amount will remain for the enemy's consumption. Even if this amount is 3,000,000 tons, which may be taken as an outside figure, it represents only one-twentieth of the total annual consumption of Germany and Austria, so that we can well understand why the German Press is made to publish a warning that the people must not expect a double ration of bread. Indeed they must not. . . . On the supply side the success achieved, though of some importance with regard to wheat, fodder-foods, cattle, and oil, will not do more than assuage for a few weeks the hunger of our enemies.

The Unforgivable Thing.

On the same date, and in the same article, *The Times* correspondent writes:—

The contraction of the enemy's front, now that he has reached the line from the Danube about Silistria to Brasso, will naturally cause a portion of his armies to pass into reserve, and to be available for other operations as soon as both sides decide where they mean to cry a halt. In this case the natural course will be for the Bulgarian and Turkish divisions to return home, and some seven divisions will become available for reinforcing the Bulgarians and Turks now facing General Sarrail, and to these the Turks fighting in Galicia may be added. The season is unpropitious for Balkan operations, but in view of the positions occupied by the enemy on the Salonika front, and the expectation which the enemy may entertain that the Greeks may fall upon our rear, a concentric attack upon General Sarrail's Army within the next few weeks is a contingency which must be faced by the Allies. The particular course which commends itself to us in these circumstances is written very plainly on the map, and the only thing that will never be forgiven is indecision in a situation which needs handling both prompt and firm. The safety of our troops forbids us to pander any longer to political objectives which have no basis in sound strategy.

A "Little Tin God."

Monday's *Daily Express* contained an article on King Constantine by Mr. Herbert Bailey, who declares that "to those who have long studied the peculiar constitution of King Constantine's mind, examined the motives which impel him on his various policies, and watched his personal predilections, his infamy is but the natural sequence of his career." He is a despot at heart, and now he shows himself more or less in his true colours. "To him M. Venizelos, the statesman who derived his strength from the masses, and fashioned his policy with

the object of saving Greece irrespective of all Royalist inclinations, was, and is, personal anathema. A determination to crush the Cretan leader forms, indeed, a foremost item in King Constantine's policy." But jealousy and hatred of M. Venizelos are not the only things driving this obstinate monarch along the road to ruin.

The adoration of the Kaiser, the sublime faith in everything Prussian, is undoubtedly the principal motive force behind King Constantine. Domestic relations alone, the fact that he is a brother-in-law of the Kaiser, and that his wife is a woman of distinct personality and power, would indeed urge him to turn his eyes to Berlin. But he is almost frantically devoted to the Kaiser. In him he sees the personification of all that is virtuous in a Sovereign; in him he sees a man worthy of imitation. That turn of vanity which belongs to the Kaiser also belongs to King Constantine. He believes, and he has induced the Royalist faction and its numerous followers to believe, that he is the greatest living strategist, an Alexander and Napoleon in one.

Mr. Bailey asserts that "a solemn promise to the Kaiser (although that is not in itself very valuable in one who, like the German Emperor, places military necessity above all bonds, oaths, or promises, and considers duplicity as merely good politics) exists, by which he is to preserve strict neutrality until military necessity intervenes. That military necessity, it is needless to say, is to be applied by Germany." And he adds:—

His inordinate vanity, his position as a field-marshal in the Prussian Army, his love of German organisation, German ruthlessness, and German "blood-and-iron" philosophy—all serve to make him a fitting tool for the Kaiser in Athens. A man of no striking intelligence, as stubborn as a wayward child, but as despotic and deceitful as a Prussian officer, he stands today amid the confusion in his country the Wilhelm of the Balkans.

Roumania's Turkish Memories.

In an interesting article, entitled "Teaching Patriotism in Roumania," in the *Graphic* (November 18), Miss Edith Sellers writes:—

Patriots may, as folk say, be born, not made; none the less. I very much doubt whether Roumanian schoolboys would be quite such ardent patriots as they are were it not that their fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers all combine with their teachers in fostering their patriotism. In their land there is hardly a town or village but some old man or woman is there who remembers the days when it was a mere Turkish province, its people at the mercy of foreign rulers (I have often stood side by side with one of them at these Sunday drills). Now these old people have terrible tales to tell of what they saw in those days, of what they had to suffer—how they must stand aside helpless while Turkish marauders drove away the cattle they had reared, gathered in the crops they had sown—nay, snatched the very bread from their children's mouths, slaughtering ruthlessly whoever dared to raise a protest. And they tell these tales to their children's children and grandchildren, just as they used to tell them to their own children; say how they saw the old homestead pillaged and burnt, those nearest to them led away captive or murdered. There is hardly a peasant family but has its tradition of horrors, a fact that explains why it was that among the peasants indignation blazed forth most fiercely, when the rumour spread that there were men in Bucharest bent on fighting side by side with the Turks.

Articles to Note.

"The Policy of Greece," by "Politicus," in the *Outlook* (December 9).

"Mesopotamia," by Captain F. C. Molesworth, R.E., in the *Royal Engineers' Journal* (December).

"Roumania," by C. Hagbert Wright, in *Country Life* (December 9).

"Amateur Strategy: A Short Way in the Balkans," by "An Old Soldier," in the *Morning Post* (December 12).

"Patmos," by Caroline P. Ingram, in *Chambers's Journal* (December).

"The Roumanian Situation," by Colonel F. N. Maude, in the *Field* (December 9).

"Beyond Money and Journalism: Some Thoughts on the Spiritual Life in Britain," by the Rev. Nicholas Velimirovitch, of St. Sava College, Belgrade, in *Country Life* (December 9).

"Westernism: A French Opinion," by Villehardouin; and "The Allies' Candidate for Constantinople," by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, in the *New Europe* (December 7).

"The Roumanians' Handicap" and "The Martyrdom of the Armenians," in *The Times* (December 14).

A telegram from Athens reports that the town was decorated with flags in honour of the fall of Bucharest.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I am glad to learn that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce does not propose to flirt with enemy interests after the war. The Chamber had resolved to amend its articles of association so as to exclude from membership of the Chamber any German, Austrian, Bulgarian, or Turk who had not before August 1, 1904, become a naturalised British subject, as well as any firm with a partner or director of enemy origin who, before that date, had not become a naturalized British subject. A further amendment excluded from membership any company in which one-fifth, or more, of the issued stock or share capital, or of the debenture or loan capital is held by, or for the benefit of, any person of enemy origin who was not a naturalised British subject before August, 1904. In the cases of those who were naturalised before August 1, 1904, limitations on their admission were imposed.

Recently the resolutions were submitted for confirmation at an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber, and not only were they confirmed, but some members expressed a desire to call a meeting of the Chamber to consider a stronger line of action. Further developments will be awaited with interest. It would also be interesting to know what other British Chambers propose to follow the lead of Manchester.

One or two significant messages from the Continent have appeared in the English papers this week which go to show that the food problem in Germany is less acute than it was. For example, we are told that "from January 1, 1917, bread in Germany will be manufactured without the addition of potato. Besides large quantities of macaroni, vermicelli, semolina, groats, and oats will be for sale." Another telegram—this time from Copenhagen to the *Morning Post*—states:—"According to the *Ertrabladet*, the Co-operative Bacon Factory at Holbaek, Denmark, has been advised from Germany to send only salt pork, as fresh pork will be rejected. Danish exporters believe that Germany is getting ample supplies of fat and pork from Roumania." Even more disquieting is Reuter's despatch from Zurich on December 3, which mentioned reports from Vienna to the effect that "large stores of grain have already fallen into the hands of the German and Austrian troops in their advance through Roumania. Very great stocks were warehoused in Turnu Severin, Giurgevo, Craiova, and Alexandria. Still larger supplies are in the hands of the landowners and farmers. Before the war the Roumanian Government had ordered the farmers to reserve 40 per cent. of their crops for home consumption at comparatively low prices. But, as the export prices were more than double these, most of the agriculturists preferred to keep back their grain."

My readers will recollect the very grave warnings contained in the article by "Politicus" in the *Fortnightly Review*, which I quoted at some length on November 17 and 24, and pointed out that the

defeat of Roumania by Germany would mean that the latter could "acquire not only materials and food, but also huge supplies of minerals, oils, and many other commodities useful in warfare." Roumania is not nearly "defeated" yet, despite her perilous situation; but are the messages quoted in the preceding paragraph to be regarded as indications that already the Huns have been able to replenish their depleted food stocks? If that is the case, the position is graver than most people realise, and calls for the initiation of a clear, definite policy by the Allies. The pity of it all is that we can find so few who are able (or willing) to speak the truth.

There appears to be great financial activity in Turkey. According to the *Berliner Tageblatt*, several Austrian concerns have "recently been linked on to the Austrian Creditanstalt and the Vienna-Hungarian Bankverein," and have formed a new "Austro-Hungarian Orient group." We are told that this is a syndicate which is, in the first place, concerning itself exclusively with concessions of all kinds in Turkey, while the members of the group retain freedom with regard to current banking business and the establishment of branches of their banks in Turkey. The syndicate has entered into agreement with the House of Rothschild, and has been already very active in Turkey.

It is well known that the Austrian-Creditanstalt has for some time been a member of the German Orient Bank, and it is probable, as the *Berliner Tageblatt* indicates, the arrangement will enable the German financiers to find what is called "an extraordinary broad foundation for financial operations in the East and the possibility of bringing to a satisfactory solution the very difficult tasks and questions which will face the Central Powers after the war." All of which, to say the least, is pure speculation. Meanwhile, the Senate at Constantinople has adopted a Bill for a supplementary war credit of £T15,000,000. Turkey, one may easily believe, will be a great field for lenders, at least.

Shareholders in the British India Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., will have no reason to complain of the result of the last year's working. The total distribution is increased from 10 to 12 per cent., which is possible through an increase of £23,200 in the available profit balance, after providing for depreciation. The management has not been without its problems—torpedoed shipping being one of them—which makes the result the more handsome and deserving of congratulation.

During the past week I have talked with a number of London Greeks about the situation in their unhappy country, and, without exception, there was condemnation of the King and his satellites. Great satisfaction was expressed at the action of the Greek Minister in London and various members of the Consular service. In other parts of the Empire the feeling will be the same, particularly in India, where Greek merchants have thrived and prospered for a very long time. Not only so, but many of them have engaged in public life, and it

has been forgotten that they are not actually Englishmen. No doubt they are all anxious just now regarding the trend of events; but I believe that in the event of any more sinister developments, the British Government would endeavour to regularise their position.

Meanwhile, the Venizelist Government has already set to work to organise Greek affairs overseas. At a meeting of the Greek community in London early this week a letter was read from Mr. J. Stavridis, who recently resigned the post of Consul-General in London for Greece, in which he stated that he had been requested by the Venizelist Government to act as their Consular representative in London, and although unable to take up the duties officially until recognition is granted, he added: "I am willing to open a register, in which all sympathisers with the National Government can inscribe their names, and which I have no hesitation in stating will be recognised and respected by the British authorities."

I am glad to see that *The Times* has been telling the truth to "investors" in "second-hand" ships. Discussing the shipping problem on Wednesday, the City editor of the paper declared, very properly, that "the people who really have most cause for uneasiness are those who have been buying second-hand ships at fabulous prices. The complete success of these transactions really depends on the ability of the vessels to secure the full market rates for at least many months. If all these vessels were to be required to accept moderate freights in future, it is certain that many of the purchasers would very much regret having sunk their money in them. Undoubtedly sympathy would be expressed for them, but it must be remembered that they were backing their own judgment, and that even under the old order of things they always had to take the risk of the particular vessels being requisitioned for Government service."

That is straight from the shoulder and the blow is deserved; but the writer goes further and emphasises the character of some of the transactions in second-hand ships. "It is significant" (he writes) "that many of the sellers have been the old-established firms and that many of the buyers have been the younger firms, thus suggesting that the transaction was prompted by caution on the one hand and the acceptance of risks on the other." It is as well that we should have the truth, even if it is belated.

Much interest will be aroused by the facts contained in the speech delivered by Lord Inchcape at the P. and O. meeting on Wednesday. If any management in the world deserves congratulation it is that over which Lord Inchcape presides: a somewhat formidable list of lost vessels, many vessels taken over by the Government for war purposes, and a depleted sea-going staff. Yet, despite these grave handicaps, the mail, passenger, and cargo services of the company have been maintained and the shareholders receive an increased return on their capital. The P. and O.-cum-British India and many other concerns is an empire institution of distinction.

COMMENTATOR.

Egyptian Finance and Trade.

Revenue Surplus in First Half of 1916—Exports Nearly Doubled in October.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 21.

Last night's *Official Journal* contained the State accounts for the month of September, and thus the figures for the first half of the current financial year. During the six months the revenue has amounted to £E8,316,708, as against £E7,144,023 during the same period of 1915, whilst the expenditure has attained £E8,116,994, compared with £E7,404,415 a year ago.

The main increases in revenue have been: direct taxes, £E14,599; Customs, £E446,276; tobacco dues, £E126,023; legal fees, £E17,333; railway receipts, £E557,307; Post Office, £E17,156; investment of funds, £E20,997; and sale of land, £E13,883. The sole decreases of any importance were port dues, £E19,320, and Domains receipts, £E35,754. The former is due to the decrease in shipping entering Egyptian waters, and the latter to the fact that last year at this time the Domains Administration still was disposing of the previous season's crop, which had been held over owing to the low prices ruling when it first came on the market.

Chief Items.

The chief items of expenditure during the half-year have been:—Sultan's civil list, £E158,166; Ministry of Finance, £E140,374—an increase of £E16,185; Survey, £E69,292; Mecca caravan, £E35,343, as compared with £E7,271 the previous year; Domains, £E121,505, and Post Office, £E165,624—increase of £E14,319 and £E31,953 respectively; Customs, £E71,438; Port and Lights, £E66,471; Coastguards, £E69,905; Public Instruction £E177,861; Public Health, £E209,951; Ministry of the Interior, £E168,124; Prisons, £E88,850; Ministry of Justice, £E399,775; Irrigation, £E418,466—an increase of £E40,166; Public Works, £E246,373, as against £E273,436 last year; Ministry of Agriculture, £E48,099; Railways, £E1,704,515—an increase of £E555,738; Telegraphs, £E59,580; War Office, £E406,602; British Army subvention, £E73,125; pensions and indemnities, £E332,737; Police, £E236,280; administrative services in the provinces, £E239,621; and Public Debt, £E2,333,239.

Substantial Surplus.

The half-year closes with a surplus of £E199,714, as compared with a deficit of £E260,392 at the end of September, 1915. This is exceedingly satisfactory. How the position has improved even as compared with pre-war first half-years can be gauged from the following table:—

*Year.	Revenue. £E.	Expenditure. £E.	Balance. £E.
1913	7,310,098	8,892,616	-1,582,518
1914	7,040,531	8,752,082	-1,711,551
1915	7,144,023	7,404,415	-260,392
1916	8,316,708	8,116,994	+ 199,714

*From April 1 to Sept. 30.

Two Millions Better.

From this table we see not only that even before the war a surplus was not obtained as the result of the first six months' working, but that the revenue during the current first half-year is far in excess of what was obtained in such a normal year as 1913. The improvement in receipts in favour of 1916 is over one million pounds (Egyptian), whilst the expenditure is three-quarters of a million less. The position is, therefore, just under two millions better than it was in the last normal year prior to the war, whilst compared with last year it is £E460,106 to the good. This result is all the more remarkable when one remembers that the first half is always the worst of the year, and invariably shows a deficit. The coming six months will give an excess of revenue over expenditure as a matter of course, owing to the heavier instalments of the land tax, which fall due in October-December—three millions of the tax have to come in during the last half, as against but two in the first—and to the moving of the cotton crop, which naturally swells the Railway and Customs receipts. Basing ourselves on these facts and on the present position, therefore, we may, I think, confidently look

forward to the current financial year closing with as favourable a surplus as the last, which gave one of over two million pounds (Egyptian).

FOREIGN TRADE.

Increases in Imports and Exports.

October was another good month for Egypt's foreign trade. Imports came to £E2,364,304, and exports to £E4,063,903, as compared with £E1,672,767 and £E2,414,482 respectively in October, 1915. This brings the totals for the ten months to £E24,745,212 for the imports, and £E24,016,437 for the exports—an increase of £E9,840,111 and £E4,730,446 respectively, in comparison with the same period of last year.

The chief imports during the month were:—Salted and preserved meat, £E100,125—practically all from Australia, and an increase of £E89,215 over the previous October; flour, £E49,199—about the same as last year, but the total for the ten months is considerably less than in any of the pre-war years; petroleum, £E146,299, and mineral oil, £E28,590—from the United States; stationery, £E81,969; coal, £E431,943—80 per cent. from England and the balance from the States; natural indigo, £E22,225—from India; textiles, £E787,646—of which £E467,013 was cotton tissues, £E48,919 cotton threads, £E55,155 sacks, and £E52,097 ready-made linen and millinery; worked iron and steel, £E71,418; and machinery £E36,310. It is to be noted that during the month imports of rice, cereals (not including flour), coffee, tea, cheese, and charcoal fell off, as indeed they have been doing during the whole year.

Principal Exports.

The principal exports during October were:—Eggs, £E62,698—a very considerable increase over October, 1915, when practically no traffic was done in this industry, i.e., twenty-one million against one and a quarter; raw and tanned hides, £E36,435; rice, £E27,563; cotton seed, £E330,454; cotton-seed cake, £E69,807; sugar, £E16,459; cotton-seed oil, £E18,089; alcohol, £E23,750; and cotton, £E3,363,374. The most important decreases were in wheat, beans, sugar, and wool. Practically all the other items mentioned show substantial increases. Cigarettes to the value of £E16,806 were exported during the month—slightly less than a year ago.

In imports England increased her share, approximately maintaining her proportion. She supplied 69 per cent. of the flour, 70 per cent. of the beer and liqueurs and of the agricultural and other machinery, 23 per cent. of the stationery, 80 per cent. of the coal, 76 per cent. of the cotton tissues, 84 per cent. of the wool tissues, 22 per cent. of the ready-made linen and millinery, and 85 per cent. of the worked iron and steel. India increased her share by 75 per cent. to £E126,315—30 per cent. of the flour, all the indigo and sacks, 35 per cent. of the cotton threads. Australia jumped from £E2,294 to £E101,806, mostly meat. The United States increased their share from £E79,993 to £E276,299—petroleum and all mineral oils, 20 per cent. of the coal, and 30 per cent. of the construction wood. Spain and Sweden both somewhat increased their sales, the former owing to larger fatted oil and textile shipments, the latter due to larger stationery deliveries. France and Italy maintained practically the same figure as last year; the last-named supplied 20 per cent. of the stationery and cotton tissues.

British Share.

The British Empire took by far the lion's share of the exports—£E2,967,728—all the eggs, natural phosphates, wool, cotton seed, and cake, 33 per cent. of the raw skins and tanned goods, 75 per cent. of the sugar (16 per cent. to India), and 72 per cent. of the cotton. The balance of the latter went 10 per cent. to the United States, 4 per cent. to France, 6 per cent. to Italy, 3 per cent. to Russia, and the balance to Japan, Switzerland, and Spain. France substantially in-

creased her purchases, taking 70 per cent. of the rice and practically all the cotton-seed oil and alcohol, whilst Greece took all the maize and 45 per cent. of the raw skins and tanned goods.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan during October was also flourishing, imports from the latter increasing from £E40,472 to £E70,705, and exports to that province from £E70,096 to £E96,392. The chief imports into Egypt were:—Livestock, £E21,806 (14,652); skins and tanned goods, £E4,710; maize, £E28,659; sesame, £E1,374; and senna, £E1,668. No cotton came through. Under exports Egypt sent sugar to the value of £E22,622; cotton tissues, £E31,340; mules and donkeys, £E3,295; and cereals, £E4,661. The total trade turnover between the two countries during the ten months has increased by just under 50 per cent.

FLOURISHING SUDAN TRADE.

The second quarterly statement of the trade of the Sudan with foreign countries and Egypt has just been issued by the Sudan Customs Department. It gives detailed statistics about exports and imports during the period April 1 to June 30, 1916, and also general statistics about the first half of the present year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1915. A cursory glance over the summary of these statistics shows that the trade of the Sudan in the present year is in a much better condition than it was during the last year.

The total value of imports from January 1 to June 30, 1916, amounted to £E1,185,887, as compared with £E745,250 during the same period in 1915. There is, therefore, an increase of £E440,637, or nearly 60 per cent. The exports, which were valued at a total of £E777,973 in the first half of 1915, amounted to £E1,444,342 in the first half of the present year, thus showing an increase of £E666,369, or over 85 per cent. up. This is certainly a very pleasing result, and shows that the trade of the Sudan, in spite of the war, is in a healthy and prosperous condition.

GENOA COTTON IMPORTS.

According to unofficial statistics the imports of cotton at Genoa during the period September 1, 1915-August 31, 1916, show a considerable falling off from the figures of the previous year. The decline is notable not only in American, but also in Indian and Egyptian cottons. There are slight gains from other sources.

Kind of cotton.	1914-15. Bales.	1915-16. Bales.
American	1,105,346	833,001
Indian	221,826	187,689
Egyptian	151,127	66,995
Other	30,333	49,064
Total	1,511,632	1,136,749

In explanation of the above quantities it should be stated that there is considerable difference in the weight of bales imported from various places. Estimating the American square bales at 520 pounds and round bales at 250 pounds, the Egyptian at 725, Indian at 400, and other importations at 475 pounds, the following computation will give a more accurate idea of the actual amount of cotton imported during 1915 from various countries:

Kind of cotton.	Actual number of bales.	Equivalent to 500lb. bales.
American—Square....	743,409	408,970,680
Round....	89,592	151,131,360
Indian	187,689	75,075,600
Egyptian	66,995	48,571,375
Other	49,064	23,305,400
Total	1,136,749	555,923,055

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

Trade Rivalry and How to Meet It.

Systematic Campaigns in U.S.A., France and Japan.

Questions concerning the British Consular Service and the training and equipping of British youth for commercial work abroad have been discussed in THE NEAR EAST so frequently that, in further discussion of the subject, there is involved some risk of tiring our readers. We propose again to discuss the matter, however, and, if any apology is needed, to plead the extreme urgency of the questions.

In our last article on the subject we dealt with the organisation and energy of the American Consular Service. To-day we have to begin with another American text, and point to the great propaganda work recently undertaken in the principal cities of the United States by the Civil Service Commission. The result has been that examinations have been held all over the country with a view to the selection of persons to act as Trade Commissioners and special agents for the American Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Scope of Investigations.

As a beginning, ten appointments are to be made to undertake the following investigations:—Hardware in the Near East, Africa, and India; motor vehicles in Russia and the Far East; investment opportunities in Russia; fancy groceries in South America; furniture in South America; metal-working machinery and prime movers in Russia; metal-working machinery and prime movers in Brazil; jewellery and silverware in South America; ports and transportation facilities in Russia and the Far East; and mineral resources in the Far East.

For the moment, perhaps, the actual interest of our readers in this list is very restricted; but it shows how earnest are the intentions of American commercial and industrial men to push their trade; and it may reasonably be assumed that their work in the Near East will not be confined to the single item, hardware.

To Plan Trade Campaigns.

It is laid down that the duties of the men who secure the appointments will be to obtain information concerning the demand in foreign markets for the particular commercial lines they are to study, and to present the data obtained in straightforward, readable reports, which will enable American manufacturers and exporters to plan campaigns for the sale of goods in the markets investigated.

An official statement issued declares that "Applicants for the South American investigations will be expected to know Spanish, and extra credit will be given for Portuguese. For work in Brazil Portuguese is considered especially desirable. In the investigations including Russia, French is required, and an extra credit is given for Russian. No foreign language is required for the hardware investigation in Africa, the Near East, and India, or for the investigation of mineral resources in the Far East."

"No person will be admitted to any of these examinations who has not had previous training which would qualify him as an expert in the particular line to be investigated. This means substantial and responsible experience."

Another trade educational movement which is making great headway in America is that conducted by the Bureau of Education; and as a result of the second Pan-American Scientific Congress the sub-committee in charge of commercial education decided to invite the preparation of papers, which, when printed, would be a permanent contribution to this phase of educational work.

These papers are declared to have "offered a new body of material from which to proceed for further study and incorporation in the proceedings of subsequent congresses. The work was deemed of paramount importance at this time, not only for economic reasons of

higher efficiency in the organisation of business and the marketing of products at home and abroad, but also as a means of acquiring by study the international way of looking at things, and of assisting in establishing international amity.

Other Competitors.

America is not alone in this bold bid for the world's commerce, however. We have referred on previous occasions to the tireless energy of Japanese traders in the cheap markets of the world. India has a tale to tell in this connection: we believe we are right in saying that Egypt has already been exploited to some extent. Trade representatives have established themselves in centres over a widespread area, and now Japanese banks have begun to open branches in America and the neutral countries of Europe. Exchange business is being undertaken, and the indications are that Japan intends to challenge a place in the general commercial system of the world.

France, too, despite her political and war anxieties, is awakening. Recently the French Chamber of Commerce of Milan established an endowment which will permit the payment of 1,500 frs. (£60) a year to a French student of commerce to enable him to study the Italian language and Italian business methods in Italy. In commenting upon this item of news several French publications held up the action of the Milan Chamber as an example to other commercial bodies in France and abroad, and pointed out that steps of this kind are an especially desirable means of contributing to a country's economic expansion.

What Are We Doing?

What is Great Britain doing to meet these new developments? It is true enough, unfortunately, that the war demands most of our thought and energy, but there are many official, quasi-official, and private bodies in this country which can afford to leave the prosecution of the war to the appropriate departments, and to devote their attention to the demands of trade and commerce.

Educational work among young men, on the lines of that being taken in the United States, is pre-eminently necessary, and we commend this need to the London Chamber of Commerce, in particular, and to all British chambers in general.

It is satisfactory to learn that in some quarters there has been an awakening. We learn that in preparation for the extension of British trade in Russia, classes have been formed in public schools and other educational institutions in Scotland for the study of the Russian language, and at present 168 students are enrolled in such classes in the Edinburgh district. The University of Edinburgh has two lecturers in Russian, one a Russian and the other a Scotsman; but in October the class had only five members. In the Heriot-Watt College, where a night class meets twice a week, there are about forty students. The Royal High School, Edinburgh, has a course in Russian. There is a night class twice a week with fifty pupils in attendance. In the woollen manufacturing district of South Scotland the school boards of Galashiels and Hawick have started classes in Russian, with an enrolment of twenty-three in the former town and forty in the latter.

A similar movement is reported from Hull. At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce a day or two ago it was announced that one of the members, Captain H. Samman, a ship-owner, had intimated his desire to encourage the study of Russian, in view of the commercial intercourse between Russia and Hull, which was likely to be still greater in the future, and was willing to start an endowment fund for the purpose with a sum of £10,000. It was left to the Parliamentary Committee of the chamber to formulate a scheme, and it is possible that travelling scholarships will be arranged.

All this is, of course, so much to the good; but there is as little reason why the movement should be confined to Scotland and Hull

as there is that Russian only should be taught. There are many oversea markets in which our once paramount influence has waned, others which we have touched scarcely at all, and still others from which Hung and Austrians have been driven; and which would rather have the British substitute than any other—Egypt, for example. The question is, what are we doing to make good?

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Greek Consul at Perth (Western Australia) has resigned owing to the recent events in Europe.

Wireless communication between Constantinople and Athens has been, it is reported, re-established.

A Bill for a supplementary credit of £T15,000,000 for the Turkish War Ministry has been adopted by the Senate.

In the week ended December 5, 4,206 tons of coal were exported from Hull to Alexandria. These figures do not include bunker coal shipped for the Admiralty or for the Allies.

The adjudication which was to have been held on November 15, 1916, for the supply of a Worthington pump, valves, and pipes, to the Delta Barrage gardens, Egypt, has been postponed to December 23, 1916.

An address on "The World's Cotton Supply and India's Share in It" was given at the opening meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts yesterday by Professor J. A. Todd, University College, Nottingham. A report of the meeting will be published in THE NEAR EAST next week.

The U.S. Government has decided not to protest against the refusal of the British Government to supply bunker coal to neutral ships at British ports, considering the matter one of purely domestic control, even though it affects neutral shipping.

The greater part of Tokar lands has been planted this year with Affi cotton. The newly flooded lands at Sakalat have been planted with Sakelaris or American, while a part of Sherbet lands has been planted with American cotton. Prospects are generally good, and it is estimated that this year's crop will be three times that of last year's.

The Manchester and District Unit of the Hospital for Serbian Refugees in Corsica has now been at work nearly a year. It is regarded as most important that the work should continue another year, and for this purpose £1,500 is needed. Donations may be sent to Mr. D. Drummond Fraser, Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, Spring Gardens.

It was stated in the House of Commons recently that, according to returns published by the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the quantity of Egyptian cotton imported into the United States during the year ended July 31, 1916, amounted to 195,500 bales of 750 lb. weight. The quantity imported in the previous twelve months was 174,400 bales; the average of the preceding four years was 116,800 bales. These figures included a certain amount of Egyptian cotton which was subsequently re-exported to Canada.

Recent reports from Marseilles state that the requisition of wools still continue, and that business is almost at a standstill. Algerian waste, owing to the high prices asked by holders, is neglected, and this state of affairs is likely to continue unless actual quotations are considerably reduced. The latest arrivals comprise 68 bales Algerian waste; 370 bales Bastian wool; 10 bales Bona wool; 33 bales Mogador; 1 bale wool from the Island of Roussa; 17 bales goats' hair from Alexandria; 21 bales skins and waste from Philippeville; 67 bales pressed wool from Naples; 41 bales wool from Bombay; 100 bales waste and 65 bales woollen rags from Tunisia, and 53 bales wool waste from Greece.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, December 14.

Currents.

As was anticipated in last week's report, the gravity of the political situation in Greece had a remarkable effect in the tone of the currant markets in this country. The blockade of all Greek ports, which, apart from other consequences, means that no further shipments will be allowed, with the confirmation, that came at the same time, of the loss of the steamship Michael with 3,000 tons of currants for Liverpool, created considerable activity in the market, and large business has been done in all grades at an advance of prices of from 3s. to 4s. per cwt. Under the circumstances, sellers are holding their fruit, expecting higher prices before long. The stocks of currants in London on November 30 were 10,058 tons.

Sultanas.

There is only a moderate activity with business done mostly in old crop. New fruit is kept for higher prices.

The stocks of sultanas in London on November 30 were 1,690 tons, against 1,057 tons the same period last year.

Seeds.

Linseed has been inactive these last two or three days. London.—Calcutta, spot and afloat, is quoted to-day at 110s. 6d., and December-January 112s. Bombay, ordinary,

December-January, 113s. Rapeseed is very firm. Toria, December-January, to Hull, 93s.; and bold Ferozepore, ditto, 91s. Cottonseed is steady. London, Sakelarides, December, offered at £19 15s. per ton. Quotations for Rangoon beans show an advance on the week, both for spot lots and forward shipments. Morocco Canary seed of all descriptions is in less demand, but prices are maintained.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet. Spot pipes are offered at £53 5s., and barrels, ditto, at £54 5s., landed terms. Rape oil is very firm; ordinary brown, naked, spot, £54; English refined, barrels, £56 to £58. Cotton oil continues very firm; crude spot pipes are quoted £51; refined pale pipes, nominal, and barrels, sweet, £59 to £60, as to make. Olive oil unchanged.

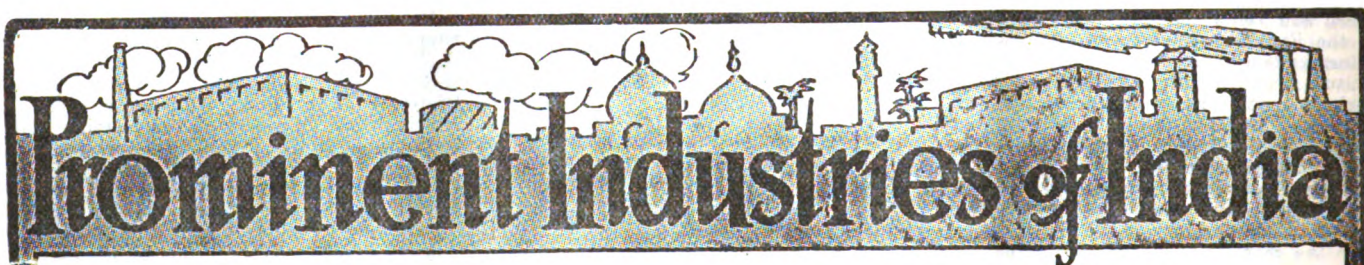
Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes: The demand for Egyptian is good, but offers for either spot or shipment are somewhat limited, although quotations are not dearer at £15 5s. to £15 12s. 6d. English makes are rather quiet at £16 per ton, ex mill. Linseed cakes: Owing to the scarcity for prompt delivery prices have been forced up. Best London made are quoted at £19 5s. to £20 5s. per ton; and American at £18 per ton, ex store. Maize germ meals, white African, offered only on shipment at £16 10s., c.i.f., while home manufacturers ask £16 10s. to £16 15s. per ton, ex mill.

BRITISH COTTON-GROWING.

The one hundred and fifty-fourth meeting of the council of the British Cotton Growing Association was held at Manchester on December 5. In the absence of the President (the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.) Mr. J. Arthur Hutton presided.

A letter from the consulting agriculturist for Egypt was read, acknowledging receipt of a letter from the association, dealing with the complaints made by spinners of waste-matter found in bales of Egyptian cotton. The consulting agriculturist has taken up the matter with the Alexandria General Produce Association, and has pointed out that the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture has been called to the repeated occurrence of pieces of string in bales of Egyptian cotton arrived in England, the effect of which seems to be serious, at the present juncture, as, owing to the complaints of bad spinning, due to the presence of these fibres in the cotton, operatives seem to readily leave the employment of the mills to take up other work which is now easily obtainable. The pieces of string were supposed to enter the cotton when the seed cotton bags are being opened for ginning, and the consulting agriculturist suggests that ginners should be circularised pointing out that steps should be taken to prevent the string being cut into small pieces, in which case better conditions would be obtained in the final bale.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market has presented an unsettled appearance this week, and the conditions have not been at all favourable to a large turnover. The slump in raw cotton rates, followed by a reaction, have rendered progress most difficult, and numerous buyers have decided to hold aloof until the outlook is clearer. It remains to be seen what will happen to the German peace proposals, and varied views are held as to the effect upon our staple industry should hostilities be brought to an end. In raw cotton circles a feature of interest has been the American Government official estimate of 11,511,000 bales, which seems to indicate a commercial crop of about 12,500,000 bales. Stocks of Egyptian cotton tend to increase, but there is no particular change in the prospects for supplies. The general demand in piece-goods for Egypt has continued rather quieter. Some merchants who have recently purchased speculatively for that outlet have been somewhat concerned at the easier tendency in raw cotton rates and depreciation in the value of goods might turn out to be a serious matter for many firms. Less activity has shown itself for India, the demand in shirtings for Calcutta having decidedly fallen off. Light fabrics, such as dhooties, are also quieter. Miscellaneous sales have been put through for China, but there are no indications of any general revival of demand. No business of weight has been heard of for South America. The independent attitude of manufacturers is still very pronounced, and it has been difficult to obtain concessions in prices. Increased irregularity has shown itself in American and Egyptian yarns. Orders have been placed very unevenly. Numerous spinners have not been at all anxious to sell, and now and again prohibitive prices are quoted, especially in ring beams, in order to check further buying.

CROP ESTIMATES.

According to information furnished by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome the production of the undermentioned cereals in Italy is estimated as follows:—

	Estimated Production.	Increase or Decrease on the average yield in 1909-15
	Cwt.	Per cent.
Wheat	94,571,000	- 3.7
Rye	2,671,000	+ 0.3
Barley	4,335,000	0.0
Maize	39,369,000	- 21.5
Oats	7,451,000	- 29.4

The total yield of wheat in Canada, United States, India, European Russia (forty-eight Governments), United Kingdom, Spain, Norway, Netherlands, Roumania, Switzerland, Japan, Egypt, and Tunis, is given at 1,190,847,000 cwt., and of rye in the United States, Canada, Russia, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland at 468,473,000 cwt. The total production of barley in the same countries as mentioned for wheat, with the exception of India, is estimated at 410,817,000 cwt., and of oats in the same countries as for barley with the omission of Egypt and Japan at 787,045,000 cwt. The total yield of maize in the United States, European Russia (forty-eight Governments), Italy, Switzerland, Japan, and Canada is estimated at 1,402,386,000 cwt.

Compared with the average production in the period 1909-13, these estimates represent increases of 14.8, 2.6, and 5.7 per cent. for rye, barley and oats; and decreases of 7.4 and 3.3 per cent. for wheat and maize respectively.

TRADE NOTES.

Liquidations, etc.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief H.B.M. Forces in Egypt has appointed Mr. H. Bridson, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, Receiver of the affairs in Egypt of Mr. Hugo Lindemann, with instructions to liquidate the same.

The Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt has been appointed Receiver of all the property and assets of Alexander Safarowsky, printer, of Cairo, a German subject, with instructions to effect the liquidation of his business, and to hold any surplus of money or other property resulting from the liquidation in accordance with the provisions of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916.

EGYPT'S COTTON PEST.

Peasantry and the Pink Boll Worm.

We take the following from the *Bulletin* of the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture concerning the condition of certain crops in Egypt during the month of October, 1916:—

State and prospects of the crops, summarised from reports received from Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture:—The relatively cold weather, as well as the frequent occurrence of morning fogs, has checked to a certain extent the ripening of immature bolls in many parts of the country. Picking has nevertheless made good progress. The first picking has been entirely completed and the second picking is considerably advanced. In most localities no third picking is expected to be taken; in any case where it will be taken, its value will be of little importance.

As was foreshadowed in last month's bulletin, the bolls that are gathered show a considerable increase of pink seed worm attack, as is borne out by the result of the examination made by the Entomological Section of the Ministry of some 20,000 bolls received from all parts of the country between September 25 and October 24. A corresponding increase has also taken place in the spread of the ordinary boll worm (*Earias*), but the attack remains, nevertheless, comparatively insignificant.

With the pains that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken to bring home to cultivators, big and small alike, the vital importance of conforming with the Boll Worms Law, an earnest attempt is being made in many parts of the country to remove and destroy the bolls remaining after the picking, although, unfortunately, ignorant cultivators very frequently try to smuggle bolls or uncleaned cotton sticks into the dwellings of the villages. Large numbers of contraventions are being committed, and it is feared that unless the generality of cultivators, the large landed-proprietors, and *Dairas* taking the lead, attend more seriously to the task of collecting and destroying the remaining bolls before the dates fixed in the recently published Ministerial *Arrêtés*, a still larger number of contraventions will have to be dealt with, and large quantities of cotton sticks will be destroyed in a year when the sticks constitute a really valuable addition to the income of the farmer. A still worse result would take place, namely, the frustration of the efforts of the Government to control and gradually stamp out this pest from the country.

The forecasts made in previous bulletins as to the disappointing result of the crop have now been confirmed, the factors in play being those already set forth in last month's bulletin.

The *Egyptian Gazette* says of the pink boll worm:—

There is no doubt that this pest is to a great extent brought back into the cotton fields through the channel of the sowing seed, in which it lies dormant even though buried in the plants. Fumigation of cotton seed will undoubtedly mitigate this danger, but until it can be adopted so that all the seed is treated, other means of protection must be employed. The complete installation of fumigation or other apparatus for seed worm destruction cannot be made until September next, but the pest could be materially minimised during the coming cotton season if growers could be induced before sowing their seed to eliminate and destroy all double and hollow seeds which are the resting place of the worms.

In all cotton seed there is a quantity of seed containing pink boll worm. In order to prevent these from escaping from the ground after sowing to attack the new crop of cotton, cultivators are urgently requested in their own interests to take out and destroy by burning all the hollow and double (joined) seeds in which the live pink boll worms are hiding. By doing this the following crop will be much protected from damage and the seed improved.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

Some important research work is being done by the Commission of Agricultural Commerce, and at the last meeting, held at Cairo on November 7, the question of the use of seed drills in Egypt was discussed. One member of the Commission said the heaviness of the Egyptian soil was against their employment, although it was admitted that they might be successfully used in the light lands, and their great economy in seed was accepted.

With regard to the production of wheat capable of being marketed in Europe in normal times, the President mentioned that the excess of dirt in Egyptian wheat, owing to the threshing being done by the "Norag," was an objection which could only be overcome by washing the grain, and this had been actually proposed by millers in England, who pointed out that the washing must be done before shipment, otherwise the dirt was ground so deeply into the grain that it could not be removed by washing just previous to milling in Europe. It was suggested that fermentation might be set up, but the President did not think that there would be as much chance of this occurring in Egypt as in India, where the washing of wheat before shipment was, he believed, always done.

Bourdi for Paper Making.

H.E. Shakkour Pasha mentioned that, in accordance with a previous resolution, he had procured a ton of *bourdi*, which he was endeavouring to get steam pressed. He had purposely taken his sample of average quality in order that the report obtained on it might be applicable to the product as a whole. The question of a concession was discussed, when the President said that he understood that the Government did not contemplate any sort of monopoly being granted on cutting the *bourdi* on Government lands, but he thought it possible that permission might be obtained for the concessionaires to cut as much as they were able for a term of years, where their operations did not interfere with the fishing or other rights which might exist in the locality. A further discussion followed with reference to the possibility of future improved methods being handicapped, if anything, more than the process of manufacture were protected.

Sisal Hemp.

Mr. Kingsford replied to a number of questions regarding the possibilities of growing sisal hemp, and added that the suggestion which had been made that Government should encourage the cultivation of the plant on poor lands by supplying plants and teaching the people to grow and prepare the fibre, as well as to assist them to dispose of their crop, was one which had obstacles. He doubted if people would take it up generally, even with this encouragement, as, owing to the fact that no return could be expected before the third year—and then only half a crop—considerable capital would be necessary, on which there would be no return for some years. The cost of cultivation of the ground for the first two years must be placed at from £E12-15 per feddan, and no area less than 500 feddans would be of any use as a plantation. It was agreed to make inquiries regarding the actual work in this connection already done in Egypt, and to obtain some of the East African reports for future discussion.

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTON GROWING.

The one hundred and fifty-fourth meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association has been held at Manchester, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton in the chair. The Association was established to prove whether the Empire could produce cotton suitable for Lancashire, and its members claim that they have proved that as far as both quantity and quality are concerned the Empire can produce all the cotton that Lancashire requires. The Association has completed the experimental work, has laid a solid foundation on which it is possible to build up and develop an enormous industry of immense value both to this country and to our colonies, but has not the means to undertake any further large responsibilities, and it is felt that the time has arrived when the country and the Government must decide whether any further developments are to take place.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

An Ancient Egyptian Industry.

An interesting lecture was given before the Hampstead Archaeological and Selborne Society by Dr. A. F. R. Platt on "The Old Egyptian Stone Workers." Dr. Platt emphasised the difference between Ancient Egyptian modes of working and our own, the consideration of which is necessary in order to judge of the rate at which the Egyptians worked. The granite industry as we know it is comparatively modern, and it was not till after the erection of the Eddystone Lighthouse by Smeaton, in 1759, that Devon and Cornish granite was systematically quarried. Not until eighty years ago did we learn to polish granite, whereas the Ancient Egyptians could quarry, dress, and polish not only granite but other hard stones thousands of years before the Christian era. The earliest known examples of Egyptian work in hard stone are the syenite and porphyry disc-shaped mace-heads of the early prehistoric civilisation and the vases of granite, basalt, breccia, etc., which were chipped and polished outside without rotary motion, and hollowed out by grinding with stone blocks fed with sand or emery. Professor Petrie has proved that the Egyptians used emery. In the early Dynastic Period they used rotary motion and began to drill out the axis of the vase with a tubular drill, before hollowing it out. Many of their hard stones the Egyptians obtained from mountains in the Eastern Desert; but they quarried nearly all their granite in the immediate vicinity of the First Cataract, where it occurs in the form of dykes and bosses, and of course the Nile simplified transport.

Quarrying Methods.

Sound rock was not far under the surface, and there was consequently no deep quarrying, though there was withdrawal from the river as years went on in the search for suitable material. Modern quarrying consists in drilling holes in the rock, which vary in depth and diameter, and blasting with powder. These holes are made either by hand with long steel chisel and hammer, or by a pneumatic rock drill. Not being able to blast, the old Egyptian was entirely dependent on the wedge, and sank vertical holes quite different in shape and size from those made by the quarryman of to-day. Then pieces of wood were hammered into the holes and saturated with water, so that the after-expansion of the wood split the rock. Examples of this kind of work are to be seen in the granite quarries at Assuan. In a word, the Ancient Egyptians were successful in keeping up an equal strain along the line of a rock, and so obtained even fractures. If the block were very long, as in the case of obelisks, all the greater must have been the judgment and skill of the workers.

Transport Extraordinary.

What time, asked Dr. Platt, was required to extract these gigantic blocks? The largest obelisk in Egypt is that of Queen Hatshepsut, and it is 97 ft. high, 5 ft. 8 ins. thick at the apex, 7 ft. 10 ins. at the base, and weighs about 300 tons. On the base is an inscription, which the doctor interpreted, going to show that the making was "seven months since the ordering in the quarry." It is not quite clear what is meant by the inscription, but it is usually understood to mean that the obelisk was quarried, transported to Thebes erected, dressed, polished, and engraved in seven months. Possibly that was meant, and yet, perhaps, the queen recorded as remarkable not all the operations from quarrying to completion, but the successful quarrying and

dressing in seven months of two flawless blocks of unusual size, out of which two obelisks were made.

Ancient Tools and Plant.

Connected with quarrying, continued Dr. Platt, another question arises. How did the Egyptians hollow out their sarcophagi and monolithic shrines? In late times they used chisels, but Prof. Petrie has shown that in the time of the fourth dynasty sarcophagi were hollowed out by drill—bits of bronze, armed with corundum, next in hardness to diamond. There were also saws of bronze or hardened copper, also armed with pieces of corundum let into the blades in the same way as into the drill. Saws were both circular and straight, and the latter must have been 9 ft. long. Dr. Platt next discussed the period required to saw the sarcophagus of Khufu, and then passed to the question of dressing granite, as done by the Ancient Egyptians, and the tools which they used. Copper was used from prehistoric times, copper harder than modern refined copper owing to the presence of arsenic and other impurities. Bronze with 9 per cent. of tin was in use as far back as Snefru, and iron was known from the time of the Great Pyramid. A rough, unfinished statue of Osiris in a quarry at Assuan shows pick and chisel marks, but of what were the tools made? Evidence rather points to copper, perhaps iron and steely iron, while no doubt with heavy flint pebbles the Egyptians could dress a large area with considerable rapidity.

The Modern Engine.

Speaking at the Society of Arts last week, the Hon. Sir Charles Parsons said that the internal combustion engine ranked among the most important, and was most economical in the conversion of energy in oil and gas into mechanical power. Upon it depended all aircraft and nearly all submarines, as well as motor transport of all descriptions. Indeed, for small and moderate power its use was almost universal. It had become an ever-present part of our modern life, and was exercising upon the community at large an educational influence in mechanics and engineering far greater than we were disposed to think. Dr. Dugald Clerk said many seemed unaware of the leading part taken by England in that great field of invention covered by internal combustion engines, imagining that in this matter we were wholly indebted to Germany. He emphasised that, in the development of internal combustion engines we had done our full share of pioneer work.

Boiler Incrustation.

A patent has been granted for an invention for preventing incrustation in boilers. The curious part is that all the information given in the "Abstract" is that "Brimstone is placed in the boiler water. About 1 cwt. of brimstone is added to 2,000 gallons of water." That is all.

MERCURY DEPOSIT IN ALEXANDRIA.

It was recently reported that in drainage excavations, conducted by the Alexandria municipality in Rue Sesostri, a deposit of mercury had been found. The work of extraction was at once begun, says the *Egyptian Mail*, and up to date about 20 kilograms have been obtained. This work is being conducted by the Technical Service, and seems well worth the small amount of labour involved in excavation and extraction, as the price of mercury well warrants the expenditure. As a matter of fact this price appears to be very elastic, some authorities putting it at £2 10s. to £3 the kilo, others, in view of the great rise in the value of metals, so high as £12 to £14 the kilo. Competent judges are of opinion the deposit is not large, but in any case a good profit should result from the work.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Casualties and Wrecks.

The vessels torpedoed, or otherwise sunk, during the week included the following:—Caledonian (Anchor), 9,223 tons; Spyroo (Greek), Grigorios Anghelatos (Greek), the latter in the Piræus.

A Port Said message states that the Greek steamer Nicolaos Michelos struck the canal bank and damaged her rudder. Cargo is being discharged.

High Freights in Egypt.

A freight of 18s. 6d. a ton measurement was paid on December 8 for a steamer to load at Alexandria for Liverpool. Before the war freights were accepted of 6s. 3d. a ton for the similar voyage to Hull and 6s. 9d. for the voyage to Hamburg. This extraordinary high freight is due to the fact that many merchants were anxious to secure a steamer to load at Alexandria, and when one at last became available, each was ready to pay almost any rate to obtain it.

On December 12, for a neutral vessel handy in size and position, Alexandria established a record at £9 17s. 6d. a ton.

Greek Vessels in British Ports.

Negotiations are stated to be in progress between leading British shipowners and the authorities in regard to Greek vessels now in British ports. No information, of course, can be given as to the details of certain proposals which have been put forward, but it was reported in shipping circles in London on Wednesday that a scheme may later be arranged whereby Greek vessels will be utilised by the owners or their agents under conditions to be decided upon by the authorities.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The British Military Court, sitting in Alexandria, gave its judgment on November 28 in the case against Messrs. Alaily, native timber merchants, who are accused of having carried out some transactions with an enemy country. Mohamed Tewfik Bey Alaily and his brothers were fined ££350, Toussoun Bey Alaily ££5.

Messrs. Alaily are Turks by origin, and are possessed of large woods in certain places in Anatolia, from which they import their timber and wood for sale in Egypt. Their property in Turkey is entrusted to an agent, and up to the time Turkey came into the war they were in constant communication with their agent; since then, however, the Alailies had to give up their Turkish transactions.

Some time ago the mails from Switzerland brought to Messrs. Alaily a letter from their agent in Turkey informing them that the Turkish military authorities had laid their hands on their timber and offered a certain price for it. The letter was seized by the military authorities, and after formal inquiry the accused were referred to the Military Court for trial.

At the Sudan Government offices, Ministry of War, Judge J.I. Kershaw presided over a Military Court, which had before it the case of Messrs. Pierre and Gabriel Baida, of Mousky. They were charged with: (1) Having, between August 17, 1915, and September 9, 1916, transacted business in Cairo without licence in contravention to the proclamation issued by the G.O.C. on August 16, 1915, and (2) Having been during that period agents of the enemy firm Butros and Bubran Baida, gramophone merchants, of Beyrout, without licence. The accused pleaded "not guilty," but they were convicted on the first charge and fined £10, and acquitted on the second count.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 177. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 796.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGOLO SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan."
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

COMPANY MEETING.

P. and O. Steam.

The seventy-sixth ordinary general meeting of the company was held on Wednesday at the offices, Leadenhall Street, the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman said, in the course of a review of the company's work for the past year:—About one-half of the P. and O. fleet has been continuously in Government service during the past year, and has been paid for at less than pre-war rates, while we have been handicapped in the mail services by the conveyance of enormous quantities of mail matter, to the exclusion of cargo.

The company has unfortunately lost five ships during the year—the Socotra, Persia, Geelong, Maloja, and Simla. The two mail steamers which have been under construction for some time are still far from completion; and two large steamers for the Australian frozen meat and general trade, which were ordered in the early part of this year, are progressing very slowly. Within the last few days we have placed an order for a large high-powered mail ship, which is to be laid down immediately.

Despite the fact that so many of our ships have been taken over by the Government, the company's mail sailings from terminal ports have been maintained, not one having had to be abandoned.

Since closing our accounts the Arabia has been sunk by the enemy. As a matter of interest, I may mention that the company has spent £10,000 in assisting and looking after the Arabia's passengers at Port Said, Malta, Marseilles, and elsewhere, and in transporting them to England.

The Poona, outward bound to India and Australia, was badly damaged by an enemy mine or torpedo on December 6 off Beachy Head.

On September 8 last the shareholders of the P. and O. Company decided to purchase the ordinary shares of the New Zealand Shipping Company and to pay for them by the issue of about £906,720 of P. and O. deferred stock, thereby increasing the deferred stock to £2,704,853. Out of 90,672 ordinary shares in the New Zealand Shipping Company, the P. and O. are now the proprietors of 90,582 shares, only 90 shares being held by others, and the P. and O. Company has, therefore, complete control of the New Zealand Shipping Company, which owns the Federal Line.

The P. and O. capital, including debenture stock, preferred and deferred stock, now amounts to about seven and a-half millions sterling.

Although I have the honour to be addressing the shareholders of the P. and O. Company, I do not forget that I am also speaking through them to the shareholders of the British India Company. The amalgamation which was sanctioned more than two years ago has worked out not only without a hitch, but with material benefit to both concerns. In the year under review, I am sorry to say, three British India steamers were destroyed by the enemy, and since closing our accounts another has been sent to the bottom. Of these four three were sunk by enemy submarines in the Mediterranean and one by an enemy mine or submarine in the North Sea. The last-mentioned had brought home from India a batch of repatriated Germans and Austrians, the people whom Lord Grey, you will remember, was specially warned by the enemy to safeguard, as they were "of the better class." (Laughter.) The vessel was sunk after these distinguished passengers had disembarked.

After providing for the payment to Government of 25 per cent. of our net earnings in the shape of income-tax and for 60 per cent. of any profits earned in excess of those made on the average of two pre-war years, there remains sufficient to pay the proposed dividend and bonus, to make an addition to the reserve fund of £126,000, and to increase the carry forward by £7,000.

We are not distributing a war dividend. We are able to recommend the present modest increase of 3 per cent. in our dis-

tribution in a great measure owing to the fact that the company's resources in the past have been conserved under the prudent guidance of our late chairman, Sir Thomas Sutherland. The dividend which we propose on the deferred stock represents an extremely moderate return on the amount of capital actually employed in the undertaking. If you look at the credit side of our balance-sheet you will observe that our assets are close on £12,500,000.

The report was adopted.

COMPANY NOTES.

British India Steam.

The report of the British India Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30 last states that the balance available for distribution, after providing for depreciation and deducting interim dividends paid in May last, is £113,846. The directors recommend a dividend of 8 per cent. (free of tax) on shares and a special bonus of 4 per cent. (free of tax) on shares, the balance of £19,770 to be carried forward. The number of steamers employed by Government during the year was increased, thus further limiting the tonnage available for ordinary trade. The directors regret to report the loss of four steamers. Several new vessels have been added to the fleet during the year, and others are now under construction.

New Company.

B.S.T., Ltd., has just been registered at Somerset House, with a nominal capital of £100,000, in £1 shares. The objects are to consider and investigate proposals and schemes for the foundation, promotion, and operation of corporations and companies of all kinds and for the raising or issue of capital, including debentures, debenture stock, and other obligations of any such corporation or company, and the objects and prospects of such proposals and schemes, and to advise thereon and issue reports in relation thereto, whether for public or private circulation, and for all or any such purpose to employ and retain the services of professional men, experts, and others as may be thought desirable; to invest the funds of the company:—

(1) In the bonds, obligations, securities, and stock of, or guaranteed by, the Governments of the United Kingdom or India, or the Dominions, Commonwealths, Dependencies, and Colonies of the British Empire, or by foreign States, Dominions, Commonwealths, Sovereigns, States, Provinces, municipalities, public authorities, or bodies in any part of the world.

(2) The shares, stock, debentures, debenture stocks, bonds, obligations, mortgages, scrip, or other securities of railway and other public companies, works and undertakings, incorporated or established by Act of Parliament, Royal Charter, or under the Companies Acts, in the United Kingdom or India, or the Dominions, Commonwealths, Dependencies, or Colonies of the British Empire, or by State authority, or under the laws of any foreign country or State, and of any joint stock companies or undertakings incorporated in or carrying on business in any part of the world.

(3) The stocks, shares, or securities of any company registered as a private company under the Companies Acts in the United Kingdom or India, or the Dominions, Commonwealths, Dependencies, or Colonies of the British Empire, or under the laws of any foreign country or State.

(4) And other marketable securities not comprised in the foregoing enumeration.

(5) Real and personal property of any tenure, nature, and description in any part of the world, whether encumbered or not.

Canadian Pacific Traffic.

An increase of \$93,000 is exhibited in the Canadian Pacific's gross receipts for the first week of the current month, following upon a gain of as much as \$1,280,000 in the corresponding period of last year. The aggregate improvement for the financial year commencing on July 1 now amounts to \$10,612,000, as against a rise of \$6,315,000 twelve months ago.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

Land Bank of Egypt.—The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris have received instructions to pay, on December 15,

dividend on the Land Bank of Egypt's shares as follows:—6s. 6d. on ordinary shares against coupon No. 14, and £1 2s. on founders' shares against coupon No. 10.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—Transfer register will be closed from to-morrow to Friday next, both days inclusive, to permit of the preparation of warrants for the interest payable on December 31, 1916.

Ottoman Railway (Smyrna to Aidin).—Transfer books of 4 per cent. first and 5 per cent. second debenture stocks will be closed from December 12 to 31.

Eastern Telegraph.—The directors declare a dividend of 3½ per cent. per annum (less income tax) on the preference stock for the quarter to December 31, and the third quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock (free of income tax), in respect of profits for the year to December 31, payable on January 15.

Alexandria Water.—Interim dividend of 4s. per £5 share on Coupon No. 56 is declared payable on and after December 15. (See notice on p. 168.)

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 29 tons; previous week, 24 tons. Hurgada, 1,389 tons, against 1,297 tons.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended December 3, 52,467 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended December 2, 2,213 poods (36 tons).

European (corrected return).—Week ended December 2, 81,400 poods; week ended December 10, 84,800 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended December 2, 273 tons.

EXCHANGE IN PERSIA.

A message from Resht, North Persia, says that the rate for the kran is higher, and that the tuman is being changed for six roubles ten copecks. New harvest cotton is coming along; it is of fine quality, better than last year's. A Tabriz (North Persia) message says that the rouble is improving in value, and that the tuman is being changed in the Persian bazaars for five roubles 80 copecks. The cotton harvest in North Persia is reported to be unprecedentedly abundant this year.

At Tiflis a meeting was held of all the representatives of credit establishments in the district to consider the popularisation of the present War Loan issue. The tobacco manufacturer A. A. Enphiadzhiantz said that the best way to popularise the loan would be for the financiers of the district to make an authoritative statement supported by acts. He announced his intention of subscribing 500,000 roubles. Then a ten minutes' interval was declared, during which, says the *Caspia*, the subscription was carried over 8,000,000 roubles.

SITUATION IN RUMANIA.

A despatch from the *Times* Correspondent with the Rumanian armies, dated December 3 (before the fall of Bucharest), stated that "in view of the probable fall of the city measures have been taken to prevent the Rumanian oil from falling into the hands of the enemy. During the past week all the wells, refineries, oil-tanks, and other installations situated in the Prahova Valley have been destroyed in a way which renders the production of oil from this rich petroliferous region impossible. Great depôts of benzine were burnt. At Moreni (the most important oilfield in Rumania from the point of view of production) the destruction was of a very complete character in view of the necessity of preventing the working of the heavy oil deposits, which are so necessary to the Germans, seeing that the Galician wells yield only light oils.

"I was in Bucharest on Friday last. The capital was quiet; the shops were open, and the population, which in the first days of the alarm had been in a panic, had become resigned to the situation. The members of the Cabinet, who had remained till then, left on Friday for Jassy. The thunder of the invaders' guns could then be distinctly heard in the city, where a great part of the population remained, confident in the feeling that, even if the capital were taken by the enemy, his occupation would be of short duration."

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

THROMMORTON STREET, Thursday.

Business has been on a very small scale this week, in sympathy with the general inactivity on the Stock Exchange caused by the news from the Balkans. The violent fluctuations in cotton, no doubt, have also acted as a deterrent against much activity on the Egyptian Bourses. News, however, from Egypt continues to be of a very satisfactory nature, and as soon as there is some lifting of the clouds over here a renewal of activity and higher prices are to be looked for.

In Government bonds, Egyptian Unified have receded from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$. National Banks are slightly quieter at $1\frac{1}{4}$, with very little business passing. Agricultural Banks have been dealt in to a small extent round $\frac{5}{8}$, and remain a firm market. Alexandria Waters have been wanted in the neighbourhood of $12\frac{1}{2}$, a rise of $\frac{1}{4}$, but no business has resulted owing to the absence of sellers.

Some small transactions have taken place in Salt and Sodas round the slightly lower price of 24s., and Delta Lands have also changed hands in a small way at about 9s. In Sidi Salem about a couple of hundred shares were done at about 10s. Khedivial Mails have been weaker in sympathy with other shipping shares on fears as to fresh adverse legislation; but the market was better to-day, and, after touching 30s., the price has recovered to about 31s. 3d. The company's business, it is understood, continues to be very satisfactory. In other shares there is hardly any change.

In Greek securities the market has continued quite a nominal one, and although quotations have been reduced from 1 to 3 points, there has not been any real selling pressure, and in the event of better news being received from Athens, it would probably become very difficult to buy at all.

BRITISH REVENUE RETURNS.

For the week ended December 9 the ordinary expenditure was on a much smaller scale than of late, amounting to £16,455,550, of which supply services accounted for £13,059,609 and interest on war debt for £3,041,675. Treasury Bills for supply were repaid to the amount of £29,629,000, and Ways and Means Treasury Bills for £5,115,000 were also repaid. These amounts, together with some minor items, including an issue of £130,000 to reduce the debt created under the Cunard agreement, made the total outgo for the week £51,425,250.

The ordinary revenue amounted to £9,827,001, and no less than £5,055,000 was contributed by excess profits duty, which promises largely to exceed the estimate. Among the other sources, Customs produced £1,820,000, Excise £625,000, Post Office £600,000, and Income-tax £882,000. In addition there was received £35,675,000 from Treasury Bills for supply, £9,480,000 from Six per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, £900,000 from War Savings Certificates, £196,300 from War Expenditure Certificates, £50,000 from bullion repayments, and £500,000 from temporary advances. The total receipts thus came to £56,628,301, or £5,203,051 more than the total expenditure, and the Exchequer balances were increased by that amount to £25,199,102. Maturing Treasury Bills having been nearly as large as the fresh ones issued, the total outstanding has only risen by £583,000 to £1,148,471,000.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

The Secretary of the Royal Exchange Assurance, Mr. W. N. Whymper, has resigned his appointment in consequence of ill health, after forty-four years' service. To fill the vacancy the directors have appointed Mr. Percy F. Hodge (at present the accountant) to the position of secretary, and Mr. H. D. Street successor to the latter as accountant. The directors have also appointed Mr. E. de M. Rudolf as "joint assistant secretary" with Mr. R. E. Duke. All these appointments will take effect as from January 1, 1917.

Mr. Whymper's retirement will cause great regret in London insurance circles where he was held in the highest respect and esteem.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	72	72
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1909	99	76½	75
City of Constantinople 5½ % Bonds	96	67	67½
Egypt. Gov. 3½ % Guar. Loan	93½	69	68½
Egyptian 4½ % Unified Debt	98	79	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5½ % 1890	88	68	67½
Do. Ins. Bk., 1890	82½	63	53
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24½ %)	80½	68½	67
Greek 5½ % 1891	57	54	51½
Do. 5½ % 1884	56	53	50½
Do. 4½ % Monopoly, 1887	49	48	48
Do. 4½ % Renten, 1889	45	42	41
Do. 5½ % 1890	56	52	49
Do. 5½ % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	49
Do. 4½ % Ralls. Loan, 1902	77	63	63
Do. 5½ % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5½ % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Do. 5½ % Currant	—	89½	—
Montenegro 5½ % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Perian 5½ % Loan (1911)	91	74½	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 1890	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4½ % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4½ % Loan, 1896	103	77½	77½
Do. 4½ % 1891	94½	76	76
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	65	65½
Do. 4½ % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4½ % Unified	79	54½	50
Do. 4½ % Loan, 1908	65½	36	36
Do. 4½ % 1909	68	33½	33½

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4½ % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	—	—
Bank of Athens	42½	3½	3
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Eastern Bank	—	78/9	80/—
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	14½	14½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	5½	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5½ % Debts, Red.	98	80	78
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debts, Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	11½	11½
Do. do. 8½ % Cum. Pref.	22	12½	12½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Deb.	87	57	57
Do. do. 5½ % 2nd Deb.	101	59½	59½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4½ %	80	54½	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3½ % Bonds	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	—	16/—
Do. 5½ % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	92	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	2½	2½
Do. do. Def.	—	7½	7
Bahra Co.	4½	3½	3½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2½	2½	7/8
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5½ % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9½	9½	9½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	85	85½
Do. Gov. 4½ % Irr. Trust	6½	6½	6½
Do. do. Foreign Trust	1½	15/9	1½
Gharbiel Land Co.	—	—	—
Do. Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	97	97
Do. 5½ % Debts. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5½ % Cum.	98	7½	7½
Pref.	97	75	75
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debts. Rd.	97	93	93½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	10½	10½
Sidi Salem Co.	—	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands	1½	—/9	—/9

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	12
Assoc. Cotton Ginnery, Egypt.	12½	12½	13/—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	25/6	25/3
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	9½	9½
Do. do. 5½ % Debts. Red.	99½	24½	24½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	96	97	97
Do. 5½ % 1st Mtg. Debts. Red.	96	34/6	31/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	3½	3½
Do. do. Pref.	90	94½	94½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	94½	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (A. 500)	£179½	81/6	157
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	12/6	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Persian	20/—	20/—	20/—
European Oilfields	3/0½	3/4	3/4
Roumanian	8/—	7/3	7/3

PARIS BOURSE.

Banque Imperiale Ottomane	Dec. 7.	Dec. 14.
Canal de Suez	4,110	4,110
Credit Foncier Egyptien	660	660
Turkish Unified 4½ %	—	—
Egyptian Unified 4½ %	—	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON NOVEMBER 28.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½ to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 105 " "
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 12 " "
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 3½ " "
Lot. Turcs, oblig. priv.	L.E. 3½ " "
Bons de Panama	Fr. 126 " "
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Fr. 115 " "
Privilegiée	Fr. 68½ " "
Cheikh Fadi	Fr. 95 " "
Urbanes et Rurales	Fr. 75½ " "
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£ 2½ " "
Building Lands of Egypt	£ — " "
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. — " "
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4 " "
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4½ " "
Unifiée	L.E. 80½ " "
Privilegiée	Fr. 69½ " "
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 5½ " "
" Fondateur	£ 23 " "
Pressage et dépôts	£ 32 " "
Nungovitch Hotels	£ 2½ " "
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½ " "
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3½ " "
Ord.	35/9 " "
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 4½ " "
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½ " "
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 104 " "
Jouissance	Fr. 155 " "
Egyptian Markets	Fr. 26/9 " "
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 240 " "
Div.	Fr. 155 " "
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Fr. 200 " "
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£ 24/10½ " "
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 590 " "
" 1886 Oblig.	Fr. 326 " "
" 1903	Fr. 249½ " "
" 1911	Fr. 258 " "
Delta Lands	£ 7½ " "
Port Said Salt	£ 37/6 " "
Cotton Ginnery	£ 8½ " "
New Egyptian Co.	£ 8½ " "
United Lands	P.T. 4 " "
Levant S.S. Co.	£ 33/- " "
" Fond	£ 195/ " "

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.	1916.
	Week ended Dec. 9.	Week ended Dec. 7.
Cattle markets	764 ..	1,090
General markets	380 ..	393
Cattle markets closed	1 ..	1
Receipts (£)	1,144 ..	1,483
Total from commencement of year (£)	48,144 ..	51,767

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended November 20, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
	£.	£.
Nov. 10-Nov. 20	6,520 ..	8,272
April 1-Nov. 20	104,531 ..	130,553

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that an interim dividend of 4s. per £5 Share on Coupon No. 56 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1916, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By order of the Board,

H. R. C. BLADEN,

Managing Director.

Dated Alexandria, 22nd November, 1916.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohi, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes. Tachometers, Balances, &c.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 294.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	169
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Turkey (viâ Athens)	171
SPECIAL ARTICLES—	
Roumania Infelix	172
Is Armageddon Fought in Vain? (D. M. Gane) ..	173
Archæological Notes	176
The Future of Palestine (Estelle Blyth).—II... ..	181
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Germany's Peace Offer and the Near East	180

	PAGE
TANGIER TO TEHERAN	174
NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—	
Some Russian Supermen ..	175
PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	178
NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	182
THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	183
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
The Moslems of Cyprus (Mr. Robert Pierpoint)	177

	PAGE
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
The Economic Future of Greece	186
Cotton and Textile Notes ..	187
Cyprus Notes	187
Produce Report	188
Trebizond's New Oil Industry	189
The Trade of Aden	189
News from all Sources	189
Engineering Notes	190
Restricted Trade	191
Company Reports	191
On 'Change	192
Stock and Share List	192

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Germany's disappointment over the failure of her offer to negotiate is the keener because she feels that she has had the bad luck just to miss her peace market by a few days. Her overtures found Russia with a new Prime Minister, the British Government in the course of reconstruction, and France and Italy resolved to follow Great Britain's example with a view to speeding up their war machinery. Accordingly, the hopes that the Central Powers had previously formed of securing a favourable hearing for their offer ought to have been dissipated before the peace kite was actually flown. It would be too much, however, to expect Germany to realise that from no conceivable Government in any of the Allied countries could she have counted upon an acceptance of her offer. But she may well feel entitled to condole with herself for having to receive an answer drafted under the stimulus of a revived determination on the part of all the Allied Powers to prosecute the war to the bitter end with greater vigour and with greatly enhanced efficiency.

The event of the past week is undoubtedly the enunciation of the programme to be put into execution by the British Government, which reflects the new spirit animating the whole of the Grand Alliance. It is on the will to conquer and on the scientific organisation of the country's resources that the British nation has to rely in appraising the actual situation. Rightly or wrongly, it has judged itself handicapped in the past by the absence of leadership, a defect by no means confined to Great Britain among the Allies. In the new Government it finds a determination to translate into action the principles on which it would have the war conducted, and it regards as of the best augury the circumstance that the Allied States also share this view and are no less anxious to follow confident leadership.

In the review of the whole position in regard to the war which Mr. Lloyd George had to give in his first speech in Parliament as Prime Minister, much space had to be devoted to details of the new administration. Of the military situation he had little to say; but he made a welcome departure from the former custom of dressing up pious aspirations in the garb of facts. The military situation, Mr. Lloyd George declared, was not a gloomy one, but to represent the position accurately he would have to paint a stern picture. The darkest cloud on the horizon, he frankly admitted, was in Roumania. "The Roumanian blunder was an unfor-

tunate one"; it had been "a real set-back." But at worst, he went on to add, it prolongs the war; it does not alter the fundamental facts of the war. "I cannot help hoping," he continued, "that it may even have a salutary effect in calling the attention of the Allies to obvious defects in their organisation, not merely the organisation of each, but the organisation of the whole, and if it does that and braces them up to fresh effort, it may prove, bad as it is, a blessing." The country will notice the absence of Mr. Asquith's splendid periods in which he would have eloquently voiced the sympathy felt for the Roumanians and evoked loud applause by a statement of what the Allies intended to do in the distant future. Not so the new Premier. He believes that "a good many of our misunderstandings have arisen from exaggerated views which have been taken about successes and from a disposition to treat as trifling real set-backs." For that reason no undue expectations in regard to Roumania were raised. "We are doing our best," said Mr. Lloyd George, "to make it impossible that that disaster should lead to worse." The nation will appreciate the new method of looking facts in the face, and the quietus given to Parliamentary window-dressing.

The worst that could happen to Roumania would be that she should lose any large portion of her army in addition to the wide extent of territory she has been called upon to surrender. So far, no overwhelming disaster has befallen the Roumanian troops. They have been pressed back at great speed and in rearguard actions have lost a considerable number in killed, wounded and prisoners. But the army remains intact, and by the time it has reached its prepared positions on the Sereth River, we may still hope that it will be able to impose a final check on the enemy's advance. But the Sereth line, while protecting Galatz, entails the abandonment of Braila. Mackensen's forces have approached to within thirty miles of the latter port, which boasts of no serviceable defences. Here they have been checked for a day or two; but at the moment of writing it is not possible to tell whether this success represents anything more than a special effort on the part of our Allies to enable General Sakharoff to withdraw his troops from the Dobruja, and the Roumanian authorities to complete the removal or destruction of the grain stores at Braila. Unless Braila could be saved, there would be no point in a Russo-Roumanian army attempting to hold out in the Dobruja.

Not the least interesting part of Mr. Lloyd George's speech was his announcement that the British Govern-

ment meant "to take no risks" in Greece. "We have decided," he said, "to take definite and decisive action, and I think it has succeeded. We have decided also to recognize the agents of that great Greek statesman, M. Venizelos." If the definite and decisive action refers only to the ultimatum, we fear that the new Premier may be found to be unduly optimistic in supposing that the presentation of the last Allied Note, together with the enforcement of the blockade, has already succeeded, in the sense that it has brought King Constantine and the Greek Government to a new frame of mind. On the morrow of their acceptance of the Allies' demands, it was reported that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of M. Venizelos on a charge of high treason and of "libel" against the Greek General Staff in articles published in his organ, the *Kirya*. A subsequent telegram from Athens states that in a Note to the Entente Powers the Greek Government presumes to review the situation resulting from the delay in the formulation of the Allies' demands for reparation, and implies that it may be compelled to interrupt the transference of the troops from Thessaly to the Peloponnese, which is being carried out in accordance with the undertaking given to the Allies.

A more impudent attempt to flout the Allies than the issue of a warrant for the arrest of M. Venizelos it would be difficult to imagine. We trust that it is in no sense as a "reply" to this piece of effrontery that the Allies have agreed to recognize M. Venizelos's agents. That step ought to have been taken as a natural corollary to the "recognition" of the Salonika Government, and it was long overdue. The action of the Government in presuming to impugn the patriotism of the maker of Modern Greece calls for far more drastic treatment. When, on the top of it, an intimation is conveyed to the Allies that King Constantine and his advisers may once more go back upon their pledged word, the accumulation of evidence that there can be no solution of the Greek problem so long as the present King is on the throne ought to determine the Allies' next step. It is of first importance that all Greek troops should be removed from Thessaly, where they constitute a menace to the safety of the Allied force in Macedonia. But the Entente Powers cannot leave the situation as it was left by the so-called recognition of the two mutually incompatible Governments at Salonika and Athens. The challenge now thrown out to M. Venizelos in the issue of a warrant for his arrest must be allowed to decide the matter. It has been carefully explained to King Constantine that nothing in M. Venizelos's actions was directed against his position on the throne or his dynasty. He has preferred to make the issue a personal question, and the Allies must now make their choice between King Constantine and M. Venizelos. It is very clear that the former considers that Greece is not large enough to hold both. So let it be. The Allies should have no difficulty in arriving at their decision. They have deliberately taken such action as implies the definite recognition of M. Venizelos's new authority. But any recognition accorded to King Constantine dates back to pre-war days, and may quite well be recalled in the light of recent events. We hope that "the definite and decisive action" to which the British Prime Minister referred will include the cutting of this Gordian knot.

After nearly a fortnight's deliberation the Allies on December 14 presented an ultimatum to the Greek Government, calling upon it to remove the entire Greek force from Thessaly, according to the detailed arrangements set forth in a subjoined Technical Note, and to stop all movement of troops and war material to the north. Twenty-four hours were allowed for a notification that the Allies' demands had been accepted in full, and it was stated that failure to comply with them would be deemed to constitute a hostile act. Meanwhile, the blockade of the Greek coasts was to be maintained until the Greek Government made full reparation for the recent unprovoked attacks against the Allied troops in Athens and until sufficient guarantees for the future had been given. These terms were immediately accepted and the removal of the Greek forces

from Thessaly was begun. The Allies, however, have allowed a further week to elapse without indicating the reparation they require for the events of December 1 and 2; no doubt, for a good reason, but the delay does not seem to have pleased the Greek Government. It is probable that it has not dared to repudiate the action to which it lent itself in the first flush of success in the encounter with the Allied landing detachments. The issue of a warrant against M. Venizelos is a sure sign that the persecution of Venizelists continue, although the earlier outrages may have been checked. But if the doctrine of personal responsibility is to be enforced by the Allies, the Greek authorities will be by no means anxious to add to their collective and individual account a fresh list of crimes from day to day, committed because they have neither the courage nor the power to gainsay the mob rule of the Reservists. Hence the latest communication asking the Allies to let them know the worst in regard to the reparation to be exacted for the events of December 1.

An official statement announces that the Mesopotamian expedition assumed the offensive on December 13. Thus after a period of seven and a-half months operations on a large scale have once more been begun. Holding the enemy on the left bank of the Tigris, General Maude has advanced on Kut from the south, and is now close to the town, with the Tigris between him and his immediate objective. Turkish headquarters are a short distance up stream, and have been subjected to air raids. After a long spell devoted to reorganization, Expeditionary Force "D" takes the field, we may feel confident, in sufficient strength to gain its objective, and that at no excessive cost. It has been urged in some quarters that the Mesopotamia campaign is practically of no value, as the question of British prestige depends on the result of the war in Europe and not on the fighting on the Tigris. In so far as British prestige in the world at large is concerned this is undoubtedly true; but the line of reasoning does not apply to Great Britain's position in the Middle East.

The establishment of satisfactory relations with the dwellers in Mesopotamia will be rendered far more difficult if the end of the war were to find the former reverses still unavenged and the army with a record of consistent failure. The most sweeping victories in Europe, about which they will only hear vague reports, can never impress the people of these regions as will the capture of Baghdad after a successful advance up the Tigris. The Mesopotamia Expedition, therefore, has a very definite objective. It has to occupy territory which it is essential for the peace of the world and the safety of India should pass under the jurisdiction in some form or another of Great Britain. We cannot too strongly deprecate the point of view that the British people have little interest in the Mesopotamian campaign. The fighting on the Tigris will not affect the war in Europe, but it will have an important bearing on future conditions in that part of the world, and we feel confident that British statesmanship as represented by the new Government has sufficient vision and foresight to be able to provide that the Army's work in the Middle East shall now be well done without impairing in any way the success of the campaign in Europe.

Neither Turkey nor Germany, it is to be hoped, has heard the last of the massacres that accompanied the deportation of Armenians at an earlier stage of the war. In a Blue Book recently issued Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, now President of the Board of Education, contributes a notable expression of opinion on the responsibility of the Central Powers in connection with the outrages. Unless we are mistaken, they have since admitted cognizance of what was taking place, and have excused their inaction on the ground that they had no right to interfere with Turkey's private affairs. A recent development in the story is that the representations made by the United States Government to Turkey have proved so embarrassing to the latter that the normal course of diplomatic relations between the two countries threatens to be interrupted.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, November 18.

The Control of Exports.

The following information respecting the state of affairs in Turkey, as far as it can be judged from a residence in Smyrna, is given by some one who lately left that town.

Life in Smyrna can almost be described as normal. There is not, of course, the usual activity of a busy commercial town, and Europeans have practically no business to transact; but there is a fairly active trade in the products of the district by native dealers who are sending such articles as raisins, figs, valonea, cotton and wool to Constantinople. There the exports from Turkey to the Central Powers are controlled by a commission under the presidency of Talaat Bey, and only the surplus over the requirements of the country is allowed to be exported. The idea that Germany has benefited largely in the way of Turkey's products is apparently quite erroneous, as nothing is allowed to leave the country which is necessary for Turkey's own requirements.

The grain crops this season in Asia Minor were about 40 per cent. of the average, and will not, it is expected, be sufficient for Turkey's wants. The Government are accordingly buying up all the grain at fixed prices, with the view of making a distribution over the country according to requirements. This is, however, a formidable task; and in view of the lack of sufficient transport, it is possible that some districts will run short of supplies, whilst others will have an abundance, or, rather, a sufficiency. At the present time bread is being sold at fourpence the kilo loaf in Constantinople, and in Smyrna at eightpence. The Government loses by selling at the former price, but it is bent upon appeasing the lower classes as far as possible. Until Roumania joined the Allies, large quantities of flour were received from that country.

Turkey's Chief Weakness.

The grain sowings this winter will probably be even lower than last year, owing to want of labour and cattle; and therein lies Turkey's weakness. Up to the present time, even with the assistance of Bulgaria (and until recently also Roumania), only a limited allowance of bread has been available, barely sufficient for the poor to live upon; but with smaller grain crops and no other supplies of wheat or flour coming in, the position next summer may be serious. Both in Smyrna and in Constantinople the sale of bread is limited to about a third of a kilo per person per day; an allowance quite insufficient for the poor and lower classes, with whom bread is the staple article of food.

There is no scarcity of most of the other necessities of life either in Smyrna or in the capital. Meat is apparently plentiful, being sold in Smyrna at about 5d. the lb. Fruit, vegetables, poultry, game, milk, cheese, and olives are all more or less plentiful, and a few of the residents are even privileged to indulge in game shooting. Imported articles, such as tea, coffee, and sugar, are, of course, scarce and expensive, tea, for instance, costing about 20s. the lb., and coffee about half that price. Sugar is being sold at about 2s. the lb., a certain quantity having been received from Austria. Clothing, footwear, and any other articles which have to come from abroad are extremely expensive. Petroleum was selling at about 10 piastres the oke when supplies were being obtained from Roumania; but now that stocks are running low the price has risen to about 18 piastres. Imports from the Central Powers have been on a very small scale.

Supply of Fuel.

One of the surprises in Turkey has been the discovery of large quantities of lignite in places easily accessible. This lignite has enabled the country to exist to a large extent. It is being used by trains, steamers, mills, gas-works, and, in fact, is in general use, together with wood, of which there are also large supplies. Smyrna is not, therefore, under any inconvenience from want of

gas. The price of lignite in Smyrna is about £2 the ton. Regular communication with Constantinople is kept up by the Soma railway to Panderna, thence by steamer. Coal from the Black Sea mines has evidently been reaching Constantinople, but recently the Russians appear to have sunk four steamers, and there are now very few left in Constantinople for transport purposes. Coal is therefore likely to become scarce, but supplies can, of course, be obtained from the Central Powers.

The Paper Currency.

The gold and silver coinage has practically ceased to exist both in Smyrna and in the capital, the coins having evidently been hoarded by the public. Paper is the currency, and there are notes of the value of five, twenty, fifty, one hundred, five hundred, and five thousand piastres. These are Government notes, guaranteed by the Administration of the Public Debt, in virtue of loans made to Turkey by Germany. What all these notes will be worth after the war will presumably depend upon Germany's financial position and her ability or disposition to meet her liabilities. In any case this paper currency is now depreciated to the extent of about 65 per cent.—that is to say, a gold lira is worth one hundred and sixty-five paper piastres—and the depreciation is likely to continue. In the circumstances it is not surprising that no one is anxious to hold more of this paper money than can be helped. There is in consequence a tendency to invest one's surplus funds in landed property, and high prices are, therefore, being asked for land and buildings. In order to replace small change the municipalities issue notes of one and two piastres, which are accepted as legal tender.

Political and Military Situation.

As regards the political and military situation, the Turks are quite confident of winning, and certainly the military position of Turkey as it is seen to-day by the people in Turkey is hardly one to cause them any anxiety or doubt as to the tales that the Huns tell them of their future. During the critical days of the Gallipoli campaign the people were in a state of excitement and fear, but in the course of the past twelve months things have changed, and although the war is unpopular, there is now a feeling of greater confidence in the eventual results than there was at that time. It may be said that the Turks have no animosity against the English and French, who enjoy greater esteem than the Huns; but there still exists the traditional fear of the Russians. In Smyrna, and even in Constantinople, it is seldom that any newspapers of the Allied countries are seen, and the people form their judgment on the news they obtain from Turkish papers. They have thus no opportunity of judging the situation from both sides.

The whole of Turkey might be described as an armed camp. There are soldiers everywhere, and it is confidently asserted that Turkey has to-day over two million men under arms. This statement may come as a surprise to many, and will possibly be disbelieved, but, nevertheless, it is more or less accurate. It is known that almost every available man from eighteen to fifty has been called up; there are numbers of Greeks, Armenians, and Jews serving; and large levies of Kurds and Arabs have been raised. Turkey under the Germans is making a very great effort. She has been able to send about a hundred thousand men to Galicia and the Balkans; she has considerable forces all over Asia Minor; and, apart from the garrisons around Constantinople and Smyrna, she has armies in the Caucasus, Persia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Egypt, and Arabia, and troops practically all along her coasts.

This general call to arms has caused infinite suffering to the lower classes, and there is undoubtedly great misery in Turkey, but on the whole one can probably live more cheaply to-day in Smyrna or Constantinople than in Athens.

Certainly the better classes are undergoing no privations. In Smyrna the life is monotonous, and the absence of letters and newspapers from the allied countries is most discomforting, but English and French residents are well treated. All the English in Smyrna are well.

ROUMANIA INFELIX.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The tragedy of Roumania during the past few weeks could hardly have been painted in more sombre colours. The tidal wave from the west and south has swept on relentlessly across Wallachia to the boulevards of Bucharest, and then northwards along the great highways to Ploeshti, Campina, and Sinaia. In front of it, borne down by the enemy's gigantic superiority in war material and engines of destruction, the brave Roumanians endeavoured with all the means at their disposal to stem the hostile flood, and to save their homes and families from devastation. Deeds of heroism, not less noble because little known, will have been enacted in thousands by the soldiers of King Ferdinand along the banks of the many tributaries of the Danube. At first sight these deeds may be deemed purposeless, because their immediate objective, the staying of the enemy, has not been attained; but time will prove the contrary. Brilliant scenes in a grim tragedy, they will live to inspire the victors of to-morrow and strengthen them in their resolve to impose full punishment on the Boche invader.

The picture of Roumania is a terribly sad one; rich fields have been lost to her, and vast wealth in stores and oil; the capital and Court have been removed from Bucharest to Jassy; the enemy overruns vast districts and occupies industrial and maritime centres. The tragedy is as keenly felt in this country as are our own sorrows. We have followed each incident in the great campaign with deep anxiety and hope, partly because Roumania is fighting with us in the same cause, partly because we have always cherished esteem and friendship for King Ferdinand's subjects. The latter can, therefore, be assured of our most heartfelt sympathy in this, the darkest moment of their national history. Whether or not the catastrophe might have been, wholly or in part, avoided, it is not for us to debate to-day, for recriminations lead to no goal, and deeds are wanted, not regrets. Our immediate duty is to remedy the evil rather than to deplore what has happened; to take stock of what remains to us rather than to count up Germany's booty and spoils.

The situation is by no means hopeless. In spite of her heavy losses in men and land, Roumania's army is still intact, and placed astride the country's narrow throat, which extends roughly east and west from the Carpathians to the Black Sea. It is thus able to hold a short front, deeply manned, whilst, in the rear, across Moldavia, stretch the giant steppes of Russia, with all their untold wealth of men and help. Now that the campaign of the past few months is over, and it is realised how small—according to military notions—Roumania's army was in comparison with the extent of her territory, it seems incredible that she should ever have attempted all that she did. The shortened front now is an advantage, and, if stoutly held, as we have no doubt it will be held, will be an important sector of the Baltic-Black Sea line from where the great eastern offensive against the Central Powers will emerge in good time. The enemy, on the other hand, has not only increased the length of his front considerably, but he has increased the distance separating his eastern from his western front, and has occupied territory the inhabitants of which have no love for him, and who will harass him mercilessly when the time comes, as come it must. Moreover, of little avail to Bulgars, Teutons, Magyars, and Turks will be their various crossings of the Danube when, like an avalanche tearing down the mountains, the Roumanian and Russian avengers sweep down from the north and north-east and drive them to the swampy banks of the wonderful river which has become more important in this war than any other European stream.

The position, therefore, is by no means a hopeless one. On the contrary, from a purely military point of view it offers us certain advantages which must not be lost sight of. The enemy objective—namely, the encircling or destruction of the Roumanian army—has not been achieved, nor have our Allies been driven up against a wall, there to stand fast and die. The seizure of corn

and oil supplies by the Germans will doubtless tend to alleviate for a moment the harsh conditions of life obtaining in the Fatherland; but, compared with the military disadvantages of the new situation, it can exercise but little influence on the war as a whole. Through Russia the brave Roumanians in Moldavia will be strengthened and receive all necessary war supplies, and then, in due time, the advance westwards, even beyond the Carpathians, will commence in earnest. The sooner this happens the better, but the exact time depends on the activity with which the war as a whole is conducted. The recent Cabinet changes in Great Britain are an earnest that we are at length awake to the grave realities of the case, and to the necessity for the adoption of an energetic policy in conducting military operations. Roumanians can, therefore, rest assured that we will leave no stone unturned to hasten the return of King Ferdinand to Bucharest and to precipitate the flight of his brother, Prince Wilhelm of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, the German puppet and usurper.

That the military situation, in whatever light it may appear to the ordinary man, is none too favourable for the enemy, is demonstrated by the Kaiser's most recent peace manœuvre. The Higher Staff is well aware that Germany has attained the zenith of her military prestige, and that from now on her star will wane until it disappears altogether. Hence her desire, by a well-advertised manœuvre, to secure peace on her own terms, which are, of course, unacceptable either to our Allies or to ourselves. But the fact that Germany herself recognises her coming impotence is the silver lining to Roumania's tragic cloud, and will do more to strengthen her firm resolve to see the war through than would the capture by her of rich Transylvanian cities. It will, moreover, advise her to give the immediate lie, in deeds if not in words, to those Potsdam-spread rumours accusing her of wishing to sign a separate peace with the enemy. It is unthinkable that she would ever think of coming to any but honourable terms with the Boches; and they can only be honourable when the enemy has been driven pell-mell westwards across the Carpathians and northwards beyond the Danube.

After all, Roumania entered the war on our side for two distinct reasons and with two distinct objects in view; they concerned the liberation of her kinsmen in Transylvania from the Austro-Hungarian yoke, and the freeing of Roumania from the economic thralldom to which she had been subjected by the Prussians. The persecutions of the Roumanians of Transylvania is an historical injustice with which most of us are acquainted, but we are less informed as to the extent of Germany's pre-war hold on Roumania and the measure of her pacific penetration of that country. That it was tremendous has now been amply proved, an eloquent instance being the German-engineered ovation to Mackensen on his arrival in Bucharest. To get rid of this nefarious Teuton influence, which was undermining the authority of the State and mortgaging its interests to the banking institutions of Berlin, Darmstadt, Frankfurt, and Vienna, Roumania declared war; and she will not sheathe her sword until her complete freedom has been won. Besides, the happenings of the past few months will have deadened any sympathy with the Boches which may have been latent in the country; and thus, by invading and temporarily seizing Wallachia, the Germans have not only helped their victims of past days to achieve the object dearest to their hearts, but have also worked untold harm to their own interests, and destroyed all chances of being able to realise their great Central European scheme, with which Roumania, according to Naumann, was to have been affiliated. So much good has the invasion of King Ferdinand's realm done them; and, on the other hand, it has done more to further Roumania's emancipation from Germany than years of national pacific propaganda. Something, therefore, has already been achieved; the remainder must still be fought for, not only on the Roumanian but on every other front of the gigantic war camp. Speaking for ourselves and our Allies, King Ferdinand and his people can be assured that no peace will be signed with the enemy unless it acknowledges Roumania's claim in full.

IS ARMAGEDDON FOUGHT IN VAIN?

(By DOUGLAS M. GANE.)

In speaking at Melbourne on the 14th, with reference to the German proposals for peace, Mr. Hughes is reported to have said that no peace would be satisfactory that did not provide for the evacuation of the Allied territory occupied by the enemy, the repatriation of the inhabitants, and the repair of the cities and industries. It will be apparent that what he refers to here as calling for reparation is all in the nature of consequential damage, and does not touch the source of the mischief. Belgium and Northern France were occupied, not because occupation was one of the primary objects of the war, but as strategical measures dictated according to Germany's views of the necessities of her conflict with the Western Powers, and the treatment of enemy subjects and the destruction of their property were expedients which, according to her ideas, would be calculated to contribute to military success by striking terror into the hearts of her adversaries. These injuries might give scope for reprisals, they might afford room for compensation, but they did not give rise to the war; and so the adjustment of them would not remove the conditions out of which the war arose. Therefore, says Mr. Hughes, peace must also provide effective guarantees that will render the recurrence of such a war impossible.

The provision of guarantees, to be effective, of necessity takes us to the root of the matter, and the forebodings with regard to the developments of the Eastern Question, which of recent years have been unrelenting under the growth of German pressure towards the East, leave no doubt where this lies. The concentration of Russia's efforts in Asiatic adventure came to an end with the results of her war with Japan as it affected the Far East and with the Anglo-Russian agreement as it affected the Middle East, and thereupon her interests were redirected towards the Near East, where the Teuton thrust towards Constantinople revived the prospects of Armageddon. With the accommodation of Anglo-Russian rivalries disappeared the old Turkish régime which had thriven on them, and with the rise of the Young Turk came the portent of a reassertion of Ottoman dominion in Europe and the panic conversion by Austria-Hungary of the trust estate she held in Bosnia and the Herzegovina into a beneficial interest. This was accompanied by the declaration of Bulgarian independence and the seizure of the Oriental Railway, denoting a working agreement so far back as 1908 between the Monarchy and the Principality that had particular reference to German communications with the East. There followed the payment by Austria of the Bosnian indemnity, and the unexpressed purchase thereof of Turkey's goodwill, and the Pan-German movement in Greece, the fruits of which we now see. The provocation of Serbia ensued, having as its explanation the fact that the railway connection between Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria lay through Serbian territory. This provocation was continued until the assassination of the Austrian heir-apparent afforded a *casus belli*, and, following the conquest of Serbia, German land communications with the Bosphorus have been laid, and the first object of the war attained.

The question then arises, from the point of view of the safeguards Mr. Hughes would impose, what prospect is there that Armageddon will settle the Eastern Question? For, if that be settled, the need for guarantees will very largely disappear. The Eastern Question has arisen through the demise of the Turkish Empire and the gradual breaking away of the small floating units of the Christian States that had become subject to its rule. Sundry devices have been conceived for bringing about a resettlement of the Balkan area, but, in consequence of the rivalries by which these small communities are beset, reabsorption into other States came to be regarded as the natural means of securing unity, and Pan-Germanism

provoked Pan-Slavism as a rival. With the rise of the Young Turk a confederacy of the Balkans became the subject of genuine endeavour on the part of the better political elements of the Peninsula. But the tendencies in this direction were arrested by the policy of Ottomanization that marked the new Turkish régime; and this in the end brought about a Concert of the remaining Balkan States and produced the Balkan wars, from which the Turkish Empire emerged further dismembered, and by which the divisions between its adversaries were ultimately further inflamed. Under the stress of war unity among the Christian elements was for the moment attained, but now it seems impossible of revival. Nor could peace prevail on the foundations of the balance of power in the Peninsula, for the equilibrium has now been hopelessly destroyed.

What, then, are the prospects of the Eastern Question being solved by the war, or have we to face the fact that Armageddon has been fought in vain? What is the British standpoint? German dominion in South-eastern Europe is fraught with political consequences more especially prejudicial to British interests because, with Constantinople in German hands, this dominion would tend to be exercised and its power felt from the Bosphorus to the Indian Ocean, and from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf. It would give Germany command of the Euphrates Valley, and so the overland route to the East. It would make her our potential neighbour at Aden; and it would encourage her in efforts to restore the Ottoman Empire in Africa to its old dimensions, and so make her mistress of the Nile Valley. Expansion such as this is inherent in the movement set up by Germany, and whether it should be suffered to advance has been the question on our side to be determined by the war. What is now the position? Germany has been spending her strength, and it is matter for conjecture whether her surplus energies any longer suffice for the huge work of development she had in hand. Louis XIV. sought to create an Empire in Western Europe by bringing about the union of the crowns of France and Spain, and the wars of the Spanish Succession prevented it. In the negotiations for peace safeguards were sought, but they were sought in vain, and the Treaty of Utrecht for its security was made dependent only on the express renunciation of the Monarch's intention. The real safeguard was found to lie in the reduction of his strength which the war had brought about. Only in the dissipation of Germany's strength also is to be found the safeguard Mr. Hughes requires, and if the war be fought till this be assured, then Armageddon, so far at least as the German menace is concerned, will not have been fought in vain. But whether it will be found to have solved the Eastern Question or only abated present inflammations is another matter.

MOSLEMS IN NON-MOSLEM STATES.

At a meeting of the Central Islamic Society held last Saturday in Caxton Hall, Viscount de Potier recounted his experiences, travelling in the Balkan countries, Russia and Turkestan. Speaking of the treatment of Moslems in those States, he said that none had cause to congratulate themselves on being severed from the Ottoman Empire; but Austria, for whatever reason, treated its Moslem subjects remarkably well. About half the population of Bosnia were Moslem, and lived on very good terms with its Christian neighbours. There were over a thousand ordinary Moslem schools in that country, forty or fifty high schools where Arabic was taught, and a great central school where Moslem law was taught. The Austrian Government not only supplied money for keeping up Moslem institutions in Bosnia, but also provided money to assist those who had not funds of their own sufficient to take them on the pilgrimage to Mecca. In Greece, especially in the countries recently conquered, the condition of the Moslems at the time that he was there was absolutely disastrous; neither life nor property was safe. Towards the end of the Balkan war, Moslems in Greek Macedonia were made so uncomfortable that many left the country. They sold their non-movable property at absurd prices, and in some cases the money so obtained was absolutely stolen from them by the Greek authorities, so that they landed in Turkey penniless. There was nothing to complain of in the treatment of Moslems in Serbia and Roumania. In Bulgaria proper Moslems and Christians lived in closer contact, and on more friendly terms than in any other country—much more so than in Turkey—but in Bulgarian territories acquired after the Balkan war the treatment was not so good. Russia, alike in Europe and Asia, treated Moslems well.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

At the beginning of this year, as some of my readers may remember, Lady Neave organized a bazaar in aid of British refugees from Turkey; and in connection with this a writer, in one of the halfpenny papers, referring to Sir Louis Mallet's patronage of the sale, mentioned that it was "got up . . . in aid of the Albanians." I remember the blunder well because, as I observed at the time, the Albanians' conduct just then was "hardly likely to endear them to Englishmen." Also, I recollect, there was in the same issue of the paper referred to another glaring error about a lady and a gentleman closely connected with the Near East, and again dealing with the subject of refugees from South-Eastern Europe.

These "howlers" seemed like to carry off the palm in their own particular line for the present year of grace. But a correspondent sends me a cutting from another halfpenny journal—of the evening variety this time—which runs them very close. I have read it with rather mixed feelings. It begins:—

Seeing the Right Hon. Sir Gerard Lowther, our late Ambassador to Turkey, at supper at Ciro's the other evening—in khaki—I was struck by his amazing resemblance to his brother, the Earl of Lonsdale.

Well! well! A good many strange things have been said and written about "Ciro's" of late, but nothing, I venture to think, more strange than this. What kind of supper, I wonder, had the writer been indulging in before he wrote this "snappy" paragraph—I think that is how such things are described. Surely the name of one who served his country with such distinction as did the late Sir Gerard Lowther might be left out of such stuff!

A French *communiqué* reports that on Sunday afternoon "there was a persistent fog on the Macedonian front." Now I cordially detest fog, for to the average man it is a humiliating experience to go about feeling lamp-posts, walls, pillar-boxes and so forth in order to pick up his bearings; tripping over kerbs; and coughing nervously to announce his whereabouts to other pedestrians. Last Saturday we had a very fine specimen of this kind of thing, and I admit that it got badly on my nerves. Therefore, when on Tuesday I came across a headline in the *Morning Post* which read "Fog in the Balkans," I wondered why on earth the *Post* thought such an unpleasant topic worth chronicling. Then I read the second headline: "Successful British Air Raids," and now I feel amiable again. For as far as I can make out after comparing the reports, our airmen seem to have been making themselves offensive to the enemy in spite of the "persistent fog"; and that looks as if experience gained in this tight little island had come in very handy. So, if even fogs can help our cause along we may try to console ourselves the next time we are groping and stumbling through the Cimmerian darkness by imagining that some budding aeronaut may be benefiting by the opportunity.

The renewed activity on the Tigris will have afforded satisfaction to many Englishmen. It will also, I hope, serve to jog the memory of anyone who may have forgotten to send his, or her, subscription to the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, which is, unfortunately, one of those that can hardly be over-subscribed. The Fund wants every penny, and every pound, it can get; and from what I have seen and heard of its methods of work it is safe to say that every penny will be spent to the best possible advantage. Mesopotamia in winter is a more bearable place than in summer; but it is not a Paradise even now, and our soldiers out there cannot, under the most favourable conditions, be having a very enjoyable kind of Christmas. Moreover, the Fund has to look ahead, and to get ready comforts for the coming of the terrible hot weather. It is doing it, and doing it well. But just how much it will be able to do for the fine fighting men, who are—we all feel sure—going to "get there" this time, must depend on the support it receives from the public. So, in case you may have mislaid the address of the Fund, I may remind you that it is: 15, Alford Street, Mayfair, and that the telephone number is Mayfair 935.

Now that the season of Pantomime is so close at hand I suspect that a good many Principal Boys, Comic Pages, Penurious Barons, Bibulous Baronesses and other leading lights of the Panto' world are busy studying songs of the super-patriotic variety and laboriously preparing new, or (more likely!) working up old, jokes at the expense of our friend the Enemy. Hajji Wilhelm, Little Willie, and "Tsar" Ferdinand of Bulgaria are sure to figure largely in the rough-and-tumble scenes, and our old friend the Turk will doubtless be to the fore. But what of 'Tino? Shall we have got over our indignation with him in time to enjoy

a laugh at his expense, or will he be still too much in our bad books to be even mentioned? At the time of writing I dare not attempt to prophesy. But I am tempted to hazard a guess that some daring soul may venture to rake up some of the old songs about Russia and Constantinople, and, altering them to suit the times, score a tremendous hit. Such things have been done before in the Panto' world—or so I am credibly informed; and the temptation to repeat the experiment seems rather strong.

In case any "artist" is inclined to act on the hint, may I suggest for his (or her) consideration a gem which was popular a good many years ago? One verse ran:—

Brave Turkey has no cause to fear,
For Britain's help will soon be there,
Then down must come the Rooshian Bear,
With three loud cheers for Turkey.

I am a little bit doubtful about the punctuation; for I quote the lines as handed on to me by an old sea-captain, who remembers hearing them bawled out by a street vendor of "all the latest popular songs" of his younger days. The same friend remembers attending a lecture on the war, in course of which the lecturer referred to a certain incident in the Black Sea. "The Russians," said the lecturer in question, "at Sinope sank the Turkish fleet, and gained *what they call* a victory." The italics are, of course, mine. It strikes me that a lecturer who wished to be really popular with his audience would be likely to omit these three words at the present time. The poetic effort remembered by my friend would require rather more editing, no doubt, but it can be done. As for example:—

Bulgar and Turk will disappear
Ere Christmas once again is here;
Constantinople will be Russ,
Though Kaiser Bill may rage and fuss.

It might be improved upon in some respects, perhaps. But its patriotism, I venture to think, is of the very best Pantomime order.

From a Cairo correspondent I learn that one of the leading Egyptian newspapers has been publishing a series of articles on the subject of what is referred to as the "marriage crisis" in that country. This reminds me of the correspondence that raged round the topic, "Is Marriage a Failure?" in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph* some thirty years or more ago. It is a little startling to find Egypt barely a third of a century behind this country in such a matter; but, of course, there is a considerable difference between a series of articles, for which one writer alone is responsible, and a correspondence such as that in the *D. T.*, which exercised the minds of scores, if not hundreds, of more or less respectable Britons. To my mind, however, it is a sad thing for Egypt that the subject should be considered "popular" enough to justify even a series of articles upon it; and I hope it will not give rise to controversy in the correspondence columns of the journals concerned. For that would prove—to me, at least—that Egypt was more decadent than I imagine it to be.

The writer of the articles referred to is, I gather from my correspondent, a Moslem, and he attributes the "crisis"—in other words, the disinclination on the part of the Egyptian young man of education to marry—to the fact that religion is losing its grip on his countrymen. As a secondary cause he places the increased cost of living, or rather of living in the "modern" style, and of educating children. Thus, according to him, many young men with an income of thirty pounds (Egyptian) a month object to getting married because they cannot provide what they consider a suitable home for a wife. It is apparently the old story: the young people want to begin where the old ones left off. It is no affair of mine, no doubt, but when I think of the Fellah and his way of life, and contrast him with the young Effendi, with his airs and graces and his vast opinion of his own cleverness and value, I am tempted to ask myself whether Egypt has not had too much "education," or had it too suddenly, or had the right kind of education? There are, I hasten to add, very many excellent Egyptian gentlemen who are unspoiled by contact with Western ideas, just as there are *fellaheen* who are by no means to be envied or admired. But, as a rule, it seems to me the Fellah is at least a much happier man than the Effendi. And, after all, if there really is any "marriage crisis" in Egypt, it will be the Effendi, not the Fellah, who will be affected by it. The Fellah will continue on his own placid way, as his forebears did before him, and his race will not die out. If a man with thirty pounds a month is not prepared to take his risks in the marriage lottery, it is perhaps as well for his country that he should—do the other thing.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SOME RUSSIAN SUPERMEN.*

The vitality of a race may be measured by the depth at which the roots of its civilisation lie embedded in the past. Russia satisfies this test in a supreme degree; the most unlettered *muzhik* cherishes a mass of fact and legend bearing on the history of his country. But simple minds are unable to grasp an abstract idea without the aid of some human figure which seems to embody it. So every phase of Russia's evolution is typified by a superman, who personifies the spirit of his age. This phenomenon is of universal application. The past is brought home to us not by its wars, its inventions, its discoveries, but by the great men and women who soared far above the horizon of their contemporaries. In "A Thousand Years of Russian History" Mrs. Sonia Howe had drawn the broad outlines of her country's development. "Some Russian Heroes, Saints, and Sinners" completes the picture with biographies of human agents who left indelible traces on their generation.

Her initial chapter relates all that is known of the Slav invaders who swept over Eastern Europe long before the dawn of history. That they were a branch of the great Aryan family which conquered Upper India about the same epoch is proved by the survival of many Sanskrit roots in modern Russian and by similarities in the religious beliefs of prehistoric Slavs and of Indians of the Vedic age which cannot be fortuitous. The newcomers subdued or absorbed the Scythian, Sarmatian, and Finnish tribes which had made those boundless plains their habitat; but an insuperable barrier of race antagonism rose between the Slavs and their Teuton neighbours of Central Europe.

We obtain blurred pictures of the doughty immigrants from the annalists of Byzantium, with which empire-city they bartered raw materials for objects of luxury. All agree that Muscovites of old time were cheerful, hospitable folk, addicted to rude poetry and music. In warfare they were fierce and sometimes cruel, but never treacherous. Their tribal organization lacked cohesiveness because an inbred love of freedom forbade the individual to subordinate his inclinations to the common weal. A chronic state of internecine warfare prevailed, to which a truce was called by threats from a common foe. According to one Byzantine writer, Russians "could be conquered only through their internal dissensions," and another records the significant fact that they disliked binding themselves down to particular action by treaty. These judgments confirm a deduction drawn by many sociologists from the world-war now raging—that racial character is what mathematicians style a "constant," and persists despite the added factors of civilization.

After settling down to cultivate the rich black soil of Southern Russia, the Slavs built rude forts for protection against hostile raids. As years rolled by these citadels became nuclei of towns, which waxed wealthy from caravan or riverine commerce with Byzantium. Such was the origin of Kiev, Pskov, and Novogorod, where the genius of the Russian race shines more conspicuously than in the comparatively modern creations of Petrograd or Moscow. Their government was democratic, tempered, as in modern Japan, by the dictates of a Council of Elders, and each town sent representatives to a general assembly termed *Vietsha*, whose policy was moulded by the influence of the more important cities. In this fashion the Russia of a millennium ago became a congeries of urban republics, varying greatly in extent. Lacking a strong central government, they were perpetually at feud, and had to defend themselves against the incursions of barbarous tribes in the hinterland. So dire necessity compelled the Elders of Kiev and other city-states to hire Scandinavian soldiers of fortune—kinsmen of the Normans who conquered England in the eleventh century of our era. These Viking or "Varangian" chiefs had attracted bands of henchmen, termed *Drujina*, whose duty it was to defend the republic from attack and safeguard its commerce with the sunny south. All castes are apt to use physical force for their own advantage; the Varangian mercenaries, drawing strength from their military organization, began to fight for their own hand. Flouting the elders' behests, they raided distant lands, and returned laden with spoil, which was never shared with their employers. From protectors they became oppressors, and chiefs who had originally been elected were able to transmit authority to their male children. Just as the Hohenzollern eagle dug its claws into the "free" city of Nuremberg, so did Varangian chiefs become hereditary rulers of many Russian city-states. The evolution of an empire came in natural sequence by a process of agglutination, known in ancient Greece as *synæcism*.

The successive landmarks in Russian history are traced by Mrs. Howe with clarity and knowledge. We see the light of a noble religion dawning from Byzantium, and understand

the overwhelming influence which it exercised on the emotional Slav. In no country have the Christian lessons of self-denial, self-sacrifice, and brotherly love been so completely absorbed as in Holy Russia. We see a nascent civilisation of transcendent quality eclipsed by the Mongol invasion of the twelfth century; and realize the fact that history may well repeat itself should Europe be reduced to impotence by internecine strife. We are able to follow the development of the autocracy, with roots thrust deeply into the racial fibre. And every phase in Russia's evolution is illustrated by short biographies of the intensely human heroes, saints or sinners, who guided her in the path of progress, or hampered her normal growth.

The value of Mrs. Howe's work is enhanced by a wealth of illustrations, which reproduce the art of past ages, and modern paintings of exceptional power. Western readers will not fail to re-echo the hope expressed in her peroration:

That Russians of the present day, in their loveliness, or even in their apparent unreasonableness, may become better understood by their British friends if it is borne in mind that they are of the same flesh and blood with the Heroes, Saints, and Sinners portrayed in this volume.

F. H. S.

BOOK NOTES.

The Government Press, Cairo, has issued, at the price of P.T.30, "The Geography and Geology of West-Central Sinai," by Dr. John Ball.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have just published the Queen of Roumania's book, "My Country," which will be sold (at the price of 5s.) for the benefit of the Red Cross in Roumania. It is very pleasantly written, and is illustrated with many beautiful photographs taken by the Queen, and would make a most acceptable Christmas or New Year's gift.

We have received from Messrs. George Philip and Son, the London Geographical Institute, 32, Fleet Street, a copy of their "Large Scale Strategic War Map of Mesopotamia and Asia Minor." The renewal of activities on the Tigris makes the appearance of this map particularly opportune, and the publishers are to be congratulated on having provided a really good map of a region of which, even now, very little is known in this country. We must reserve detailed criticism for a future issue; but a first glance at the map shows that it can be recommended to our readers. It can be obtained in envelope case for 2s. 6d. net; on cloth, to fold, at 6s. net; or mounted on roller at 7s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Documents presented by Viscount Grey of Fallodon, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. (Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. net.)

Scalers of Light. By the Queen of Roumania. Illustrated by Edmund Dulac. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

A PLEDGE TO SERBIA.

The following telegram has been addressed by Mr. Lloyd George to the Serbian Prime Minister:—

The King having entrusted me with the formation of a new Government, I hasten to express to your Excellency my feelings of friendship and admiration for your gallant nation and my determination to co-operate with our Allies until the final victory is secured and the independence of Serbia is restored.

M. Pashitch replied as follows:—

It is with the liveliest and most sincere satisfaction that I have received the telegram in which you inform me that his Majesty the King and Emperor has been pleased to entrust you with the formation of the new Cabinet. We are all of us animated with the liveliest hope and most steadfast confidence that, under your wise guidance and in intimate co-operation and perfect agreement with the Allies, glorious and humane England and her gallant army will secure victory at the last in order to safeguard the reign of liberty and justice among the nations, and to permit the whole world to develop in peace. Our hearts are filled with the deepest gratitude as we hear the words with which the Prime Minister of England has given us the assurance that the sacrifices of the loyal Serbian people and of its valiant army will be rewarded by the independence of Serbia and, if the Almighty will, by the liberation of the whole Serbian nation.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

* "Some Russian Heroes, Saints and Sinners." By Sonia E. Howe. (London: Williams and Norgate, 1916. Price 7s. 6d. net.)

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

EGYPT, BABYLON, AND HEBREW TRADITION.

Upon the 14th inst., at Burlington House, Professor Leonard W. King delivered the first of three lectures upon "The Legends of Egypt and Babylon in Relation to Hebrew Tradition." There was a large audience, and the lecturer expressed his views with eloquence, and illustrated some of his remarks by lantern slides. From his introduction it is clear that the foundation for his subject is the publication of some thirty cuneiform tablets, embodying literary remains in the very ancient Sumerian language, which were discovered by United States explorers at Nippur. Some of these contain lists of very early kings; others Sumerian versions, perhaps of the Deluge and Creation stories, but among scholars some consider a few of the tablets to be really concerned with irrigation engineering works.

In the first lecture Professor King devoted himself to explaining these new relics, and also alluded to the recently edited fragments of the Egyptian Palermo Stele, containing annals of what are termed prehistoric Pharaohs. He then proceeded to discuss the probability of the Hebrew records of Genesis being indebted to Babylonian and Egyptian myths and legends, as illustrated by the supposed adoption by the Hebrews of the artistic designs and iconography of the two Empires. For this purpose he showed a number of Phœnician and Syrian monuments with Phœnician and Aramaic inscriptions, but it is worthy of note that he did not produce any Hebrew or Jewish relic showing similarity with either Egyptian or Babylonian art. Moreover, the specimens selected were mostly of late date. For instance, one of these was the well-known stone sarcophagus of the Sidonian prince Eshmunazar, which bears a long Phœnician text. This was adduced as an instance of Egyptian influence in Syria. But the famous coffin of another of these princes, Tabnith, would have been, perhaps, a wiser selection, because not only is it of Egyptian work, but it still bears the inscription of the Egyptian officer for whom it was made, some thousand years before it was utilised at Sidon. The fact that in the Persian period there was a brisk trade in secondhand Syene granite sarcophagi between Egypt and Syria can scarcely be used as a proof of the adoption by the writer of Genesis of Egyptian and Babylonian myths many centuries earlier.

The monuments, consisting of ornamental reliefs with Phœnician or Aramaic texts indicating Egyptian influence, in each case depicting representations of female deities—an idea absolutely opposed to all Hebrew religious sentiments—and the admission of such concepts into the theology of the neighbours of the Jews does not really lead to any inference of literary influence upon the Old Testament authors. As an instance of the far-reaching effect of Babylonian culture Professor King mentioned the figures upon our clocks and watches and our twelve-hour day, admitting that we derived these through the Greeks, and not by way of Palestine. This time measure, it should be remembered, is based upon the sexagesimal Babylonian system, their sacred number being the *sess*, or sixty. Whilst we know little of the mental concepts which gave rise to this arrangement, the twelve-hour day appears to have been the result of the division of diurnal time into a series of periods of sixty minutes of sixty seconds each—two *sess* numbers. The Hebrews, however, ignored the *sess* system completely, and seem to have had some knowledge of a decimal reckoning, because the term "thousand" is often used and the sacred law was of ten commandments. Whilst the Roman numerals we use are indicative of a twelve-hour period, the figures themselves are based upon a decimal calculation, they being founded upon signalling numbers by means of the fingers and thumbs—ten in all—of the human hand.

That the Phœnicians and allied races in Syria should in their artistic designs be much indebted to Babylonia and Egypt is natural, because ancient authors allege that they were emigrants from the littoral of the Persian Gulf; and

they were great maritime traders with Egypt, their galleys continually sailing up the eastern mouths of the Nile Delta, while the Pharaohs used to charter their ships for Mediterranean voyages.

Mr. King suggested that as Solomon employed Tyrian workmen for building the Temple, its ornamentation was of Babylonian and Egyptian design. But we have a somewhat full description of the artistic motives of the decoration, and they do not support this theory. Nowhere do we read of colossal lion-headed bulls, sphinxes, and gryphons, or animal and human forms combined, or figures of deities; neither of reliefs of wars and triumphs, such as abounded in the temples of the two great nations, because no Hebrew king was deified, and no image of the one God, Jehovah, was permitted. The only approaches to the shrine furniture of other cults seem to have been the bronze so-called kettle-wagons, which are similar to some known to have been used in Cyprus and Greece.

ALBANIA, PAST AND PRESENT.

The story of Albania was the theme of a lecture delivered by Miss M. Edith Durham before the Central Asian Society on December 14. She said that reports of the present condition of the country represented it as worse than that of Belgium. The men were being forced into the Austrian army, and the civil population were dying of starvation in many districts. An American missionary had recently stated that at least 150,000 people, largely women and children, had died of hunger and misery since the present war began.

The Albanians, said Miss Durham, are the direct descendants of the ancient inhabitants of Illyria and Epirus. They still cherish the tradition of Pyrrhus, "who beat the Romans and everybody else." They call him Burrus, and *A je burra*, "How art thou, my brave?" is a common salutation among them to-day. Plutarch tells us that the soldiers of Pyrrhus hailed him as the eagle. The modern Albanian calls himself Shkipetar and his country Shkiperia, words derived from shkip, an eagle. Christianity was introduced very early; the Albanians indeed claim to have been converted by St. Paul, who says, "Round about Illyria have I preached the Gospel of Christ." The Romans succeeded at last in subduing the country, but never in completely Romanising its inhabitants. Afterwards came the Slavs. Stephen Dushan conquered Albania, and endeavoured to force its inhabitants to leave the Roman communion for that of the Greek Church. He punished by death those who obstinately refused to be converted. Thus was developed a hatred between the two peoples, which has lasted down to our own day; and, during the first Balkan war, hundreds of Albanians who refused to join the Orthodox Church were murdered or deprived of all they possessed and driven out of the country. The Turks, said Miss Durham, had never treated the Balkan Christians as badly as they treated one another. After Kossovo, Albania maintained for centuries a fight against the Turks. Their great hero, Skanderbeg, made the country entirely independent while he lived, and, when the Turks at last conquered, they were content to exact only a military tribute.

The Albanians did not begin to embrace Islam until the seventeenth century, and their doing so was mainly the result of neglect by their own Church. They were put under bishops who were mostly foreigners, and who chiefly occupied themselves with squabbles about the frontiers of their dioceses. One unfortunate result of the change of faith was to lead other people to regard the Mohammedan half of the Albanian population, as Turks, though they were really as intensely national in spirit as their Christian compatriots, and joined in the efforts for Albanian freedom. Under Ali Pasha, Albania was for a time independent. At the time of the Berlin Treaty Great Britain was in favour of forming a large autonomous Albanian province, but the Powers were not unanimous, and all that was done was to recommend reforms. The Sublime Porte responded to this by arresting the heads of the Albanian League, and executing them or exiling them to Asia Minor. Afterwards it permitted Albanian schools to be opened, and allowed printing in the Albanian language. Then these privileges were withdrawn, and, when Miss Durham first visited Koritza, in 1904, its unfortunate schoolmaster was still serving a term of fifteen years' imprisonment. The Greeks helped the Turks in this work of repression. A Greek bishop excommunicated the Albanian language, and a Greek priest told the people it was useless to pray in that tongue because Christ did not understand it. The Young Turkish revolution was hailed with joy in Albania, newspapers sprouted up, and schools were opened. Then again came reaction, leading up to the revolt of 1910, since which time the country has been incessantly harried by foreign troops. Turkish, Montenegrin, Serbian, Greek, Bulgar, and Austrian armies have successively swept in, plundering and slaughtering the inhabitants.

An enthusiastic mass meeting of Greeks in Melbourne has sent a cablegram to M. Venizelos expressing admiration for his courage in showing the whole world that the Greek people, except for a small and unrepresentative minority, are whole-heartedly in sympathy with the Allies.

The Post Office announces that parcels can now be accepted for transmission to Salonika (including the immediate locality) and the Islands of Crete, Thasos, Lemnos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Fourni, and Syra. Parcels cannot be accepted for transmission to any other part of Greece.

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE MOSLEMS OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have read with interest in your issue of the 15th the letter addressed by Mr. M. Irfan to Mr. Arnold J. Toynbee, concerning a passage in the latter's book, "The Balkans: A History of Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, Roumania, Turkey" (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1916). The passage in question, according to Mr. Irfan's letter, is:—

The whole population of the island (i.e., Cyprus) is Greek in language; while under an excellent British administration its political consciousness has been awakened, and has expressed itself in a growing desire for national unity among the Christian majority. It is true that in Cyprus, as in Krete, there is a considerable Greek-speaking minority of Moslems who prefer the *status quo*; but since the barrier of language is absent, their antipathy to union may not prove permanent. However important the retention of Cyprus may be to Great Britain from the strategical point of view, we shall find that even in the balance of material interests it is not worth the price of alienating the sympathy of an awakened and otherwise consolidated nation.

Mr. Irfan is quite correct in his contradiction of the statement that "the whole population . . . is Greek in language" . . . and that "there is a considerable Greek-speaking minority of Moslems."

Besides the references given by Mr. Irfan to the Report on the Census of 1911, Mr. Toynbee might, with profit, have read a few lines in "A Handbook of Cyprus," by Sir J. T. Hutchinson, Chief Justice of Ceylon, and Claude Delaval Cobham, 1907, (p. 58):—

The language spoken by the largest number of inhabitants is modern Greek . . . in which is found a large admixture of French, Italian, and Turkish words. Italian and French are spoken in a few families of Latin origin, Arabic by the Maronites. The Osmanli Turkish spoken by the Moslem inhabitants is considered pure. . . . Officially English, Turkish, and Modern Greek are recognized in the administration and courts.

The above is reproduced in the seventh issue (1913) of the handbook, revised and edited by Henry Charles Lukach, M.A., Private Secretary to the High Commissioner, and Douglas James Jardine, B.A., Junior Assistant Secretary to the Government of Cyprus (pp. 32,33).

I have preferred to quote from an earlier edition of the handbook because the late (alas!) Claude Delaval Cobham was probably the best authority on the languages of Cyprus, where he was a Commissioner 1879-1908. A correspondent of *The Times* (June 3, 1915) wrote:—"If the visitor preferred to talk in Greek or Turkish, French or German, Italian or Persian, he found Cobham able to converse with him in any of these tongues."

In *The Times* of March 25, 1915, appeared a description, by Mr. H. C. Lukach, of the opening of the Legislative Council at Nicosia. In the last paragraph is the following:—

The High Commissioner concludes the reading of his speech, removes his hat as he bows to the Council, and leaves the Chamber to inspect the guard of honour furnished by the Cyprus Military Police, a force composed of Turks and Greek Christians. Meanwhile, copies of the speech, printed in the three official languages of the island, are distributed among the members.

As to what Mr. Toynbee says about what he describes as the "considerable Greek-speaking minority of Moslems" (in fact, a Turkish-speaking minority of Moslems) and their possible willingness to accept union with Greece, "since the barrier of language is absent" (undoubtedly an error of information), I may usefully quote a few lines from a letter, written to me some years ago by the then High Commissioner:—

There is one important element in the matter of the Tribute which should not be overlooked—viz., the strong Moslem feeling in regard to the sanctity of the Sultan's sovereignty. There are 50,000 Moslems in Cyprus, and they regard the Tribute, crushing though it be, as the visible sign of the Sultan's supremacy; and, extraordinary though it may appear, they are strongly opposed to any reduction of the amount to be paid by the island. The fact of the Sultan not getting the money directly does not influence them at all in their view of the matter.

This extract comes from a letter written some years before the war. It serves to show what were the feelings of the Turks of Cyprus, and I doubt their having changed at all.

I may add, concerning the Turkish language in Cyprus, that I well remember meeting there, many years ago, a young Englishman, an Oxford graduate,

if my memory is correct, who was staying in the island in order that he might learn Turkish, taking his lessons from a Cypriot Turk, this because "the Osmanli Turkish spoken by the Moslem inhabitants is considered pure."

Surely a writer on serious subjects should get his facts right before he produces arguments and draws conclusions.—I am, etc.,

ROBERT PIERPOINT.

8, Cleveland Square, Lancaster Gate,
London, W.

AN IMPUDENT FORGERY.

The following statement was issued by the Foreign Office on Thursday last week, too late for publication in our issue of the 15th inst.:—

M. Venizelos has addressed the following message to his Majesty's Government:—

"Those governing at Athens have just committed another infamy towards me by publishing in their newspapers, the only papers which now appear at Athens since the sack of the offices of the Liberal papers, in facsimile a letter which I am supposed to have addressed on November 7 last to General Korakas, explaining to him my political projects and my preparations, in concert with representatives of the Entente, with a view to my installation at Athens with official recognition of the Powers.

"I have never written such a letter, and I denounce the forgery to which those governing at Athens have had recourse in the hope of completely misleading public opinion."

SERBIANS AND MILITARY SERVICE.

The following notice has been issued by the Serbian Legation:—

"In pursuance of Article 3 of the new Law respecting persons evading military service published in the Serbian *Official Gazette* and according to the Order of the Minister of War No. 38519, all Serbian subjects must be examined by the Medical Commission in Paris, as well as all others under Serbian protection, aged between eighteen and fifty-four, who are abroad, irrespective of any previous examination and exemption. All those residing in the British Isles and their Dominions will be examined in Paris by the Medical Commission, who have already commenced this examination. Therefore, in order that they may be sent to Paris, all those concerned must call on the Serbian Military Attaché at his offices, 115, Gloucester Road, S.W., between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 and 6 p.m. any weekday, who will give them railway tickets free of charge to Paris, as well as other necessary papers. Those who are exempted by the Commission will be sent back free of charge supplied with the document or exemption. Any who fail to comply with this notice will have the most stringent legal steps taken against them, and those who are under Serbian protection and do not respond will have that protection withdrawn."

Under date of December 18, Reuter's correspondent in Washington reports:—"It is learned from the State Department that Turkey's conduct towards Armenians and Syrians has brought to an abrupt termination the extra-territoriality agreements with the United States, and has created a situation that is postponing confirmation of the appointment of Fuad Bey as Ambassador in Washington."

Alexander Gorbachevitch, a priest of the 115th Russian Division, who has escaped from captivity in Austria, says:—"The Serbian prisoners of war unquestionably look more unhappy than ours. They have all become very weak and emaciated from hunger, and they look for roots to eat. I don't think I ever saw a set of men looking more wretched."

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815

COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.

Illustrated Catalogue on request
ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms, Mufti, Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits, Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements, Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits.

4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Dec.	1916. Dec.		1335. Safar	5677. Kislev
22	9	Friday	26	27
23	10	Saturday	27	28
24	11	Sunday	28	29
25	12	Monday	29	30
26	13	Tuesday	Rebi 1	Tebet 1
27	14	Wednesday ..	2	2
28	15	Thursday	3	3

King Peter of Serbia has been visiting the Macedonian front.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Patricia, the Grand Duke Michael and Countess Torby were present at a concert at Queen's Hall in aid of the Serbian Prisoners' Christmas Gift Fund on Wednesday.

Lord Cromer will spend Christmas in Scotland.

Lady Maxwell and Miss Maxwell have left London for York.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne left their residence in Cavendish Place on Wednesday night for Castle Macgarrett, Claremorris, County Mayo.

The Hon. Lady Byng, having taken 22, Princes Gardens for the remainder of the winter, arrived there on Monday.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has appointed the following to be his Private Secretaries:—The Hon. James Eric Drummond, C.B., Private Secretary; the Hon. Theo Russell, C.V.O., Diplomatic Private Secretary; Mr. Cecil Dormer, Assistant Private Secretary; Mr. Ian Zachary Malcolm, M.P., Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell is laid up with influenza, and has been obliged to cancel his engagements.

Lord Robert Cecil received the Roumanian Minister and the Serbian Minister at the Foreign Office last Friday afternoon.

On Monday afternoon a memorial to Earl Kitchener was unveiled at The Heritage Craft School, Chailey, Sussex, by Lord Kitchener's sister, Mrs. Parker. It is the gift of Mr. F. J. Benson.

Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson, who returned to this country last week from Roumania, was in the House of Commons on Friday, and received warm greetings from all sides.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST will have been much interested in the announcement, made at the end of last week, that Sir Mark Sykes had been offered the post of Under Secretary to the Foreign Office, but had declined it because he felt that he could be of more use by continuing the work he has been doing for the Imperial General Staff. The announcement of the offer will have come as no surprise to those who have followed Sir Mark's career. His maiden speech in the House of Commons marked him out as one of the rising men, and since that day he has gone steadily forward along the path of parliamentary success. That he has a lively wit and an original way of looking at things is shown both by his speeches and his writings; and wit and originality are qualities that still count in Parliament. Moreover, he

has travelled extensively, and has studied men, manners, and methods of government in many countries. His knowledge of Turkey and the Near East is particularly full, and his sympathy with Islam and the Moslems is very apparent in his writings. That knowledge and sympathy have been of much service to this country in the present war; and though many of his friends and admirers will feel regret that he has not seen his way to accept the offer recently made to him, it is probable that his decision is a very sound one. During the war he has done excellent work in connection with the Mesopotamia expedition; and when the time comes to discuss the many questions that must crop up in regard to Asiatic Turkey it is to be hoped that his ideas and opinions will be taken into consideration by the authorities.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant Donald Swinton Campbell, West Kent Yeomanry, eldest son of Mr. Colin and Lady Angela Campbell, of Everlands, Sevenoaks, and Madge, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Carver, of Alexandria, Egypt.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Evan Roland Campbell, Lieutenant Royal Sussex Regiment, youngest son of William Middleton Campbell, of Colgrain, Dumbartonshire, and Fen Place, Sussex, and Antoinette Priscilla Vulliamy, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Devonshire, of Maadi, Cairo.

At St. Peter's Church, Cranley Gardens, the marriage took place last Friday of Captain James L. Willcocks, M.C., Black Watch, only son of General Sir James Willcocks, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., and Muriel Kathleen, younger daughter of the late Colonel Gordon-Price and of Mrs. Gordon-Price, of Ootacamund, India. The service was taken by Prebendary W. S. Swayne, the vicar of St. Peter's. The bridegroom was accompanied by Captain Carkett James, D.C.L.I. Among those present were General Sir James and Lady Willcocks, Viscountess Charlemont, Lady Greagh, General and Mrs. Malleston, General and Mrs. Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Carkett James, Mrs. Sheppard, Mrs. Ramsay, Miss Jellicoe, Colonel Tomkins, Colonel and Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. and Mrs. E. C. P. Hull, Mrs. Colvin, Mrs. Campbell Krook, Colonel and Mrs. Merewether, Captain Smith, and Mrs. Dottridge.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been graciously pleased to accept a copy of the recently published volume of "Armenian Legends and Poems." Her Majesty writes that the subject is one in which she has always taken the deepest interest, adding that the book is a charming and fascinating one. The volume has been compiled and illustrated by an Armenian artist, Zabelle C. Boyajian, who is giving all the profits to the Lord Mayor's Fund for Armenian Refugees. Lord Bryce has written a preface for the book, which also contains a contribution on Armenian epics, folk-lore, and mediæval literature. It is published by Messrs. J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., and will make an excellent gift-book for Christmas, serving at the same time the purpose of helping to mitigate the sufferings of the Armenians.

A cablegram received on Monday at the Red Cross Headquarters from Salonika states that in the presence of the Crown Prince of Serbia, General Tertsitch, Minister of War, and General Boyovitch, Commander-in-Chief, the thirty ambulances and two motor kitchens sent by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John to the medical services of the Serbian Army were formally handed over ready for immediate work. The Crown Prince expressed his high appreciation of the gift.

On Thursday afternoon last week a meeting was held in the "Star and Garter" rooms, 21, Old Bond Street, in aid of the fund which British workers with the Serbian Army are raising to send Christmas presents to Serbian soldiers. Lady Whitehead presided. The Serbian Minister expressed the appreciation of all Serbians for what had been done for their countrymen by British doctors, nurses, and other workers. Professor Popovitch and Dr. Curcin also spoke.

Professor Popovitch told a story of an English officer who, he said, had made the Serbians more than ever admirers of the English. A Serbian soldier called his colonel's attention to an English officer covered with mud, saying, "Look, Colonel, at that officer. He has been knocked down fourteen times by German shells and yet has never left his division." That English officer, said Professor Popovitch, was Captain E. Hilton Young, M.P., who was formerly City Editor of the *Morning Post*.

Mr. W. H. Crawford Price has, I understand, agreed to deliver some lectures in this country during the present month on Serbia's part in the war, says "Whitefriars" in the *Newspaper World*. Mr. Price is well qualified to speak on the subject, having served *The Times* from the time of the outbreak of the first war in the Balkans down to the present, and has spent nearly the whole of that period in the peninsula. In 1909 he was attached to the Turkish army, in the second Balkan war he was with the Greeks, in 1914 he had special facilities with the Serbians, and now he is the "Eye-Witness" with the new Serbian army. Few men possess a better right than Mr. Price to lecture on the subject announced. At present he is making arrangements for the inauguration of a Y.M.C.A. service in Serbia, and moreover hopes to supervise this useful installation.

A successful matinée in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund was given at the Lyric Theatre last Friday afternoon by the British Empire Union. Sir Mervyn Manningham Buller presided; and, in addition to many excellent "turns" of the now usual kind, Mr. W. Joynton-Hicks, M.P., and Dr. Clement Philippe delivered short speeches.

The Anglo-Hellenic League (Reuter's Agency states) received information last week that Professor Sotiriadis, Professor in the Foreign Schools of Archaeology of Athens, was arrested on the 13th inst., and that it is expected that M. Petrocochino, head of the Athens branch of the Anglo-Hellenic League, would also be shortly arrested.

Viscountess Bryce opened on Saturday afternoon a fancy sale at Maitland Lodge, Addison Road, Kensington (lent for the occasion by Mr. N. P. Hacobian), in aid of the Armenian orphans in the Caucasus. The sale was arranged by the Armenian Ladies' Guild, and Colonel Gregory, President of the Armenian Association of London, said the particular aim was to provide funds for succouring the large number of orphan children held to ransom by Kurds and Turks. So far over £2,000 had been subscribed by the Armenians of London and Manchester. Lady Bryce made a strong appeal for the practical sympathy of the public, and Miss Pauline Aganoor, the organising secretary, stated that £600 had already been subscribed in connection with the sale.

The London Committee of the French Red Cross is sending a motor convoy to the Balkans. It will consist of 15 motor ambulances, 1 repair van, and 1 touring car, driven by 25 voluntary British drivers, under the command of Major Lyon-Clarke. The cars and their equipment are the gift of Sir Lucas E. Ralli, and will bear his name.

News by letter from the Scottish Women who have been nursing the wounded in the Dobruja was received last week. The base hospital was set up at Medjidie, for the Serbs, but the patients were a medley of Serbs, Russians, and Roumanians. This hospital was only able to work for three weeks and then the evacuation began. After five days the unit was at work once more, some of its members having found a hospital of 11,000 wounded Roumanians needing help, with only one surgeon and six doctors to attend to the patients. Some of the unit carried on a hospital of 100 beds for the 1st Serbian Division, and two of the Scottish Women were lent to a British Red Cross Unit. The Russian military authorities have recommended the whole unit for medals.

Colonel Dragutin Dimitrievitch, of the Headquarters Staff of the Serbian Army, has been attached to the Headquarters Staff of the Belgian Army.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.
THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.
London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C., will be OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East, and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs. Intending Students are invited to apply at once to the undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

Mr. Richard W. Abdy writes to the *Egyptian Gazette*, regarding the memorial to the late Judge Sandars:—"We, the small committee named, have erected in St. Mark's Church a tablet in memory of our late friend. After defraying the cost of this tablet, we have in hand funds, which, after consulting the Head of Victoria College, we intend devoting to form a 'Judge Sandars Library,' to be added to the existing library at Victoria College. This will, we feel, perpetuate the name of Judge Sandars in a manner which would have had his approval." The memorial was to be unveiled on November 28.

Under date of December 11, the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes that the Hungarian war correspondents at Bucharest "relate that the King and Queen of Roumania, with their suite of about twenty people, left Bucharest early in the morning of December 2 in six large motor-cars, which were followed by five motor-lorries carrying the personal luggage of the Royal Family. Where the party drove to is not known in Bucharest, but it is believed they have taken up their quarters at the present seat of Government at Jassy. The officials who were left behind in the Royal Palace declare that at the last moment the Queen seemed quite happy, and that in saying 'au revoir' to them she declared that she would soon be back. The King, too, seemed as unconcerned as if he was simply going off on a shooting expedition."

The following is an extract from a letter sent home from Salonika by a Glasgow medical graduate, and published in the *Glasgow Herald*:—

"To-day (November 27) has been a very famous day here. We have in the hospital, as I think I told you, a woman fighting with the Serb infantry, Podnaridnik (Sergeant) Mitunca Savitch. She has been six times wounded. Also we have another Joan of Arc, a Miss Sands, who has been fighting with the Serbian infantry, and is a sergeant too. She has fought since the retreat last year, refusing to go back with the hospitals, where she was a nurse. She is a parson's daughter of a Kerry family (Protestant), who left Ireland when she was a young girl. She has been magnificently brave, and has been in the trenches all the time roughing it. She has distinguished herself time and again, leading her section in the charge, and rallying the men in tight corners. She has won all the highest honours for individual bravery, including the Milosh Obilitch Order, which is like our V.C., and is given in silver and gold, the gold being the greater honour. Well, she won that. There is only one higher grade in the Serbian Army—the Cross of Kara (black) George, with Swords.

"To-day the Serbian liaison officer, whom I had met in Salonika, came out to visit her," the writer continues. "By the way, he is on the Crown Prince's personal staff. His mother was a Scots lady and his father a Serb of family. The Crown Prince sent him to-day to present the Cross of Kara George, with Swords, for exceptional bravery in the field to Miss Sands. The Serbs were strongly attacked, and not too well reinforced at a particular spot—they were fighting in mountains deep with snow—and Podnaridnik Sands hopped over the parapet and rallied her men, shouting 'Aide' (come on!). Not on one, but on many occasions, was she successful in breaking a section of the attack. She is to be promoted to sergeant-major."

Reuter's Agency states that M. Gennadius was received by the King at Buckingham Palace yesterday, on relinquishing his post of Greek Minister in London.

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACOWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

OBITUARY.

MR. A. DE VERE VERE.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Mr. Arthur de Vere Vere, late of Constantinople, which took place at his residence 66, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W. Although ailing for some time past, his health had of late so considerably improved that he had virtually resumed his normal life. There was nothing to lead anyone to expect the fatal end which came, quite suddenly, on Sunday morning last, Mr. Vere being himself in the best of spirits and looking forward to going out to lunch with his daughter.

Mr. Arthur Vere was well known in Constantinople, and especially in diplomatic society there. He represented various important British interests in Turkey for close upon forty years, and it might be said that he was one of the oldest British residents in Pera. He was greatly respected and a general favourite with all those who came into close contact with him, his agreeable and pleasant manners and generosity making for him many real friends. We feel sure that there are many of our readers who will learn with real sorrow of his death.

The funeral took place at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on Wednesday, at noon, and was very largely attended. Among others present were Lady Lowther, Sir Vincent Caillard and Mr. Esmond Caillard, Sir Henry Wood, Count Ostrorog, and many former residents of Constantinople.

News has been received in London of the death of Dr. Andrew Watson, an American, who had been engaged on missionary work in Egypt for over half a century.

Major-General Sir William George Knox, K.C.B., Colonel-Commandant Royal Artillery, died at his residence, 24, Portman Square, on the 14th inst., aged 69. He was the son of the late General T. E. Knox, C.B., and obtained his commission in 1867, reaching the rank of Major-General in 1902. General Knox saw a great deal of service. He was in the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867-8, the Ashanti War of 1873-4, the Zulu campaign of 1879, and the South African War (1899-1902). In South Africa he was on the Staff taking part in the Defence of Ladysmith, and being specially mentioned by Sir George White in despatches. He was awarded the Queen's and the King's medals with six bars and was made a Knight Commander of the Bath. Between 1902 and 1908 he held various commands in the Armies in England and Ireland. He married in 1889 Alice, second daughter of Sir Robert Dundas, of Arncliffe.

The death has occurred at Bath of Major-General Alexander Caesar Hawkins, aged ninety-three years, son of Sir John Caesar Hawkins, third baronet. He obtained his commission in the Royal Artillery on January 1, 1842, and retired in 1880. During the Crimean War he was present at the siege and fall of Sebastopol. He was mentioned in despatches and received the medal with clasp, the Turkish and Sardinian medals, and the Fifth Class of the Order of the Mejidieh. In 1871 he was created a Companion of the Bath.

We regret to learn that Second-Lieutenant Baron Brooke Booth, Northumberland Fusiliers, who was officially reported wounded and missing on September 15 last, is now unofficially reported killed on that date. The fourth son of Captain and Mrs. J. Brooke Booth, of Alfriston, Cole Park Road, Twickenham, he was educated at Gresham School, Holt, Norfolk, and when war broke out held an appointment under the Colonial Government in Cyprus. He was granted special leave to come to England to take a commission in a battalion of his father's old regiment. He was twenty-eight years old.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Pridham, Welsh Regiment, died on December 16 abroad. He joined the Welsh Regiment direct from Sandhurst, served throughout the South African War, and was awarded both medals with seven clasps. Four years later he joined the Egyptian Army, in which he rose to command a battalion, and served in the Kordofan campaign. His engagement with the Egyptian Army ended last year, when he was given command of a battalion of his own regiment. He was recently mentioned in despatches.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE.

BRISTOW—CALLEJA.—On December 3, at Malta, Captain Laird C. Bristow, R.G.A., only son of the late Lieutenant J. L. Bristow, the Welsh Regiment, and of Mrs. Bristow, Southsea, to Gertrude Pauline, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Calleja, of Newsham, Sliema, Malta.

DEATHS.

HARRIS.—On December 15, 1916, at Hilliers, Park Hill, Carshalton, Edward Harris, formerly of Constanza, Roumania, Commandeur de l'Etoile de Roumanie, aged 81.

VERE.—Suddenly, at 66, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Arthur de Vere Vere, of Constantinople.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.53; Room, P.T.23; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS,

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

GERMANY'S PEACE OFFER AND THE NEAR EAST.

That Germany should have chosen the moment when Bucharest and a large part of Roumania had fallen into her hands to propose peace negotiations is proof that she has a shrewd appreciation of her own interests. But, as usual, she has shown herself a bad judge of the psychology of other nations, and the manner and terms in which she has made the offer have gone far to rob it of the subtlety it might otherwise have had. The claims to invincibility, the threat of yet greater ruthlessness, ill suit a nation that would pose as the aggrieved party; for a people that has been gratuitously and unjustly attacked and feels itself confident of victory can be content only with a peace which leaves its enemies no longer in a position to renew hostilities. It is for this reason that the Allied Powers can have nothing to say to any offer of negotiations at this stage. Germany, however, with other and wider aims in view, realises how much she has already gained in the direction of the attainment of her ambitions, and is prepared to sacrifice what she can dispense with for the time being, in order to make sure of the essentials in her far-reaching plans. Those plans, as the Entente Powers are only now beginning to understand, are concerned more with South-eastern Europe (and beyond) than with any other part of the Continent. Much has been made of the indispensability of Belgium to Germany's future freedom from "aggression"; in the same way she is to be protected on the east by the independence, under German sovereignty, of Poland. Both of these so-called safeguards, it is more than probable, are mere pawns in the game, to be surrendered in the last resort in order to secure the safety of more valuable pieces. There is in Germany a section of public opinion which recognises that the retention of Belgium is only compatible with the sweeping victory that is no longer likely to be attained; but so far no one has dared to contemplate the possibility of such a disaster to German arms as would deprive her of her gains in the Balkans or challenge her liberty to direct the destinies of Near-Eastern Europe in the way that seemed good to her. Germany, the Allies may rest assured, knows her own business best. The maintenance of her dominating position in South-eastern Europe is the one factor which she will hope to save intact from the welter of her shattered aims, and it is, therefore, unlikely that she will reach the frame of mind required for the acceptance of the only terms of peace to which the Allied Powers can agree until she has been driven from her stronghold in the Balkans.

The fact that the Naumann idea of a "Central European Block" extending from the Baltic to Baghdad has met with strong opposition both in Germany and Austria in no way implies any abandonment of the resolve to strengthen the political and economic bonds between the Central Powers, the Balkans, and Turkey in accordance with German interests. Naumann propounded the theory of a compact state independent of all foreign nations for its supplies. Shipping and industrial interests in Germany had little difficulty in proving the weakness of such a scheme; and it is now accepted in the words of Count Reventlow, that "the aim of the freedom of the seas cannot be replaced by the aim of 'Berlin to Baghdad.'" But, the same writer is careful to add, the scope and the meaning of these aims do not overlap except to an insignificant extent, while, on the other hand, they are mutually complementary. "'Berlin to Baghdad,'" he continues, "is an old objective of German policy, even in time of peace. The relations which have been

developing since the war between ourselves and the Turks—especially in view of the principles of the Turco-German Alliance—led naturally, on military and political grounds, to the necessity of opening the route from Berlin to Constantinople via Sofia." The fact that Naumann has recently been sent to lecture to the Bulgarians on the advantages of close economic co-operation between Germany and Bulgaria is a sign that the former is not going to allow her future plans to be thwarted by lack of enthusiasm on the part of individual members of the Central Alliance. The over-running of Roumania has provided an opportunity for strengthening the weak links in the chain which is to connect Germany with the Middle East. Parts of Wallachia are to be used to widen "the corridor," and have already been theoretically partitioned between the claimants. In regard to Serbia, it has been laid down as an axiom of German policy that her restoration is out of the question. She must be so reduced and fashioned within and without as the interests, on the one hand, of an assured connection between Central Europe and Constantinople, and, on the other hand, the interests of Germany's Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian Allies demand. Whether the economic consolidation of this block of Powers is to be achieved by the State or by private agency, or by a judicious combination of both, can be left to circumstances to decide. The point to be borne in mind is that Germany is not likely of her own accord to loosen the hold which the war has given her over Bulgaria and Turkey.

The answer of the Entente Powers alike to Germany's schemes and to her offers to negotiate peace terms must be the drafting of a clearly defined programme which will embody the objects for which they are fighting. It may be that before peace can be declared a settlement will have to be reached on one point or another (witness the question of Constantinople), and it is essential that every detail should be adjusted in such a way as to form part of a consistent policy. The war began over the Balkans, and we must look to a settlement of the Balkan question as an indispensable preliminary to permanent peace; for, unless there is peace in the Near East, the peace of Europe as a whole can never be assured. Germany and her Allies count on the elimination of Serbia and the absorption of all or the greater part of Roumania. The principle of nationality to which the Allies stand pledged requires that Roumania, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece should each be allowed to live a separate existence, but at peace with one another, in conformity with the requirements of Europe and in their own interests. If this goal had been clearly kept in view from the outset, and had been carefully explained to all concerned—to the Greeks, for instance—the course of events in the Near East might well have been different. The settlement of the Balkan question cannot be left to any peace conference. Germany's recent overtures have been made because it would suit her plans admirably to have peace now on her own terms; sooner or later she will be ready to accept it on the Allies' terms. At the present stage of the war it is not difficult to recognise how suicidal to the Allies' cause would be anything in the nature of a truce; it ought to be recognised that a truce will be equally prejudicial whenever Germany asks for one. For the time being she pictures to herself a conference at which, thanks to her own unity of control and the lack of it among her enemies, she will be able to play havoc among the Allies. The latter can never have the same unity of control, but they can acquire a corresponding strength of purpose by agreeing beforehand on a definite programme of peace. As it will have been drawn up with a single eye to the permanent peace of Europe, it will, when once accepted by all the Allies, admit of no further discussion, and can be presented to the enemy for his acceptance or rejection. All attempts to represent such a stage in this war as unattainable are echoes of Germany's desire to proclaim "a draw." The first peace conference can be restricted to the members of the Central Alliance, who will have to decide among themselves when they will accept the Allies' demands. Thereafter a European congress can ratify the charter of a new Europe, in which those Governments or individuals who have shown that they observe neither treaties nor laws will have no part.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

BY ESTELLE BLYTH.

II.

We said at the beginning that the history of a country was largely determined by its geographical conditions. A glance at the history of Palestine bears out this statement in a very definite way. It is a tangled narrative of changes and conquests, the early records being vague and unsatisfactory in the main, though certain periods and facts stand out with some distinctness against the shifting background of uncertainties. Excavations in Palestine reveal traces of prehistoric dwellers in caves, whose implements were fashioned from bone; the skulls and bones of these people are akin in some instances to the modern inhabitants. As a land of many tribes and petty kings, with their perpetual wars and ineffective treaties, each one striving to get the upper hand, it is difficult to form any distinct historical idea of it from the confusion of battle ever waging amongst these tribes; and when out of the vagueness of these shifting periods appear the Hyksos, the invaders of Egypt (1700 B.C.), they present a welcome sharpness of outline. The hand of Egypt lay heavy upon Palestine for many years, some of the kings of the land even being appointed by Pharaoh, to whom they appealed for help, vindication, or redress in their constant internecine wars. Seti I. (1320 B.C.) led an expedition into Palestine; but the power of the Hittites (from Northern Syria and Mesopotamia) was gradually building itself up in the land, and Rameses II. (1300 B.C.), in a treaty with them, renounced all the Egyptian holding in Palestine. Egyptian supremacy revived under Rameses III. (1200—1169 B.C.), but fifty years later the Assyrians under Tiglath-Pileser swept away in their rapid encroachment the landmarks of both Egyptian and Hittite suzerainty.

We find a supreme interest, of course, in those periods immediately concerned with the Bible. Palestine, divided into a series of small kingdoms ever at variance, was in a state which rendered it peculiarly open to foreign aggression; and amongst those petty tribal kingdoms the Hebrew invaders out of Egypt made a firm place for themselves, aided, no doubt, by that learning of the Egyptians which they brought with them in the formation of an ordered communal life. They took deep root and spread themselves out, and in the interval between their entry under Joshua and the day of the Messiah Whom they rejected, theirs was the history of the land. It is strange that, despite a mass of oral tradition, and the work of scribes, the political records of the Jewish monarchy are yet so slight. In reading the books of the Old Testament which are concerned with the events of those years, and taking them merely as historical records of the kingdoms, we are struck by the prominence given to the personal character and life of the king, and the correspondingly scanty attention paid to the country and its foreign policy and relations. We are told, for instance, of Solomon's fleet and his riches gathered by it from all lands, but we are given no details of his policy, home or foreign, which seems to have been governed largely by a commercial spirit. The records of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah are chiefly the records of the life and deeds, good or bad, of each king, and of the never-ending struggle between the hierarchy and the monarch. The kingdoms, which lasted, roughly speaking, from 1075 B.C. to 597 B.C., drew to their mournful and dishonoured close, the kings went into exile, and the people were dispersed, never again to be gathered into one fold. "Other lords have had rule over us," was the prophet's lament; the people who had rejected every chance over and over again were left to struggle as they might against the overwhelming pressure of outside forces.

For as the strength of Israel, religious and political, waned, other influences increased in Palestine—Babylonian, Chaldean, Assyrian. Warfare decimated the population, and the conquerors brought in their own countrymen to fill the empty places. The social, religious, and national life of the Jews was broken up, an exhausted people lay at the foot of an iron conqueror. A number of the Jews returned to Palestine some fifty years after the Great Dispersion under the favour of Cyrus, but they "came back not to a

kingdom, but to a *medinah*, or district (and city) of the Persian Empire."* Palestine remained practically a Persian province until the downfall of that empire after its defeat by Alexander the Great. After his death the Ptolemies in Egypt and the Selucidæ in Northern Syria contended for the possession of Palestine, and a time of great misery followed for the Jews, culminating in the plunder of the temple by Antiochus IV. His cruel persecution goaded the Jews into rising, and the priestly family of the Asmonean Mattathias led the revolt, which enjoyed a brief success. Judas Maccabæus, the son of Mattathias, founded the Asmonean Dynasty, which lasted until B.C. 34, when Herod the Great, an Idumean (Edomite) by nationality and Roman Prefect of Syria, murdered Antigonous, and made himself King of the Jews. Palestine enjoyed a fitful prosperity under Herod, the ruins of whose magnificent buildings yet adorn the land; but at the death of his son Archelaus (A.D. 6) the land passed into Roman holding.

The New Testament story embraces much of that of the Roman occupation of Palestine; Roman influence was very strong; the Gospels are stamped with the image and superscription of Cæsar's supremacy; Roman laws, money, institutions, customs, officials, appear all through the sacred narrative. Greek influences, once also very strong, paled and dwindled before the stern onward march of the Romans, and we may trace the struggle between these two great Powers in the books of the Maccabees and of Josephus. Fire, sword, and persecution reduced the people to misery and despair, which their occasional maddened revolts only served to render more poignant, until the beneficent rule of Constantine the Great (A.D. 323—336) and the establishment of Christianity, in some degree relieved them. Palestine remained a Roman province from the day when Pompey added her to the Imperial crown (A.D. 65) until the Arab Conquest in 634; from that day she has been a Mohammedan possession. Some four centuries later began the Crusades—those vain, romantic, fascinating episodes in history whose glamour affects us even now; the Christian kingdom lasted just eighty-eight years ere it fell by its own hand, slain by the treachery and selfishness of the rulers whose faithfulness should have been as its shield and buckler. And yet it is amazing what an abiding impression that short-lived Christian occupation has left upon the land, in words scattered through the language, in buildings whose glorious ruins attest the skill and energy of the makers, in the occasional signs of Western blood and characteristics traceable to-day in the natives. Probably the strange force of their short tenure of Palestine lies in the fact that they came to her "not like most other invaders, because she was the road to somewhere else, but because she was herself, in their eyes the goal of all roads, the central and most blessed province of the world."† The incense of their devotion, so freely offered, lingers yet in Palestine, enriching her history beyond price, drawing East and West together through a common love, and absolving the memory of men—fierce, ruthless, and unstable as they were—who bore the cross-handled sword through the land. Eight Crusades at later periods strove to recover the land, but in vain; and in 1517 it fell into the hands of the Ottoman Turks under Selim I.

What is to be the future fate of Palestine? If her past is any guide to us in our attempt to solve the riddle of the future, we may well come to the conclusion that she can never belong to any one race or people after the absolute fashion of other lands. She is a road, a highway; she can be policed, controlled, kept safe and open, made beautiful, but she cannot become the absolute property of any one nation. She has been held longest by Turkey, whose people are the most mixed and least national of all races; but Turkey has been such a weak Power latterly that it has held Palestine more or less under the will and by the grace of Europe. And Turkey, by its cruel taxation, its insincerity, its injustice and cynical oppression, its utter faithlessness to trust, has all but ruined the country; it has driven abroad the best of her youth, and has broken the spirit of those who could not get away. We can only pray that no selfishness in European policy will allow the traitor to retain the land it has tormented and betrayed; or if, for reasons of high diplomacy that we cannot grasp, it must be

* "Jerusalem," George Adam Smith, Vol. I. p. 380.

† "Historical Geography of the Holy Land." George Adam Smith, p. 13.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

GREAT AGE
AND
BOUQUET.



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN.

permitted the semblance of power there, then that this may be only under an eagle-eyed supervision.

A good many people consider that Palestine should pass to the Jews. But the Jews are now only a kindred, not a nation, for they are English, Spanish, Russian, German, Roumanian, Austrian, American, Polish, according to the place of birth or the exigencies of life. Which Power would be the predominating influence in a Jewish State? When we recall the enthusiastic loyalty of English Jews during the war—proving once again that they count themselves as truly English as any one of us—how can we suppose that they, any more than we, would enjoy being deprived of the honour and safety of British citizenship and summarily attached to a new State, nominally Jewish but virtually under, say, German control? Surely that would be a very scurvy trick for a Government to play its people—or for a people to play its Government. The Jews are not like the Armenians, who, through centuries of dispersion, oppression, persecution, and alien rule, have yet preserved intact a national church, a distinct royal tradition acknowledged by them all, a language, and a passionately conservative nationality. The great movement of Zionism, which aims at the acquisition of Palestine, is half political, half religious, and as a governing force would be the very representation of a house divided. A prominent Zionist (I wish I might give his name, for that alone would carry weight), when asked what was to come after the Zionists had acquired possession of Palestine, answered, sadly enough: "That is the weakness of it; we do not know." He was a burning Nationalist and a man of deep, though perhaps not extremely orthodox, religious principles, and he saw no further than that.

Many pious souls refer to Palestine as the Promised Land, overlooking the fact that the promise was coupled with very stringent conditions. Should we not rather think of it as the Land of Promise—an infinite promise not tied to any one race, but of eternal hopefulness and wide enough to include all races in a blessing that is peculiar to the land? It shows a lack of historical proportion to say that the Jews, or any other individual race, may claim the land by right. The Jews conquered her and held her for a term of years; they fought bravely enough to recover her when they lost her; but Christian blood has been poured out for her sake just as freely and through longer ages. We once held a larger portion of France than the French kings had, but that hardly gives us a lien upon French territory to-day. That is all past history, however. What are the Jews doing for Palestine to-day? They have planted many fruitful colonies about the country, but in the towns they are, alas! the chief moneylenders, extorting 100 per cent. very often, when the Turkish Government generously allows .15 per cent. And to the outside world they exhibit no greater aptitude at self-government now than they did of yore, for there is sharp jealousy and antagonism between the different sects, as any resident in Jerusalem can testify. There is, moreover, a generation growing up of absolute free-thinkers of both sexes, whose marked boldness of demeanour is very repellant in the East; it was probably some of these who, when the Turkish troops detailed for active service entered Jerusalem in November, 1914, erected triumphal arches in their honour, and greeted them with cries of "Blessed be ye that come in the Name of the Lord!" Any comment on this amazing incident would be superfluous. Political considerations also make it impossible that Palestine should become an insular Jewish State. What would be the fate of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, those priceless treasures of Christendom? What would Islam everywhere say if the mosques at Hebron and Jerusalem and the tomb of David were taken out of their jealous guardianship and given over to the Jews? It is probable that neither England nor Russia could afford to disregard universal Mohammedan opinion on this point.

Every signpost seems to point to the one end, every argument to lead to the one conclusion, namely—that Palestine should be annexed to Egypt, and thus experience those benefits of English rule which she has so long desired. England alone would hold her on trust for the rest of the world—Christian, Jewish, Mohammedan: under her care Christian, Jew, and Moslem would worship in peace and safety; by her every religious and national prejudice would be respected. If France has Syria and Russia Constantinople, Palestine should fall naturally to Great Britain. Our present occupation of Egypt makes it, indeed, a necessity that we should guard Palestine also; for the desert between is no protection to either country, and if a Turkish army (which is generally destitute of every military necessity, except courage) can pass the desert with such comparative ease and celerity, what would not be possible to fully equipped and organised forces? English rule has long been the ardent desire of the Christians of Palestine, and latterly even the Moslems have openly cried out for it under the ever-increasing weight of Turkish oppression. About three years ago deputations of Bedouin from beyond Jordan—wild creatures who usually avoid the stir

of towns—kept on coming in to ask the Turkish Governor of Jerusalem when the English were coming to take the Holy City. The Pasha, considerably perturbed by this unexpected development, put them off with specious excuses; they were coming soon—letters took so long on the way—there was no answer yet from the English. Three times these untamed men of the desert came; then ceased, in bitter disappointment. Perhaps they thought England had failed them. What had started the idea no one ever knew. About the same time a rumour arose in the city that five English generals were coming by the evening train to take Jerusalem. Half the city flocked joyfully to the station, many of the Jews even went down to Jaffa to view the landing, and when no one arrived the disappointment was really intense. We may smile at the simplicity of these people, but never at the real desire for liberty, the real belief in England, that lay behind it. England is greatly trusted in Palestine, for the people now understand that all her institutions out there are wholly for their benefit, and mask no ugly political aim or greed; the common saying, "On the word of an Englishman it is true!" must make us proud each time we hear it. English prestige has suffered a temporary eclipse of late years, owing perhaps to a restrained line of policy that was misunderstood by those to whom power must be shown in concrete form, but it has never been destroyed. "On the word of an Englishman it is true!"

There is no doubt that Russia would cherish Jerusalem very dearly, and of course the Greek Church is the Church of the land; but it is very unlikely that Greece would acquiesce in such an arrangement, or that Rome would tolerate a very great acquisition of power by the Orthodox Communion in the Holy Land.

For many years past the education of the land has been in foreign hands, with the result that there is now ready a generation of well-educated young Syrians, men and women, knowing English and French well, who (the men chiefly) have been driven by Turkish misrule to seek their living in other countries. These would swarm back to Palestine at the first dawning of a fairer day, and there would be at once a generation ready and fit for use; they are now exiles in Egypt, America, and the colonies, but they love Palestine and long to return.

We cannot doubt that, freed from the long bitterness of an unspeakable bondage, and brought under the splendid breadth of English rule—which is, of all Western Governments, that best adapted to Eastern needs—Palestine would become once more what she should be, the High Way of God. Is she not to us all the Land of an infinite Promise?

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Situation in Roumania.

December 19.

Earl CURZON, in speaking of the military and political situation abroad, said he was not one of those who believed in painting too rosy a picture of affairs. That did not mean that we ought to take a gloomy view, but it did mean that we ought to take a stern view of the realities of the case. There was no use in concealing the fact that the enemy by his military successes had obtained a position of advantage in some of the main and in many of the minor theatres of war, though in the case of Roumania the whole of the oilworks and stocks in the area now occupied by the enemy were destroyed before the invasion and the larger part of the Roumanian Army was still intact. The failure of Roumania was explained by the geographical position of the country. Russia, the only Power which could do so, had done what she could to help Roumania with armies. We had sent munitions and lent money, and had taken the offensive from Salonika. The picture might seem depressing, but the successive victories of the Central Powers over petty States were only a corner of the canvas. The fate of pawns did not determine the ultimate issue of a game of chess. It was necessary to take a large view and reflect what changes in the external aspect of the war the last year had produced.

The MARQUESS OF CREWE, referring to the question of peace terms, said he was sure that our first thought must be for the peoples of Europe who are under the harrow, so to speak, the people of Serbia, Belgium, and Armenia. Not since the Thirty Years' War, perhaps not since the Middle Ages, had such a series of horrors been known to the world, and the fate of these outraged people and any changes that may take place in the map of the world after the war depends, and must depend, on the measure of military success which the Allies obtain.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Allies and Greece.

Dec. 14.

Mr. ALDEN asked whether the complete blockade of Greek ports implied that a state of war existed between the Allies and Greece.

Lord R. CECIL: The answer is in the negative.

Major NEWMAN asked whether in any temporary settlement of questions at issue between the Allies and the Government at

Athens, the safety and liberty of M. Venizelos's supporters would be fully provided for?

Lord R. CECIL: In such an eventuality the Allies will do their utmost to secure sufficient and satisfactory guarantees.

Great Britain and Greece.

Dec. 16.

Mr. DILLON asked Mr. Bonar Law to impress on the Prime Minister when he spoke on the following Tuesday to make, as far as was consistent with the public safety, a frank statement of the position of the British Government on the Greek question. The country was very much disturbed at the news which was daily coming from Greece and at the fact that despite repeated pledges that effective measures would be adopted to protect the friends of the Allies in Greece no such steps had been taken. The enormous share which Great Britain and the Empire had contributed to the prosecution of the war entitled her to a very large, he would almost say a commanding, voice in connection with affairs on the Near Eastern front. It was a horrible thing to read in the *Times* the other day that the British Minister and the Russian Minister had dined with the King of Greece, on whose word that there would be no attack a small detachment of French and British sailors were sent to Athens and many of them treacherously murdered. A number of machine-guns were used against the unfortunate detachment without any warning, and the result was that a number of men lost their lives and many were wounded. The prestige of the Allies in the East had suffered greatly. Horrible to relate, our men left Athens escorted by the troops of the King of Greece. If it were true that soon after these occurrences our Ambassador dined with the King, this country suffered a humiliation unparalleled in its history. By our action in Greece we had allowed the impression to get abroad that we had neither the courage nor the power to stand by those who stood by us in the Balkans.

Mr. BONAR LAW: With regard to what has fallen from the hon. member for Mayo, he has himself indicated that he does not expect me to make any statement as to our policy in Greece, or, indeed, as to our policy generally in connection with the war. He has seen a rumour, which I had not noticed, that our Ambassador has been dining with the King of Greece. I have seen, I think, all the Foreign Office telegrams, even during the strenuous days which have passed recently, but I have seen no indication of any such occurrence as that, and I can assure the hon. gentleman and the House, after what has happened in Greece, the views expressed by our Ambassador on behalf of this Government are of such a nature that I cannot believe it is within the bounds of possibility that such a social engagement could have been attended by him.

The Allies, Greece, and Roumania.

Dec. 19.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, in moving the second reading of the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, made but brief allusion to the Near East, but what he said was calculated to show that a more active policy is likely to be pursued henceforth in that part of the world. Early in his speech he referred to the invasion of Serbia and Belgium, remarking caustically that these measures of "self-defence" indicated the Germans' idea of respect for the rights of other nations. Later, he referred to Roumania and Greece. "The Roumanian blunder," he said, "was an unfortunate one. But at worst it prolongs the war; it does not alter the fundamental facts of the war. I cannot help hoping that it may even have a salutary effect in calling the attention of the Allies to obvious defects in their organisation, not merely the organisation of each, but the organisation of the whole, and if it does that and braces them up to fresh effort it may prove, bad as it is, a blessing. That is the worst. That has been a real set-back. It is the darkest cloud, and it is a cloud that appeared on a clearing horizon. We are doing our best to make it impossible that that disaster should lead to worse. That is why we have taken in the last few days this very strong action in Greece. We mean to take no risks there. We have decided to take definite and decisive action, and I think it has succeeded. We have decided also to recognise the great Greek statesman, M. Venizelos." This statement was received with loud cheers. Speaking of our relations with our Allies, Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said: "I ventured to say earlier in the year that there were two things we ought to seek as Allies. The first was unity of aim and the other unity of action. Never have Allies worked in better harmony or more perfect accord than the Allies in this great struggle. But when I come to the question of unity of action, I still think that there is a good deal left to be desired. I have only to refer to the incident of Roumania, and each man can spell out for himself what I mean. The enemy have got two supreme advantages: they act on an internal line, and there is one great dominant power that practically directs the forces of all. We have neither of these advantages. We must, therefore, achieve the same end by other means. The advantages we possess are advantages which time improves. No one can say that we make the best of that time. There has been a tardiness of decision and action. I forget who said about Necker that he was like a clock that was always too slow. There is a little of that in the great Alliance clock—Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania. Before we can take full advantage of the enormous resources at the command of the Allies there must be some means for arriving at quicker and readier decisions, and of carrying them out. I believe that that can be done, and it will quicken our action as well as our decisions, it will equalise the conditions more than we have succeeded in doing in the past. There must be more real consultations between the men who matter in the direction of affairs. There must be less of the feeling that each country has got its own front to look after. The policy of a common front must be reality. There is an essential feeling that there is but one

front, and I believe we have got to get that more and more. That is essential for the Allies, not merely to realise it, but to carry it out in policy and action, and I take this opportunity at the beginning of this new Administration of emphasising that point, because I believe it is the one essential for great victory, and for the curtailment of the period before victory arrives.

Mr. ASQUITH agreed with what the Prime Minister had said about Roumania. "It has," he said, "been a bad business. Although it is not possible at this moment, even if it were desirable, to go into the matter, precisely to apportion the different degrees of responsibility—and I have no desire to enter into that question—yet I am heartily in agreement with him. We have often discussed the matter together, and I do say that it is a very good illustration of the desirability, nay, urgent necessity, of more intimate co-operation between the General Staffs and the politicians of the Allied countries. You cannot get over, unfortunately, in this world, the limitations of time and space, and the difficulty of bringing together in constant and intimate communication not only the soldiers but still more the representatives of the four Powers, so widely separated geographically and otherwise as those who constitute this alliance.

Prisoners at Yuzgat.

Dec. 19.

Mr. HOPE informed Mr. G. Lambert that his Majesty's Government had asked the United States Ambassador at Constantinople to press the Porte to remove our prisoners at Yuzgat to a more accessible and more suitable camp.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

An Impertinent Warrant.

In a leading article *The Times* expresses satisfaction with the Government's decision to recognise the agents of M. Venizelos. It adds:—

Short of the direct recognition of M. Venizelos and his Provisional Government by the Allies as the true representatives of Greek national feeling and the rightful rulers of Greece, it is the best step that could have been taken, and the one most closely in accordance with public feeling in this country. But, though Mr. Lloyd George thinks, as he has doubtless reason to think, that our "very strong action" has succeeded, the Athens Government has impertinently issued a warrant for the arrest of M. Venizelos on a charge of "high treason" and of "libel" against the Greek General Staff. The temper thus displayed scarcely encourages belief in the penitence of King Constantine's partisans. It suggests the advisability of caution in regarding our action as successful until positive proof is forthcoming that the Greek Royalists and their Chief have effectively complied with all the demands which the Allies have made or may make upon them.

The Mesopotamia Advance.

The following are a few opinions on the advance in Mesopotamia, which speak for themselves:—

The Mesopotamian Expedition is in a much happier position than it occupied at the beginning of the year. Two light railways are being built, and have reached an advanced stage. The river flotilla has been strengthened. Spacious wharfrage accommodation has been provided at the base at Basra. Ample supplies have been accumulated, and the medical and hospital organizations are now believed to be sufficient for the largest possible demands. Thus the early blunders committed in Mesopotamia have to a great extent been rectified, and the Expedition has had the satisfaction of discovering that it is no longer forlorn and neglected. Its ultimate object, however, still remains obscure. We will only say that, however deep may be the feeling about the Mesopotamian campaign, our prestige in the Middle East will not be materially affected by the occupation of this or that Mesopotamian town or city. It is time we recognized that the future of our prestige will depend upon our successful conduct of the war as a whole, and that the defeat of the main German Armies will dominate the position on every front.—(*The Times*, December 18.)

The Mesopotamian theatre is, of course, a secondary one, and no operations in it will decide the war. It is nevertheless much to be desired, for military as well as political reasons, that we should retrieve our record there, and in so doing relieve the pressure on the Russians in Armenia and, if possible, bring the Turkish escapades in Persia to an end.—(*Daily Chronicle*, December 16.)

Most people had forgotten the Tigris Field Force, which, when lost sight of in the spring, was cursing its luck before the flooded trenches of Sanna-Yat, and almost as short of food as the Kut garrison it had failed to relieve. There the curtain dropped, and the Parliamentary inquiry into the causes or that failure has not lifted it. To-night, however, we hear again of this splendid force of hard-bitten soldiers—the best of the Indian Army, and some of our old regulars. They have struck again for Kut along a new line, which suggests co-operation from the detached force which has been based so long at Nasiriyeh, on the Euphrates, at the other end of the Hai Creek. We must not jump to conclusions. This may not be a big advance. Yet, even as it stands, it is most satisfactory. It refutes the retired colonels here who declare that after their disappointments and a summer's inaction, the force would lose its morale.—(*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, December 16.)

Vain Hopes.

The following is the concluding paragraph of a letter sent to the *Morning Post* by its Budapest corre-

spondent on December 10, and published on Monday:—

In expectation of the peace campaign of the Karolyi party, most of the newspapers are discussing the possibility of peace after the fall of Bucharest, for the fall of the Roumanian capital—like so many other events during the war—filled the people here with hopes and expectations. The idea prevails, as I have said, that Roumania was the trump card of the Allies, and that now it has been ineffective they will be ready to throw up their hands. It may be explained by the fact that for Hungary Roumania was an immense source of danger and anxiety, and it is believed here that the same importance is attached to her failure in other belligerent countries as well. They seem to forget that the British Army—as great and as organised as any of the others—is still intact, that the British Navy is still dominating the seas, that the Russians have not yet used up a fifth of their effectives, and that the French and Italian Armies are as strong and vigorous as ever.

Forgetfulness of the kind indicated is likely to lead to a distinctly unpleasant awakening.

Roumania or Greece ?

Writing on "The Great War," in the *Spectator* (December 16), Brigadier-General Stone says:—"The weather and the condition of the ground on the Western Front seem likely to fortify the resolution of the Germans to press the advantage which they have already gained in Roumania, and the question is, In which direction will this advantage be pressed?" There are, he continues, "two almost equally tempting alternatives."

One is to complete the conquest of Roumania and, if possible, the utter defeat of the Roumanian Army, invade Bessarabia, and make the line of the Dniester the next objective; the other is to reinforce the Bulgarian armies which are operating against the Allies on the Greek frontier and allow Constantine to declare himself to be Germany's ally.

The former of these two courses involves an arduous offensive, which could scarcely fail to call for ever-increasing efforts and sacrifices the more nearly the objective was approached; but, at the same time, it offers correspondingly important results in the event of success, for it is believed that Germany regards the chances of bringing Russia to her knees as somewhat more feasible than causing the collapse of the Western Powers, and there is little doubt that she would be prepared to offer Russia the most tempting terms to make a separate peace. The Germans are bad psychologists, and apt to judge others by their own standards. It is absolutely inconceivable to us that Russia will ever, under any circumstances, throw up the sponge.

Of the other alternative, the writer says that it "certainly presents most attractive features, and although not promising such far-reaching results (as it presents itself to Germany) as the Russian adventure, at the same time does not call for such a supreme effort, and therefore does not run such serious risk of bringing about a dangerously successful offensive on the part of the Allies on the Western Front." After reviewing the situation in Greece, he concludes:—

The Allied forces in Greece are insufficient to conduct a successful offensive in the face of Bulgaria reinforced by Germany, and at the same time they are in excess of the requirements for merely holding Salonika. The situation is disquieting, and it will become more so the longer the diplomats are instructed or allowed to prevent the soldiers and sailors from settling it. It is impossible to deal with the situation on other fronts in the present article or with the question of command of the sea, which is being disputed with such success as to call for special measures to meet it not only on our own behalf, but on behalf of, and it may be hoped in co-operation with, neutrals as well as belligerent Allies.

Responsibility for the Armenian Atrocities.

In a leading article, inspired by the appearance of the Government Blue Book on the Armenian massacres, the *Daily Telegraph* of Saturday brings out clearly the responsibility of the Central Powers, as well as of Turkey, for the crimes committed. The evidence presented, says the *Telegraph*:—

proves, in the first place, that a regular and systematic attempt has been made for the last two years to destroy the Armenian people, and that the cruelty and tortures inflicted are due not so much to local authorities—though they are guilty enough—as they are to the Turkish Government as a whole, whose obvious intention it has been to carry out a general massacre. In the next place, it becomes equally certain that this terrible chapter in the history of the Near East has not been written without the direct connivance, and even sanction, of the Central Powers. Austria, indeed, intervened on one occasion in order to get partial protection for Armenian Catholics, in whom she was interested. Inasmuch as she gained her object in this instance, it is obvious that if she had seriously exerted her influence she could have done much to hinder and control Turkish ferocity. As to Germany, there are unfortunately clear signs that, so far from discouraging these butchers in Armenia,

she has allowed her good name to cover some of their worst infamies. There is no more remarkable illustration of the bitter irony of history than the close alliance between Wilhelm II. and such men as Enver and Talaat.

It is the Young Turks, the writer declares, "who, above all, are responsible for the massacres of the Armenians." But

Let us also remember that the Young Turks' effort to exterminate the Armenians is sympathetically regarded, and, at all events, not openly disavowed, by Berlin. The Turks are valuable allies of Germany, and taking, as they do, their orders from the Supreme War Lord, could, if he wished, be very easily debarred from exercising their sinister talents in outrage. Bearing these things in mind, we can estimate at its proper worth the recent appeal which has come from the German Chancellor to the world at large, and especially to the United States and to the Pope. The Holy Father is assured that Germany is appalled by the unspeakable misery of humanity; America is told that the object of the German Higher Command is to "defend justice and the liberty of national evolution." . . . The horrible hypocrisy of such pleas can be estimated aright by those who peruse the latest account of the wholesale destruction of men, women, and children carried out in Armenia by Germany's ally, the Ottoman Empire.

The Remedy for Greece.

The *Times* last Saturday, in the course of a leading article ("Plain Words to King Constantine"), remarked that "we could ask for nothing more drastic than the contents of the Note" presented to Greece by the Allies; and added that its only regret was that an ultimatum was not presented long ago. King Constantine, the article proceeded, "has temporised too often. . . . The Allies have at last taken the measure of his aims."

We are confident that the new War Cabinets of Great Britain and France will not repeat the unfortunate mistake of Admiral du Fournet. The public in both countries will look to them not to place themselves in the humiliating position of formulating demands which they cannot enforce should action become necessary. Admiral du Fournet made the error of risking a small force which was quite unable to ensure fulfilment of the wishes of the Allies. There must be no repetition of that deplorable occurrence. We are steadily moving towards a very critical situation in Greece and in Macedonia. It can still be saved, but only by immediate and adequate preparation, which we hope is in progress, against possible developments. The four great Allied Powers cannot conceivably have called upon King Constantine to do their bidding without being ready to apply compulsion should the necessity arise. We fear it may arise, for the increasing hostility of the Greek Monarch is hardly veiled. We shall never feel safe about Greece, we shall never be in a position to pursue our projects in Macedonia, until the Greek Royalist Army and its pro-German leaders have been removed to areas where they cannot affect the military situation. The true remedy for Greece, in her present unhappy and divided condition, is to keep her sword sheathed and to place the country under the control of M. Venizelos.

Articles to Note.

"The Value of Greece," by George Lamley; and "A Year of Salonika," in *Country Life* (December 16).

"The Balkan Peril," by West F. de Wend-Fenton, in the *World* (December 19).

"The Lines of the Sereth," by Hilaire Belloc, in *Land and Water* (December 14).

"The Hunger March Across Roumania," in *The Times* (December 19).

**MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF
FEEDING STUFFS**
SUCH AS **BRAN, POLLARDS, COCKLES,
TARES, FENUGREEK, HUSKMEALS, &c.**

**KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.**

Established over 50 Years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I think the freight paid recently in Alexandria for Liverpool—namely, 197s. 6d. a ton measurement—to which I referred last week, constitutes a record, the pre-war rate for the same measurement and distance having been in the vicinity of 6s. 3d. The phenomenal increase shows the demand in Egypt for bottoms—in other words, the cargo stored up in our Protectorate is awaiting vessels to ship it to this country. No sooner does a fair wind blow an empty ship to Alexandria than its free space is at once seized by shippers eager to send off their loads. The result is that they outbid each other, the highest bidder—in this case the £10 man—ousting his competitors.

This is all very well and satisfactory from the ship's point of view, and I am the last man to grudge its exceptional windfall. But there is another aspect of the question: the cargo shipped has been mulcted to the tune of about £9 10s. per ton measurement—an imposition that will have to be borne by the consumer, be the latter the State or a private individual. If the State, then its accountants who permit such dealings should be relieved of their office; if the consumer, however, is a private individual (or a company selling later to the consumer), then all I can say is, "Pity the consumer, for his only sin is that he is helpless." Prices now of most commodities are high, but in many cases they are factitiously high, and such exorbitant rates as those recently paid in Alexandria only tend to aggravate the situation. Failing State control of shipping, such rates should be forbidden. There is a "limit" in poker; surely there should be one in shipping rates, above which no shipper may go. For the sake of the helpless consumer, the dependent of Tommy Atkins, I urge the Government to prevent the recurrence of such mad rates as those recently paid in Alexandria.

We published last week the account of a recent meeting of the Egyptian Commission of Agricultural Commerce. Three subjects came up for discussion: wheat, *bourdi*, and sisal hemp. Regarding the first, it was pointed out that, as is the case with Indian wheat, the grain would have to be washed before shipment, owing to the presence of dirt, if it was to prove acceptable to British millers. Further comment on the wheat-growing question in Egypt is out of place here, and will be so until the war is over.

Regarding the second—namely, the utilising of *bourdi* for paper-making—I am pleased to see that Shakour Pasha has taken the matter up seriously, and is having experiments made on a big scale. Their results are not yet known, but I wish them every success, and hope the Government will facilitate the starting of an industry, if that should prove practicable. There is no earthly reason why Egypt, the home of the papyrus parchment—which is a modified form of paper (or *vice versa*)—should not again turn the Nile weeds into pulp. The idea is not a novel one, as readers of THE NEAR EAST know; and if failure rather than success

has been the lot of previous pioneers, the reason is to be sought in Government apathy and in the opposition of the wood-pulp trade, or trust. Overcome both, or link up with the latter, and there is no reason why *bourdi*, and later on perhaps sudd, should not be shipped to the great paper mills.

The third subject—namely, the cultivation of sisal hemp on a large scale in Egypt—is a matter that offers decided practical, because economic, difficulties. Between the time of the planting of sisal and its first return three years must elapse, and, in agreement with the Commission, I very much doubt whether the Egyptian farmer, who lives from crop to crop, from harvest to harvest, can be induced to grow a plant which takes three summers to grow. It is different in British and German East Africa, more particularly the latter, where settlers arrived expecting no return for their capital and labour for some years. In other words, they could afford to wait, which the Egyptian farmer cannot, except to plant sisal as a side-show. Even so, there are other crops which, to him, are more immediately remunerative.

..

After all, however, cotton will continue to be Egypt's greatest source of wealth after the war is over, just as it has been in the past. It will continue to be its great staple product and the source of its wealth. The reason is not far to seek: it is the most remunerative crop and one that thrives well, in spite of disease and worm. The demand for cotton is ever on the increase, and it will continue so for centuries to come. Even if the whole of the fertile area in Egypt and the Sudan were under cotton, the demand would still be far in excess of the supply. Besides, the long silken staple of the Egyptian (and Sudan) variety has a market of its own that can never be satisfied, and as long as this is so, the Egyptian can do no better than grow cotton and grow it profusely. There are, I know, the dangers attendant on a one-crop policy, but I think it is the Government's duty to guard against them rather than to dissuade the people from sowing cotton where cotton can be sown. However, be it clearly understood that these remarks apply to a post-bellum Egypt, and not to Egypt of to-day. The latter is, in duty to herself and to us, bound to grow as much food-stuffs as she possibly can, for human as well as for animal consumption. After the war, methinks, she will find it to her advantage to intensify more than ever her great cotton cultivation. In this the Sudan is certain to follow her lead with little, if no, delay.

..

Are we really going to move in the matter of consular reforms? So much has been written and argued on the subject within the past two years that really it is high time something was done. Now, I think, is the time. We have new men in public office, and, as heads of departments, we have some business men. We have Mr. Lloyd George as Prime Minister. Of course, it cannot be expected that any of these statesmen should undertake the task of drafting a Consular Reform Bill; they have their hands full as it is. But the Prime Minister, I am sure, is aware of two facts: first, that our Consular system is anything but what it

should be; and, second, that now is the time to reform it, so that when the war is over we can begin with some sort of a working machine. As the Special Committee of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, presided over by Sir Algernon Firth, points out, "the enormous increase in our national indebtedness will involve a corresponding increase in our annual revenue," which must "to a large extent be secured by the development of our foreign and oversea trade."

This can never be achieved unless the Consular service is reformed. I know there are many Consuls who are all that they should be, however tied their hands—and there is even more red tape leashed around the body of a Consul than around a W.O. official—by archaic regulations and prohibitions. But they are in the minority. The others—well, they are the product of a system as time-honoured as it is out of date. The system must be altered. Whilst retaining some of its staid peculiarities, it must be modified so as to compete on an equal footing with the German and American systems; it must adapt itself to modern commercial requirements, and must primordially further Britain's foreign trade. It must be emancipated from the dust of the F.O. and work in immediate touch with the Board of Trade. It must be comprehensively extended in size and generously endowed. Surely a few thousand pounds a year is not a sufficient credit for the Consular Trade Service of the Great British Empire?

In the space here at my disposal I cannot dilate more fully on this subject, however much it interests me. My experience of British Consuls covers two hemispheres and practically all European countries, and therefore I may be allowed to urge on the Government the reform of the whole system. I appeal directly to Mr. Lloyd George to get a committee of *able business men* together to study and report to him on the necessary reforms. A Bill can easily follow, but let it be a drastic one, as the times exact. Frankly speaking, the present opportunity is a glorious one: the country is in the mood for a healthy sweeping-away of cobwebs, for the introduction of virile reforms and for practical measures tending to emancipate us from the easy sloth of the past twenty-five years, during which we allowed others to forge ahead while we drifted self-complacently. I hope, however, that the Prime Minister will see that the matter is taken up without delay.

What are we to say regarding the Kaiser's impudent "peace" proposal? If it means anything at all it is that he realises that Germany is not likely to gain much from prolonging the war. On our side, we read something more into the business; namely, that the Kaiser, in his heart, has undeceived himself, and has admitted that the British soldiers' homely phrase is an accurate summing up of the situation—"We've got them beat." Very much in the soldier's vernacular, perhaps, but very graphic and very true. The Kaiser, in the past, has posed as the Attila of modern times: his latest move has led to his deposition from that somewhat distinguished, if brutal, pose: he has become merely a Pecksniff, and we know how to rate him.

COMMENTATOR.

Economic Future of Greece.

"The Interests of Germany and Greece Coincide"— An Amazing Statement.

The continued gravity of the situation in Greece, the apparent defiance of the Entente Powers by King Constantine, and the drastic measures which have been taken to blockade the country, no less than the steps which Lord Robert Cecil foreshadowed in the House of Commons on Tuesday, serve to keep Greece and all connected with her in the front rank of public interest.

Regarding the "policy" which the anti-Venizelist school in Athens have adopted, or hope to adopt—presumably under the ægis of German association—Professor K. D. Sphyras, of Athens, leaves us in no doubt. In a recent article (which was quoted extensively by "Politicon" in the *Outlook*) he makes it clear that "Greece must strictly pursue the following principal aims:—(1) It must strive for the freedom of the sea and the destruction of the absolute naval supremacy possessed by any Power or Powers in order to be able to protect the vast coasts of the country and its maritime trade. (2) It must particularly protect its maritime position in the Eastern Mediterranean. (3) It must see a question of the most vital importance in the preservation of the integrity of Austria-Hungary and of Turkey. (4) It must place its economic life on a healthy basis by firmly attaching itself to the Central European group of Powers and endeavour to obtain guarantees to secure the sale of its products within that group against all competitors. (5) It must obtain sufficient territory in the Balkan Peninsula to prevent the disturbance of the balance of power in the Balkans. (6) It must resist the occupation of the Greek sphere of influence in South Albania on the part of Italy, and prevent Italy dominating the approach to the Adriatic. . . .

"The interests of Greece and those of the German Empire coincide to such an extent that an alliance can be concluded between the two countries with closed eyes.

"Watch Italy.

"Greece's policy must watchfully follow the development of the policy of the Entente Powers and oppose their plans of conquest in the Near East. It must particularly watch the policy of Italy with the greatest attention, because that Power hedges Greece in by land and sea; and must cling to Turkey, which must be the best friend and the most faithful brother of Greece. . . .

"The differences between Austria and Italy can be completely abolished only by the formation of an Albanian Buffer State, and by the creation of a powerful Greece, the territory of which reaches beyond Valona, and which is able to resist attack from any quarter. . . .

Must Be Punished.

"After the war Italy must not again be permitted to continue playing the same game which it has played in the past. That country must be punished. It must not be permitted to give itself, like a careless prostitute, to any comer, guided solely by considerations of immediate profit. Italy's place within the Triple Alliance must be taken by some other State. That State should be Greece, for militarily, politically, and economically it may replace Italy, and serve as a counterpoise to that State. . . .

"Greece can furnish those commodities to the Central European Powers which were hitherto provided by Italy. It produces many valuable minerals exactly as Italy, especially marble, in which article Greece successfully competes with Italy. In currants, also, Greece need not fear Italy's competition. The same applies to tobacco. On the other hand, there are certain commodities which Greece and Italy can produce in vast quantities, such as wine, olive oil, etc. There are other articles of which Italy exports large quantities, and which are not produced on a considerable scale by Greece, but which might be raised—articles such as fresh fruits, dried fruits, flowers,

fresh and dried vegetables, silk, etc. In 1913 Italy exported more than £3,000,000 worth of wine, more than £1,800,000 of olive oil, nearly £14,000,000 of silk, more than £1,640,000 of flowers and vegetables, more than £6,000,000 of fresh fruit, and nearly £2,000,000 of dried fruit. Furthermore, the tourist traffic might be vastly developed by suitable arrangements. Then the through traffic between Central Europe and the Orient might, to Italy's cost, be diverted from that country towards Greece. The principal connecting route between East and West is the Suez Canal, and the great traffic between East and West, including the Indian mail, might be diverted towards Greece, to the great advantage of the whole country and especially of its harbours. Lastly, the Greek merchant marine might be vastly developed, not only by the diversion of the traffic between East and West from the Italian to the Greek route, but also by the decline of the shipping possessed by the Entente States, and by securing a preference for the Central European States in Turkey. . . .

Greek "Musts."

"The most important points which we must constantly keep before us, and which should direct the active policy of Greece, are the following:—

"1. Greece must, as far as it is able, prevent the intervention of any other State on the side of the Entente Powers.

"2. Greece must preserve a benevolent neutrality towards the Entente Powers as far as such a policy is made necessary by the exposed maritime position of the country.

"3. Greece must prevent warfare within its territories by demanding that the troops landed by the Entente Powers shall be embarked, or by warning the Governments concerned that in accordance with international law the Greek Army would have to disarm and intern troops crossing the Greek frontier when retreating from the enemy.

"4. Greece must protest most energetically against the landing of further troops if such landing cannot be prevented by force. At any rate, all possible difficulties should be raised against landing Entente troops and against transporting and provisioning them.

"5. Greece must force the Entente Powers to make certain political concessions, such as Cyprus, and certain economic concessions, which must reward the country for the violation of its neutrality by the landing of troops.

"6. Greece must in good time make use of her opportunities, and begin negotiations with the Central European Powers and their Allies, and conclude with them treaties which will secure the vital interests of the country in future circumstances as a reward for its neutrality. In such a treaty Greece should bind herself to the observation of the strictest neutrality towards the Entente Powers up to the end of the war. On the other hand, Greece should demand Germany's guarantee of territorial integrity for Greece's territories, which are less threatened by Bulgaria than by the prolonged occupation of Greek soil on the part of the troops of the Entente States. Greece should obtain Bulgaria's undertaking to waive its claims to the territories demanded, and that undertaking should be guaranteed by Germany. Greece should be guaranteed that it will retain the islands received from Turkey at the London Conference, and that it should receive the Serbian territories around Doiran and Gjev-gjeli and about Monastir, a large part of South Albania and Northern Epirus, Valona and its territory, and the islands occupied by Italy. . . .

"Although Greece may have to capitulate again and again before the demands of the Entente Powers, the country must maintain its halting 'Greek' neutrality under

all circumstances and until the end, a neutrality which will be described as unique in history."

Duplicity.

The most interesting extracts given from the pamphlet of Professor Sphyras explain clearly (says "Politicon") the policy pursued by the Greek King and his Ministers from the beginning of the war to the present day. The writer of the pamphlet was either particularly well informed about the secret aims and objects of the King and his supporters, or he was inspired by them. Either his pamphlet is a blazing indiscretion which reveals Greece's aim to the world or it is an inspired production. It is conceivable that Greece's duplicity was as much suspected in Berlin as in London and Paris, and that Professor Sphyras was instructed to publish his pamphlet in Germany in order to justify his country and to explain Greece's policy of deliberate duplicity as being pursued in the best interests of Germany and of her Allies.

TOPSY-TURVY FINANCE.

Meanwhile, the financial situation in Greece is receiving the attention in this country which the political developments render desirable.

The Budget deficit last year was some £10,000,000, making the aggregate deficits for three years £33,000,000. Only from the Entente Powers can Greece get solid financial aid, the *Economist* wrote in a recent article. But, for her foreign creditors, it is more to the purpose to consider the effect of her action on the service of her external loans. These have mostly fallen since the war began, by some 9 to 12 per cent. We may arrange them in three groups: (1) The 2½ per cent. loan of £6,000,000, guaranteed in 1898 by Great Britain, France, and Russia, after the defeat of Greece by the Turks. (2) The six loans issued from 1881 to 1893, partly in default from the latter year onwards, and of which the interest was scaled down—on one to 45 per cent., on the rest to 32 per cent. of the original amount. This is the minimum return: practically, they receive also a share in the "plus values" or excess of the receipts over a fixed sum, which are distributed to them under somewhat intricate rules. Their service was secured under the arrangement of 1898 by certain revenues assigned for the purpose, and administered by the International Financial Commission. These revenues come from the monopolies of salt, tobacco, petroleum, matches, playing cards, cigarette paper and Naxos emery, the stamp and tobacco duties, and the Piræus Customs, supplemented, if need be, by those of Laurium, Patras, Volo, and Corfu. (3) Five other loans, issued from 1902 to 1914, secured partly on the surpluses of the assigned revenue, the 1914 loan mainly on Customs receipts. This was the position at the end of 1915:—

	Capital Outstanding. £	Annual Interest. £
Guaranteed Loan, 1898	4,774,800	119,370
Loans 1881-93	18,919,220	259,448
Loans 1902-14	22,595,080	1,084,753
Total	£46,289,100	£1,463,571
	"Minimum."	

In 1914 the total receipts from the assigned revenues were over 54,000,000 drachmae, or about £2,160,000. On a rupture of diplomatic relations they would cease to be collected, and we may assume that the archives of the Commission would be confided for custody to some neutral Legation—probably that of the United States—and that the distribution of any funds available would take place from Paris or London. But war would temporarily annihilate the returns from the petroleum monopoly (£220,000 in 1914), and from the Piræus Customs (£1,150,000); while those from Naxos emery (£33,160) might be borrowed by the Venizelist Government. The service of the guaranteed loan would, of course, be carried on by the Powers; the arrears of interest on it, and on the second group, would necessarily be a charge on Greece after the conclusion of peace. What would become of the revenues appropriated to those of the third group, including the receipts of the railways, we shall not conjecture; but a Greece that had renounced its traditions and turned against its benefactors could not expect the generous assistance that it received from them in 1898.

Cotton and Textile Notes.

The Lancashire Trade—Professor Todd and the Egyptian Staple—Manchester Conference.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The general tone of the market has continued distinctly quieter. The approaching holidays have had some effect upon operators, there being no desire to enter into important negotiations at this time of the year. The increased bearish sentiment, however, in raw cotton circles has been largely responsible for the lack of animation in yarn and cloth. The fall in Liverpool and New York from the top is important, and there is not likely to be much improvement in our market until rates are steadier.

There continues much uncertainty as to the future course of values in Egyptian cotton. It cannot be said there is any particular change in the outlook for supplies. The inquiry in cloth for Egypt has been of much smaller dimensions than a few weeks ago. Shippers all along the line are showing less initiative. More attention is now being paid to deliveries as dealers abroad are in urgent need of supplies of certain goods. Occasional lines have been put through in sized cloths without the turnover being at all important.

For India fewer wires have come through than for some time past, and it is quite evident buyers both here and abroad are now disposed to adopt a waiting policy pending more settled conditions. Operations have been restricted for China, and there are no indications of any real revival of demand in the near future.

Manufacturers of cloth have had to be prepared to meet buyers in price to secure fresh business, but values are not falling to the same extent as the raw material. American yarns for home use have been purchased sparingly at irregular rates. The change of attitude on the part of buyers in this section compared with a few weeks ago is pronounced.

Only miscellaneous sales have been put through in shipping bundles for India, and in cops for Holland. On the whole, Bolton spinnings have been neglected, but late rates are well held.

PROFESSOR TODD'S LECTURE.

In a paper read before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on December 15, Professor J. A. Todd discussed the world's cotton supply and India's share in it. After referring to the adverse conditions in America in 1914 and 1915, Professor Todd said:—"Unfortunately the course of events in America was paralleled by the conditions in Egypt and in India, and probably throughout the other cotton-growing areas of the world, with perhaps the exception of Russia. The Egyptian Government early in the autumn of 1914 adopted a policy of severe legislative restriction of the 1915 area, which, in the light of subsequent events, can only be described as panic-stricken. As a matter of fact the restriction became a dead-letter, and had to be officially withdrawn early in the spring of 1915, but it at least helped to bring about the very serious reduction in the acreage in Egypt, which amounted to fully 30 per cent., the acreage being reduced from 1,755,270 feddans to 1,186,004.

"In 1916 the prospects of the Egyptian crop were early in the season described unofficially in a way which could only be characterised as unduly optimistic. The record acreage of 2,000,000 feddans and a bumper crop of 8,000,000 cantars were forecasted; but, unfortunately, these rosy estimates were speedily falsified. The official report of the acreage proved to be only 1,655,512 feddans, being 6 per cent. less than that of 1914."

Professor Todd pointed out, as a defect in the British position as regards supply, that we are almost entirely dependent on foreign sources for our supply of the "bread and butter" grades, which still form the great

bulk, though not perhaps the greatest value, of our consumption. Can we remedy this defect? he asked.

"Passing over those of our Colonial possessions whose quality places them in the three higher grades of cotton supply, we come at once to Africa and India as the only parts of the Empire which might supply this deficiency," Professor Todd continued. "The Egyptian crop is far too good in itself, and far too valuable to our fine-spinning industry, to allow of its being replaced by anything approaching American cotton. The same applies to the Sudan, which is mostly capable of growing good cotton of Egyptian type, and it would be down-right waste to put it into anything else. There are, however, certain areas in the Southern Sudan which would probably be very suitable for growing cotton of the long-stapled American type; but it is quite certain that the development of these areas will have to wait upon the completion of schemes intended to benefit the other areas, and that alone will take a good many more years than we can afford to contemplate in our present survey. It will be ten or fifteen years at least before the possibilities of the Northern Sudan, including Tokar and the Gezira scheme near Khartoum, will be anything like fully developed, and any possibility of developing the other regions in the grain-growing districts of the Southern Sudan must be postponed to that."

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE.

We take the following from the report of the proceedings of the special Conference of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association with reports of the Lancashire cotton trade held on December 13, 1916, to discuss the cotton situation:—

The Sudan is producing good Egyptian cotton, the values ranging from about fully good fair Egyptian to 6d. "on," also high-class American cotton worth from 4d. to 6d. "on." Middling American; the present production of cotton in the Sudan is 20,000 to 30,000 bales per annum. The irrigation of the Gezira plain is a most important proposition, and has been under the consideration of the Sudan Government for a long time.

Some time before war broke out, the British Government agreed to guarantee a loan of three million pounds for the construction of the necessary irrigation works. The dam which is to be constructed in order to lift the water to save the expense of pumping, is sufficient for the irrigation of three million acres, and the preliminary canal which is nearly 100 miles in length, is sufficient to irrigate 300,000 acres, of which 100,000 acres would be cultivated with cotton, or sufficient to produce 100,000 bales annually. The work has been commenced, the Imperial Government having loaned to the Sudan Government, the sum of £500,000, and there has been no delay so far.

If the work is pushed on immediately, it can be completed in about three years' time, when we may expect an annual production of 30,000 bales. In five years the production is estimated at 100,000 bales, and there should be a continuous increase in future years, the amount of which would depend upon the population and other circumstances. There is no doubt that if the work is pushed forward, we shall obtain, sooner or later, an annual production of at least one million bales. The total amount of land available for cotton growing on the Gezira plain, as about four million acres, which is nearly as much as the whole of the Egyptian Delta. This is very important in view of the fact that the limit of acreage which can be put under cotton in Egypt has already been reached. The Gezira scheme is the only proposition, as far as the Association are aware, which offers any prospect of the production of an appreciable quantity of high-class cotton in the immediate future, and it is most important that not one moment should be lost in pushing on with the work.

CYPRUS NOTES.

Deficient Rainfall—Uneasiness Amongst Agriculturists.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, November 25.

Uneasiness continues to be felt throughout Cyprus, on account of the want of rain. Only in the west of the island a small and quite insufficient quantity has fallen. There is, however, still time; and in several recent years the needful downpour has been delayed until farmers have been almost driven to despair. The system of sowing before rain, called in Cyprus *xepvoia* (dry sowing), tends to be less practised than formerly. Government has begun to issue seed corn from its tithe stores to needy farmers, but the usual complaints are made that the quantities allowed are far too small.

On November 17 the members of the Legislative Council for the Nicosia-Kyrenia and Larnaca-Famagusta electoral divisions had an audience of the High Commissioner, and submitted urgent requests that more ample loans should be made, and that the wheat stored at one of the depôts should be reserved exclusively for the poor of the Carpass region of the Famagusta district. Also that prices should be controlled.

Agricultural Show.

An agricultural show was held at Kyrenia on November 24. The High Commissioner went over from Nicosia, and the Director of Agriculture attended. These district shows unquestionably do a certain amount of good and stimulate villagers to efforts in some directions. They do not, however, yet indicate any very general movement on a large scale.

To take an example of lethargy, village cultivators cannot yet be induced, after many years of exhortation, to take any steps in the selection of seed corn, which would undoubtedly increase the productiveness and quality of the cereal harvests. Progress is piecemeal and unsystematic. Here and there signs of more intelligent effort crop up, and leading villagers write excellent letters to the papers and encourage the circulation of the Government Agricultural Journal; but in general all the antiquated methods from seed time to harvest still prevail, and the movements towards co-operation, so foreign to the Greek mind, are feeble. The same must be said of the vine and wine-making industry.

CYPRUS TRADE RETURNS.

Imports and exports for the quarter ended September 30 last are published. The value of imports was £245,579 (£242,597 in goods and £2,974 in specie), as against £157,440 (£146,221 and £11,219) for the corresponding quarter in 1915. Exports were £230,719 (£225,917 goods, and £4,802 in specie), as against £204,883 (£202,868 and £2,015) for the corresponding period. The increase is principally due to enhanced values, and not to increase of imports and exports.

An Alexandria message of December 18 states: "The arrivals of cotton seed last week totalled 7,670 tons, and shipments amounted to 5,100 tons, leaving stocks in hand of 141,180 tons, as compared with 93,920 tons held a year ago.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, December 21.

Currants.

There has been a good demand for all qualities this past week, with business done at the late higher rates. The apparent depleted stocks in Liverpool induced buyers from the Midlands to come to the London market for their wants, and large quantities were purchased for those districts. Since the establishment of the blockade in Greece no shipments have been made, and none is likely to be allowed under the existing conditions; the prices, therefore, may have a further advance. The average quotations at present are, for Provincial, 68s. to 72s. per cwt., against 37s. to 40s. last year; Amalia, 76s. to 78s., against 41s. to 43s. last year; Patras, 76s. to 83s., against 42s. to 46s.; Gulf 77s. to 84s., against 44s. to 47s.; Vostizza, 79s. to 87s., against 42s. to 55s.; Lante, 75s. to 82s., against 40s. to 44s.; and Smalls, 72s. to 82s., against 38s. to 46s. of last last.

Sultanas.

With somewhat lower quotations a fair amount of business was done in new Greeks and other kinds. New Afghanistan fruit is

now arriving slowly, but the demand at present is very limited.

Figs and Dates.

Both articles are steady, but the demand is very moderate. Egyptian dates are quoted 32s. to 35s., and Persians 33s. to 39s.

Seeds.

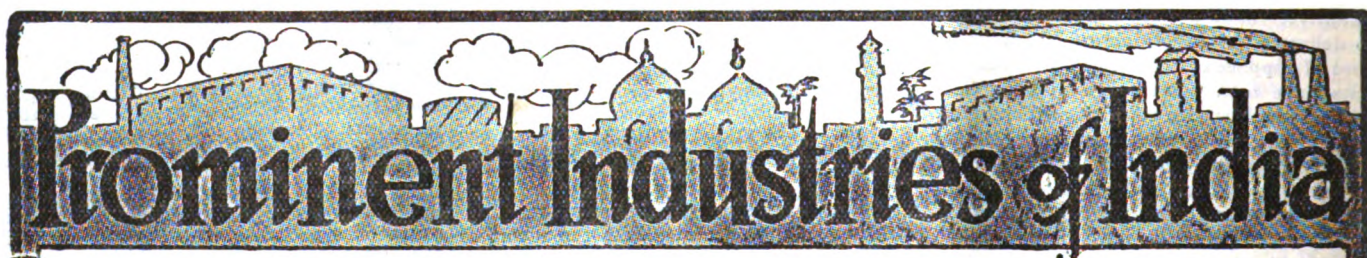
Linseed has been steadier, and closes for London-Calcutta, spot and afloat, at 107s, December-January, 107s. 6d.; Bombay, ordinary, December-January, 108s. Rapeseed is firm, but quiet, to Hull from Cawnpore, prompt, 88s. 6d.; Ferozepore, December-January, 90s.; and Toria, January-February, 92s. Cotton seed is firm. London-Egyptian, f.a.q., loading, is quoted at £20 5s., and Sakelarides, loading, £19 15s. per ton. Rangoon beans are steady, spot, selling at £40 15s., and December-January at £41; January-February, £42; new crop, March-April, being quoted at £36.

Oils.

Linseed oil is steady. Spot pipes offered at £51 10s.; barrels, ditto, £52 10s., landed terms. Rape oil is firm. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £54; English refined, barrels, £56 to £58. Cotton oil is firm. Crude spot pipes sold at £52 10s., and barrels, sweet, £59 to £60, as to make. Olive oil is scarce and dearer.

WINE FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS.

In their annual report on the world's grape harvest Messrs. W. and A. Gilbey state that although there has always been an intelligent interest taken in this country in the annual grape gathering of the world, it would not have been at all surprising if it had diminished in this, the third vintage of the war, when the consumption of wine with us—always very limited as compared with other nations—has still further declined, and now stands at the lowest level since the reduction of duties in 1860. On the military importance of wine, it is remarked that France has already requisitioned for her military needs the astonishing total of some 200,000,000 gallons of this year's wine (representing one-fifth of her own entire annual production), as well as more than 40,000,000 gallons from her Algerian colony, and storage has already been arranged for this enormous volume of wine, representing in value no less than £20,000,000, by the taking over of special warehouse accommodation in every department of France. So essential is the regular supply of pure wine considered for the well-being of the troops that similar exceptional precautions are being taken to safeguard the 1916 crop in Italy not only for her soldiers serving at the front but also for their sick and wounded comrades in the hospitals.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT**COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.****THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.****The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.**The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

TREBIZOND'S NEW OIL INDUSTRY.

Extractions from the Filbert Nut.

Although Trebizond has always been considered more important agriculturally than industrially, the stern law of necessity has given rise to a new enterprise which, if carefully developed, may be a factor in the future commercial activity of this region and the beginning of an industrial life there, the local Consul of the United States wrote in a recent report.

Soon after the outbreak of the European war kerosene and olive oil advanced in price so rapidly that they proved beyond the reach of a great part of the population. Some of the natives, in looking for a substitute, tried crushing filberts, which the cutting off of export facilities had left on their hands in large quantities. This experiment, confined at first to individual homes, proved successful, and before long several of the leading inhabitants went into the business on a larger scale, taking it from the houses to small factories. The oil was used for cooking and lighting purposes, and also in the making of soap.

Cottage Factories.

Although the largest of the factories has unfortunately been destroyed by fire, there are three working at present, and the industry is also still quietly carried on in 20 or 25 private homes. A personal visit to one of the factories was of much interest. The nuts are first shelled and then usually fried or roasted, after which they are put in a heavy press. The oil is poured into a large vat, boiled slightly, and then forced through a heavy cloth, which acts as a strainer. This completes the process.

In the "home" industry the nuts are not roasted, but after being shelled are dipped in hot water and then pressed. The result is that the oil has much less taste of the nuts, and is consequently a superior quality, but as the oil is not boiled at all it cannot be kept for long periods, especially in the summer. By roasting the nuts before pressing larger quantities of oil can be obtained. The present proportion is 1 lb. of oil for 6 lbs. of nuts. The residual product is sometimes used as food for animals, but is more often sold to the peasants, who prepare it in various ways.

Prices and Output.

Filbert oil of average quality originally sold for about 7½d. a pound, but now the price is much higher. The total stock of filberts on hand in Trebizond proper is estimated at 6,820,000 lbs. Dealers will sell only in small quantities, as prices are advancing.

The industry is, of course, in an elementary stage, the total weekly capacity being only from 7,200 to 7,500 lbs. In each "shop" there are not more than 15 workmen. Except for the shellers, the machinery is quite primitive, most of it having been made by hand here in Trebizond. More up-to-date machinery might be profitably installed after the war if it is seen that the olive-oil competition can be met.

The interesting and significant fact, however, is that the initial efforts have been successful. The people are learning that industrial initiative can have profitable results.

EGYPTIAN PORTS ADMINISTRATION.

The Ports and Lights Administration at Alexandria have just issued a notice to local shipping companies and agencies announcing that henceforth the validity of permits of departure issued to ships leaving with cargo is extended to 48 hours, as practised before the issue of Circular No. 6 dated September 30, 1916. As regards ships leaving in ballast, the Customs Administration having decided to extend the validity of their "tankins" to 48 hours, the permits of departure issued to such ships will be valid only for the remaining period of the 48 hours on presentation of "tankins" to the Ports and Lights Administration. Therefore the permits will not be valid if not made use of during the period of 48 hours for loaded ships and during the period mentioned in the permit for ships leaving in ballast, unless the Ports and Lights Administration allow an extension of another period.

THE TRADE OF ADEN.

Great Increase in 1915-16 of £5,626,658.

Some interesting figures are forthcoming of the trade of Aden in 1915-1916. As will be seen from the statistics given below, the lonely outpost in the Indian Ocean has come into close commercial touch with Egypt and the Sudan owing to the war.

Aden increased its private sea-borne foreign trade in 1915-1916 to £5,626,658. In 1914-1915 the total was £5,162,470; in 1912-1913 it was £6,739,133. The private Indian trade was £1,575,256 against £1,519,155 in 1914-1915, and £1,792,817 in 1912-1913. Indian trade increased in merchandise by £123,813, but decreased in treasure by £67,712. Until 1914, Aden's imports of yarns and textile fabrics from the British Empire increased steadily. In 1911-1912 they stood at £468,223, and in the following year touched £500,093, falling to £352,320 in 1913-1914, but rising again in 1914-1915 to £397,500, and last year recovering to £493,112. Contrast similar imports from foreign countries:—1911-1912, £423,764; 1912-1913, £601,517; 1913-1914, £466,057; 1914-1915, £270,669; 1915-1916, £497,168. The exports of yarn and textile fabrics from Aden in the same successive years have been £745,403; £861,814; £661,831; £554,637; £916,769. Last year witnessed, therefore, a great recovery.

From Calcutta Aden takes coal, tea, and jute. The coal totalled 12,958 tons against 82,671 consigned from the United Kingdom. Tea increased very largely in imports from Calcutta and in exports to Suakin and Port Sudan. Prior to the war direct shipments were made from Calcutta to these ports. The tea credited to Bombay is 64,804 lbs., and to Calcutta 436,410 lbs. The previous best from Calcutta was 210,989 lbs. in 1912-1913. Ceylon sent 55,597 lbs. against 26,910 lbs. in 1911-1912. Tea imports increased in quantity by 343,121 lbs. and in value by £15,922. This large increase was due to the shipments made to Suakin and Port Sudan. There were also larger demands from Somaliland, Massowah, and Italian East Africa. Jute manufactures increased in value from £19,024 to £38,834, chiefly in jute bags from Calcutta. Aden, needless to say, is chiefly a re-exporting and distributing port, and jute manufactures exported increased from £12,347 to £37,617, due to the very large increase of gunny bags to Suakin and Port Sudan; shipments to Egypt and Djibouti also increased.

EGYPT IN 1916.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, reviews the situation in Egypt during the past year, and after analyzing the political position, says:—

"Economically the situation of Egypt is even more satisfactory than it was a year ago. Trade is flourishing, and the people are in a very prosperous state, thanks to the high prices of cotton and the excellent sales of the large excess of cereals and other commodities. So well off is the country that there is a prospect of another bumper surplus at the close of the current financial year.

"From the commercial point of view also the position is healthier. Slowly but surely the German firms have been, or are being, wound up and swept out of the way. Only those who have obtained an insight into the true state of affairs in the course of the general clearing up during the past two years have any idea how wide the German octopus had spread his tentacles and how fast *Kultur* was laying its hand on Egyptian trade of every description. The danger has, it is believed, been averted before it was too late. The German trade-pirate and political intriguer has been unmasked, and has now been eliminated from the scene, never, it is hoped, to return."

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blend for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA FROS.

22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Government of Egypt has prohibited the export of rice and beans.

Germany expects to be able to seize 1,000,000 tons of barley in Roumania.

Austria, to Germany's anger, demands the whole of the available supplies of Roumanian cereals for her own use.

The Chamber of Commerce of Wurttemberg has declared its readiness to accept the proposal of the Turkish Government that the latter shall send some 10,000 Turks between the ages of 12 and 15 years to Germany as apprentice artisans.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company of London have again issued their customary Pocket Diary. This year it contains four photogravures from paintings by Charles Dixon, R.I., of the company's vessels in the service of the Government from the Crimean War of 1854 to the present conflict.

The *Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazeta* (Petrograd) writes:—"The meteorological conditions during the past summer were not altogether favourable for the oilseed crops. Drought in the south and south-west, and excess of rain in the northern and eastern Governments, and in the central agricultural regions exercised an unfavourable influence during the first half of the summer. A more favourable change set in later, visibly improving the prospects, but at harvesting time heavy rainfall again occurred and affected the quality and quantity of the crops. As a result the oilseed crops in European Russia vary considerably, though in general they may be classed as average.

The Algerian wool trade is rather perturbed as to the steps which the authorities may take with respect to the next wool season. It is well known that an important Government functionary has gone to Paris in order to arrange matters with the Intendancy, but it has not been ascertained where he has collected his information, especially as regards Algerian interests and their defence. Rain has now set in very extensively; but if the weather is not too cold it will be possible to turn the flocks and herds out to pasture. So far the sheep are in good condition, both as regards pelts and fleeces. For the moment there is nothing but waste in the wool market, and mostly it remains unsold owing to the high prices asked.—*Textile Mercury*.

An Order of the Resident General of the French Zone in Morocco, dated November 2, withdraws the general prohibition imposed in June last on the exportation or re-exportation of sheepskins from the French Zone in Morocco; and provides that, as from November 10, such skins may be exported from ports of the French Zone to French, Allied, or neutral ports, provided that a personal bond is entered into with, and accepted by, the Customs authorities, and that certificates notifying the arrival of the goods in the port of destination are produced within a period of sixty days from the date of despatch of the goods. The present Order provides, however, that stocks of sheepskins which were in merchants' hands on October 15, 1916, must be declared and offered to the "Service de l'Intendance" before their exportation can be allowed.

It is stated in Parliamentary Papers that the Government has purchased and still purchases its supplies of nitrate of soda chiefly but not wholly through one firm. This firm has for some time past practically discontinued its ordinary European trade in nitrate, confining its operations to purchases on behalf of the British and Allied Governments. It is understood that producers do not pay brokerage on sales made in Chile. It is considered that his Majesty's Government is quite justified in paying a reasonable commission to the firms who act for it. The rate of commission is in the nature of a sliding scale with a maximum of 1½ per cent. on the purchase price (in Chile), which commission covers purchasing, financing, shipping, supervising, receiving, and storing, and in general acting as the Government's buying agents, storekeepers, and distributing agents.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Trade-War Preparations and How to Make Them.

(FROM A GREEK CORRESPONDENT.)

The latest reliable information in connection with the practical trade-war preparations abroad ought to stimulate and hasten the individual as well as the collective efforts of British manufacturers for the organization of the much-talked-of trade-campaign before it is too late. It should also serve as a warning that it is not only a strong German but also an American competition that must be faced; and the struggle will, apparently, be harder in the engineering lines. It is well known that American engineers view the future in a highly optimistic manner; they see that the history of the past conflicts points absolutely to a period of reconstruction following the present epoch of catastrophe, the extent and duration of the rebuilding being always proportionate to the losses brought about in the destruction. Shattered railways, destroyed bridges, damaged canals, twisted steelwork, ruined roads, etc., all will have to be renewed or replaced; and here the Americans see the great opportunities that the near future brings to them. They are prepared for what is to come, and believe that their trade will develop along the lines of greater export of finished products and the importation of raw materials rather than of manufactured goods.

A recent official United States bulletin calls attention to the opportunities for expansion in the trades necessary for supplying the raw materials for the engineering structures that it is hoped to send to Europe. In the Southern States great deposits of coal and iron-ore have recently been found to be very promising for the production of pig-iron, while in the West vast hydro-electric schemes are maturing for supplying the cheap power which will enable certain engineering and metallurgical industries to make big advances. Financially, the Americans hold that everything is ready for them to seize their opportunity in Europe and in other foreign markets. With such a well-prepared competition the British engineer manufacturer will have to cope.

German Organisation.

And whilst Americans are so well prepared for the trade-struggle, our slow British manufacturers are "planning" and the Germans are hard at work finally organising their campaign with the object of securing industrial supremacy, even should military supremacy be unattainable; and no stone is being left unturned to secure this supremacy. The engineering industry of Germany is typical of that country's many organised trades. According to reliable authorities, six of Germany's leading engineering institutions have combined to form an engineering and economic league, with the huge membership of 60,000, and representing the best engineering brains in the country. In this country, it is stated, there are at least 100 engineering societies, associations, and organisations, and their total membership falls far short of the 60,000 provided by the six German societies. Of this movement in Germany, we hear details which prove that everything is well and minutely organised for "prompt action." Thus, German shipping companies are already making contracts for despatching cargo by their first sailings after the end of the war; and it is asserted that there is in Germany an enormous quantity of merchandise ready to load when that time comes.

Empire Combines.

According to recent reports, an export association of the German wagon builders' industry has been formed in Düsseldorf, under direction of the Government; whilst the Westphalian Iron and Wire Works have succeeded in forming a "price convention" amongst a considerable number of the German wire works; and penalties will be strictly

enforced if members do not respect the conditions regarding minimum prices. Efforts are also being made for forming a general cement combine. It is evident, therefore, that the Germans, like the Americans, have a keen eye to the period of reconstruction which will follow the war.

Reinforced Concrete.

Reinforced concrete has been a boon to the architects and engineers, for it enables them to make their "stones" into any required shape or size, and to carry out designs in building construction which would be difficult or impossible with the ordinary building material or with concrete alone. Reinforced concrete is now employed for a great number of purposes, and in the majority of cases it has thoroughly justified its use; although in some few others, such as pillars supporting bridges and similar exposed structures, according to recent reports, it has been observed that the inserted iron or steel in reinforced concrete is often attacked chemically or electro-chemically, and when that happens corrosion of the metal takes place, the result of which is apt to be disastrous. However, such corrosion, apparently, happened in cases when the reinforced concrete was exposed to a damp salt air; but for ordinary building construction, to which these notes refer, the composition has been found quite satisfactory.

The Fire Point of View.

Its merits from the fire point of view, it may be said, have not hitherto been thoroughly understood, and on this point some very valuable information is now available, thanks to the British Fire Prevention Committee, and its recently-issued report on the great fire at the Edison Phonograph Works in New Jersey in the winter before last. The document gives a very interesting technical description of that fire, but the importance of the report, as far as architects, engineers, and building owners are concerned, lies in the fact that the Edison buildings were of reinforced concrete, and that this is the first time that a fire of great severity and wide area in a building constructed of reinforced concrete has been under careful technical observation with regard to its structural effects.

Successful Test.

The fire was not only a very serious one, but it was also very intense, and whilst all other parts of the premises and their contents became heaps of ruins, the concrete portions of the buildings remained with the exception of a comparatively small section, which was so little damaged that it could be restored in a short time. The report describes the course of the fire, gives a detailed description of the damage done, the effect of the fire on the material, the temperatures developed, the conclusions arrived at, and some notes on the reconstruction. Amongst the lessons learned is the necessity that even in this class of construction the buildings should be divided up in fire-tight compartments, and the exposure risk provided against by suitable sashes and fire-resisting glazing; it is pointed out, moreover, that, if such safeguards had been provided the outbreak would have been confined within reasonable limits. The information generally contained in the report is of particular value at present, having regard to plans under consideration for post-war building construction, in which the merits of ferro-concrete from the fire and air-raid point of view claim special attention.

British Industries Fair.

Arrangements for the holding of the British Industries Fair next year are now complete, and forms of application for space are being issued by the Board of Trade. The fair will be held from February 26 to March 9. The growth of the fair has necessitated an increase of space, with the result that the fair will be held partly, as last year, in the Victoria and Albert Museum and partly in the great hall and certain galleries in the Imperial Institute Building. The fair will be confined to the same trades as were sanctioned by the Minister of Munitions last year—toys and games, earthenware and china, glass, fancy goods, stationery and printing. An important development, however, has taken place since last year in that the Municipality of the city of Glasgow are organising a fair at Glasgow, which will take place concurrently with the Board of Trade Fair in London, and will include certain trades not comprised in the London Fair. The Glasgow Fair, which is being held with the support of the Board of Trade, will include textiles, ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, foodstuffs (prepared and preserved), and domestic chemicals. Over 20,000 invitations to each fair will be sent to overseas buyers by the Board of Trade, those to firms in non-European countries having been already despatched, and another 80,000 invitations to the fair in London will be issued to the buyers in this country before February 24.

EGYPTIAN CLOTHING CONTRACTS.

Recently, owing to lack of work, Messrs. Compton and Sons, the well-known English firm, who have set up a large manufactory for clothing in the Shubra quarter of Cairo, had, through want of employment, to dismiss 300 out of the 600 hands that they have in their service. This firm, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, has been most successful during the short time that it has existed in Egypt in taking over all the contracts that were formerly given out by the Government to the Austrian clothing manufacturers for the supply of uniforms and other kinds of clothing for officials.

A deputation of eighteen workmen a few weeks ago were received by Lord Edward Cecil, the Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, and explained their grievances to him. They declared that there were 600 men in the service of Messrs. Compton and Sons, and that these individuals had at the lowest estimate from six to seven persons dependent upon each of them. There were thus 4,000 inhabitants of Cairo drawing their livelihood directly or indirectly from the factory, and they begged the Financial Adviser, therefore, to do his utmost in order that the Government should give out all work for which the factory was built to a local firm instead of asking for tenders from abroad.

Lord Edward Cecil received the deputation in a most friendly manner and promised the members that he would do all in his power to promote their well-being.

The question at issue is of extreme local interest, adds our contemporary, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the case of these unemployed factory hands, many of whom are highly skilful workmen, will receive earnest consideration, and that the Government will do its utmost to see that all Government contracts, as far as possible, are given out to local employers of labour. It is true that a good many Government contracts fall into local hands, but the majority, especially the Egyptian Army contracts, still go to England. Now, there is not the slightest reason why this should be the case. In the present instance, the factory was started by English capital and the entire enterprise solely due to English initiative, which is thus able to take over all the huge business that formerly fell into the hands of the Austrian clothing manufacturers.

A British Chamber of Commerce having for its objects the protection of British trade interests in the Persian Gulf, the study of measures necessary for counteracting undue foreign competition, the settlement of disputes by arbitration, etc., has been formed at Busreh. Communications for the Chamber should be addressed to the chairman, Busreh British Chamber of Commerce, care of the Eastern Bank, Busreh.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniform Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 4,000 H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHAMA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 3054.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

RESTRICTED TRADE.

Roumania's List of Prohibited Exports

The following is a list—compiled at the Board of Trade from information received up to November 27, 1916—of articles of which the exportation from Roumania has been prohibited.

Exceptions to prohibitions of export can be obtained in special cases, each case being decided on its merits.

The transport of military stores through Roumania is prohibited; and the transit through Roumania of goods of which the exportation is prohibited is permitted only under special authorisation of the Ministry of Finance, each case being decided on its merits. The transit of articles which are the subject of State monopolies is also prohibited, but no restriction is imposed on the transit of postal parcels:—

Accessories for motor-cars, cycles, motor-cycles, and motor-lorries (tyres and the like); accessories for aeroplanes (see under Aeroplanes). Acids—sulphuric acid, and all other acids. Aeroplanes and accessories, including propellers and motors, etc., and all materials used for waterproofing wings. Ammonia, liquid, and salts of ammonia. Animals: draught animals of all kinds (horses, oxen, etc.); cattle; pigs. Antimony. Ashwood.

Bandaging materials of all descriptions, such as cotton wool, gauze, etc. Barbed wire (see under Iron). Barrels (oak). Bicycles and motor-cycles; accessories therefor (see Accessories). Boots, shoes, etc. (footwear). Bristles (pigs'), horsehair, and cattle hair.

Cables. Candles, and materials for making them. Carts, carriages, automobiles, and all other vehicles. Cattle: cattle hair. Cellulose. Cement, Portland. (NOTE.—The prohibition of the export of Portland cement applies to Customs houses on the Danube and to maritime Customs houses.) Cloths (*toiles*, *draps*) and hosiery of all kinds; articles of clothing, and small wares. Coal. Coins: gold, silver, nickel, copper, or billon. Colouring earths, and all colours, simple or prepared. Copper and wares thereof (see Metals); copper and billon coins. Copper sulphate. Cordage: string, cord, and cables of any kind. Cotton, raw, cotton yarns; cotton cloth (see Cloth); cotton rags (see Rags). Cycles (including motor-cycles); accessories therefor (see Accessories). Elm wood. "Emaillite."

Flax (see Linen). Foodstuffs (alimentary produce) of all kinds (except foodstuffs, etc., authorised for export by the Commission for Imports and Exports). Footwear. Forage (see under Hay). Furskins of all kinds.

Glucose. Glycerine. Gold coins of all descriptions (however packed). Graphite. Guts, dried and heat-dried (*ceandrea*).

Hair (horse and cattle), and bristles (pigs'). Hay and all other forage. Hemp, raw or manufactured. Hides and skins of all kinds, tanned or otherwise; leather articles; boots and shoes. Horses, oxen, and all other draught animals; horse and cattle hair and pigs' bristles.

Ink of all kinds. Instruments, surgical. Iron and wares thereof (see Metals); iron-ware, galvanised, barbed, or plain.

Lead and wares thereof (see Metals). Leather goods of all descriptions; footwear. Linen (flax) and hemp in all forms, raw or manufactured. Linseed and rapeseed oils (see under Foodstuffs).

Mats, rush. Medicines (see Pharmaceutical products). Mercury. Metals: ores of metals, whether containing sulphur or not; metals in a raw state, or rolled; scrap iron and worn-out metal in any form; sheet metal of all kinds (receptacles: cans, tins for preserves and fats, for industrial use, full or empty); and all metal wares. Motor-cars, motor-lorries, and all other vehicles; motor-cycles. Motor and cycle accessories (rubber tyres and the like). Motors and other accessories for aeroplanes (see Aeroplanes).

Oak barrels. Office requisites (ink of all kinds). Oil of sunflower, hempseed oil, and all other comestible vegetable oils (except such as are authorised for export by the Commission of Imports and Exports). Oil,

mineral (see Petroleum). Ores of metals, whether containing sulphur or not.

Paper, etc., of all descriptions (except those specified in Nos. 418, 422, 423, 424, 425, and 430a of the Roumanian Customs Tariff). (NOTE.—The articles exempted from the prohibition are as follows:—No. 418.—Mechanical pulp, of wood, straw, and other vegetable fibres. No. 422.—Concentrated lye from the manufacture of cellulose. No. 423.—Common paper, brown, for packing; common cardboard, brown, yellow, or white, neither artificially coloured, varnished, nor containing other materials than straw and mechanical wood pulp. No. 424.—Packing paper, printing paper, cardboard, neither glazed nor coloured, of cellulose or mechanical wood pulp, unbleached. No. 425.—Packing paper, printing paper, writing paper, and paper for placards, glazed on one or both sides, not coloured, containing unbleached cellulose and mechanical wood pulp. No. 430 (a).—Paper bags, tubes, and the like, made of the papers specified in No. 423.) Paraffin. Petroleum residues and benzine (petrol). Pharmaceutical products. Pickaxes and shovels. Pigs' bristles.

Radio-telegraphic and telegraphic apparatus, and telephone apparatus. Rags of all kinds of textiles. Rubber tyres for motor-cars, etc. (see Accessories).

Sacks, sacking, and material for making the same, including tarpaulins. Saline residue of potassium carbonate produced from the calcination of the saline resulting from the refining of molasses. Seeds of sunflower, hempseed, mustard seed. Shovels and pickaxes. Skins and hides of all kinds, tanned or otherwise; furskins. Soap. Soda; sodium sulphate. Stearine. Sulphate of copper. Sulphuric and all other acids. Surgical instruments.

Tanning materials. Tar. Tarpaulins. Telegraphic, radio-telegraphic, and telephone apparatus; cables. Tin and wares thereof (see Metals). Tinplates, and tins made therefrom (whether empty or full). Transport animals of all kinds (horses, oxen). Tyres (see Accessories).

Vehicles of all kinds.

Walnut wood. Waxes. Wire, galvanised, whether barbed or not. Wood: walnut wood, ashwood, elmwood; cherrywood, applewood, pearwood, and chestnut wood. Wool; woollen cloth (see Cloth); woollen rags (see Rags).

Zinc and wares thereof (see Metals).

Banned Firms.

The following additions have been made to the list of firms in foreign countries with whom trading by British subjects is prohibited:—

MOROCCO.

Maury, José; Ostermayer, Walther; Ziyani, El Mokhtar, all of Larache.

PERSIA.

Derisi, Mohammed Ali, Borasjan, Bushire; Kaikhosrow, Rustam, and Sons, Kerman; and Kazeruni, Mirza Ali, Borasjan, Bushire.

GREECE.

Baumann, Angelo (Bauman and Beckmann), Athens.

By an Order in Council, dated December 8, 1916, the following changes have been made in the statutory list of firms in foreign countries with whom trading is prohibited:—

Additions.

GREECE.

Anatoli Insurance Co., The, Athens; Coundourakis, Georges J., Candia, Crete; Margaritis, J. Piræus; and Yannakakis, Nicholas, Piræus.

PERSIA.

Meister, Lucius and Brunig.

Removals from List.

MOROCCO.

Amar, Mesod J.; Beniflah, Elias; Benros, Isaac; Bensabat, Jacob; Benshiton, Joseph; Benshiton, Moses; Cohen, Mesod; Levy, Solomon; Moryusef, Fortunate S. (Moryusef, F.S., Judah S., Sliman J.); Muiyal, Isaac and M.; Sabhag, Mokluf, and Company, all of Larache.

PERSIA.

Pascalidi Frères, Reshto.

MOROCCO.

Escalant, Antonio Lopez, Larache.

PERSIA.

Haji Gholm Ali, and Haji Mohamed Bagher; Behbehani and Sons, Bushire.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The directors report that the gross profits for the year ended September 20, 1916, after making provision for income tax and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £122,666 Os. 5d., to which has to be added £19,107 10s. 8d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £141,773 11s. 1d. After deducting expenses of management and general charges amounting to £68,496 4s. 3d., the sum remaining amounts to £73,277 6s. 10d. From this sum, £4,000, the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, has to be deducted, leaving £69,277 6s. 10d., which the Directors propose to deal with in the following manner:—

Six months' interim dividend, at the rate of 3s. per share, paid June 12, 1916 (free of income-tax)	£15,000	0	0
Transfer to reserve account	10,000	0	0
Final dividend, at the rate of 4s. per share, to be paid on January 3, 1917 (free of income-tax)	20,000	0	0
Carry forward to new account	24,277	6	10
	£69,277	6	10

The directors record with the deepest regret the death on December 21, 1915, of Sir Thomas Jackson, their late chairman, whose loss they greatly deplore. Sir Hugh S. Barnes has accepted the chairmanship of the bank. Mr. H. E. R. Hunter has been appointed to a seat on the board. The retiring directors are Mr. W. A. Buchanan and Mr. Frederick D. Sassoon, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Kemp, Sons, Sendell, and Co., chartered accountants, who offer themselves for re-appointment.

The dividend will be payable on and after January 3, 1917. Meeting, December 29, 1916.

BALANCE-SHEET.

To Capital—		LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
95,800	Ordinary Shares of					
26 10s. 0d.						
200	Founder's Shares of					
26 10s. 0d.						
.. Reserve account		650,000	0	0		
.. Notes in circulation		180,000	0	0		
.. Deposits:—In London £187,501 18 2		180,002	9	11		
In Persia						
(in silver) 560,336 8 0		727,838	6			
.. Bills payable, endorsements, and adjustments		888,752	13	10		
.. Profit and loss account		44,277	6	10		
		£2,650,870	15	9		

By cash in hand, at bankers, and in transit		ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
.. Money lent in London at call and short notices	522,829 18 6					
	178,000 0 0					
		700,829	18	6		
.. Investments in British and Colonial Government and other Securities taken at prices ruling on September 20, 1916		429,201	2	3		
.. Bills discounted, loans and advances, including adjustments and past due bills and loans		1,202,853	16	3		
.. Bills receivable		275,477	4	6		
.. Bank premises, furniture and stationery		42,508	14	3		
		£2,650,870	15	9		

Orient Steam Navigation.

The revenue account, after providing for depreciation, shows a credit balance of £238,215, out of which the dividend on preferred shares has to be paid. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, is recommended on the deferred shares, £25,000 is transferred to repair and renewal account, and £98,614 to general reserve account, balance forward £96,986.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Maikop pipe-line, 511 tons; Black Sea Amal, 388 tons; Maikop Combine, 281 tons. British Maikop, 38 tons; Bibi Eibat, 840 tons; North Caucasian (December 12), 9,558 tons; Ural Caspian (four weeks ended December 14), 9,787 tons.

A cable received from Apsheronskaya (Maikop Combine) states: "Well four 457 ft. rig and derrick destroyed by fire."

ON 'CHANGE.

(BY OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTEN STREET, Thursday evening.
It has been again a very inactive week, and things have been in a state of more or less suspense pending developments in the political situation here and in the Balkans.

Egypt has been doing practically nothing. Prices, however, on the whole, have kept firm, and the tendency for Egyptian securities remains a favourable one.

Agricultural Banks are a firm spot at last week's price of 5½, but National Banks, on some attempted selling on a falling market, have relaxed ½, to 13½. Land Banks are quoted 5½, ex. d., and Anglo-Egyptians are a trifle quieter at 11½. Egyptian Government stocks have been in request, Unified closing about ½ up at 78½. Egypt three and a-half per cent. preference are, however, somewhat quieter round 67. In land shares, about 3,000 Aboukirs were done round 17s. 6d., and a fair line of Behéras changed hands at 63. A small lot of Egyptian and Foreign Trusts fetched 5s. 6d., but the market in this security is very restricted, and at the moment there is only a small seller at 6s. 6d. In New Egyptian, some business has been done at 9s. 3d. Alexandria Water continue in demand, but there are no sellers. Both Egyptian Markets and Salt and Sodas are a trifle quieter at 25s. and 23s. 9d. respectively. In Khedivial Mails there has been a fair amount of business between 30s. and 32s., but the shares are weaker at the close at about 31s., in sympathy with the general setback in shipping shares and the uncertain position in connection with the Government's projected nationalisation of this industry.

In Greek stocks the market is at an absolute standstill in consequence of the blockade.

RUHN LOEB AND THE ROYAL DUTCH COMPANY.

The secretary of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company writes to *The Financial Times* as follows:—"With reference to the announcement which has recently appeared in the Press from Ruhn Loeb and Co., of New York, in connection with the purchase by them of a block of shares in the Royal Dutch Company, and the statement made therein that they and their affiliated concerns own or control extensive oilfields, pipelines, etc., in Persia (among other places), I am desired by my board to state that this announcement is inaccurate, inasmuch as neither the Royal Dutch Company nor any of their affiliated concerns own or control any oilfields, pipelines, etc., in Persia."

According to the *Kölnische Zeitung*, the Austrian Cabinet resigned because the Premier insisted on the duty free import of cattle from the Balkans, a step which was vetoed by Count Tisza in the interests of Hungarian cattle breeders.

EGYPTIAN LAND AND GENERAL TRUST, LTD., 66, Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C.

Notice is Hereby Given that the TENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Egyptian Land and General Trust, Ltd., will be held at the Office of the Company at 66, Broad Street Avenue, in the City of London, on Friday, the 29th day of December, 1916, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, to transact the ordinary business of the Company. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 22nd to the 29th December, 1916, both days inclusive.

Dated the 21st day of December, 1916.

By order of the Board,
G. RUTHERFORD, Secretary.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samah, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price.	Price Dec. 15.	Pre-ent Price.
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	72	72
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907 ..	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909 ..	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1908 ..	99	75	67½
City of Constantinople 5½ % Bonds ..	96	67½	67½
Egypt Gov. 3½ % Guar. Loan ..	93½	88½	69
Egyptian 4½ % Unified Debt ..	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5½ % 1890 ..	88	67½	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890 ..	82	53	61½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878 ..	80½	67	67
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1888 (24½ %)	80	67	67
Greek 5½ % 1881 ..	57	51½	54
Do. 5½ % 1884 ..	56	50½	53
Do. 4½ % Monopoly, 1887 ..	49	48	49
Do. 4½ % Rentes, 1889 ..	45	41	42
Do. 5½ % 1890 ..	56	49	48½
Do. 5½ % Fndg. Ln., 1893 ..	54	49	50
Do. 4½ % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	63	63
Do. 5½ % Nat. Ln., 1907 ..	94	90	90
Do. 5½ % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	74	74
Do. 5½ % Currant ..	82½	50½	89
Montenegro 5½ % Loan ..	91	75	75
Persian 5½ % Loan (1911) ..	82	67½	67½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 1890 ..	67	77½	75½
Serbian 4½ % Unified Bonds ..	103	76	76
Turkish Guar. 4½ % Loan, 1886 ..	84	65½	65½
Do. 4½ % 1891 ..	84	65½	65½
Do. 4½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 ..	82½	50	50
Do. 4½ % Loan, 1902 ..	79	36	36
Do. 4½ % Unified ..	65½	33	36
Do. 4½ % Loan, 1908 ..	69	36	36
Do. 4½ % 1909 ..	69	36	36

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	41	51	51
Do. 4½ % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	72	7	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red. ..	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red. ..	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank ..	12	11½	4½
Bank of Abyssinia ..	2	3	3½
Bank of Athens ..	82	82	82
Bank of Roumania ..	80½	80½	80½
Eastern Bank ..	72	68½	68½
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	13	68	68
Imperial Ottoman Bank ..	13	68	68
Ionian Bank, Limited ..	37	53	53
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	62	51½	51½
National Bank of Egypt ..	13½	14½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P. ..	8	51	51
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer ..	82	51	51
Do. do. 5½ % Debs., Red. ..	98	78	78½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I. ..	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II. ..	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	172	11½	9½
Do. do. 8½ % Cum. Pref. ..	22	124	124
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Deb. ..	87	53½	53½
Do. do. 5½ % 2nd Deb. ..	101	59½	56½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4½ % ..	80	54½	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ % ..	90	74	74
Do. do. 3½ % Bonds ..	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	16/-	17/6
Do. 5½ % 1st Deb. Bonds Red. ..	—	89½	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt ..	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Co. Do. Def. ..	8½	7	7
Bahera Co. ..	4½	3½	62/6
Do. Pref. ..	2½	2½	2½
Daira Sanieh ..	—	7/8	—
Do. Def. ..	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5½ % 1 Mt. Db. Rd. ..	91	91½	91½
Do. Delta Land and Inves. ..	98	85½	85½
Do. Gov. 4½ % Irr. Tst. ..	61	61½	61½
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	18	18	18
Gharbiyah Land Co. ..	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt ..	—	97	97
Do. 5½ % Debs. Red. ..	—	97	97
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5½ % Cum. Pref. ..	98	75	75
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd. ..	97	75	75
New Egyptian Co. ..	93½	93½	93
Sidi Salem Co. ..	10½	10½	10½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands ..	1½	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co. ..	122	12	113½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12/6	13/-	8½
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. ..	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels ..	12	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb. ..	—	25/3	11
Egyptian Markets Ord. ..	1½	24½	93
Do. do. 5½ % Debs. Red. ..	99½	97	97
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	96	97	97
Do. 5½ % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red. ..	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord. ..	31	31½	31½
Do. do. Pref. ..	30	34½	34½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	94½	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (Fr. 500) ..	£179½	157	157½
Upper Egypt Hotels ..	22	17	17

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	12/6	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Persian ..	20/-	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields ..	3/4	3/4	3/4
Roumanian ..	7/3	9/-	9/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Dec. 14.	Dec. 21.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	4110	420
Canal de Suez ..	660	661
Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	—	59.0
Turkish Unified 4½ % ..	—	88.50
Egyptian Unified 4½ % ..	—	—
Serbian, 1895 ..	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON NOVEMBER 22.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.	
National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½ to
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 105
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 12
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 54
Do. priv.	L.E. 34
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Fr. 126
Bons de Panama	Fr. 115
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Fr. 684
Do. Privilegiée	Fr. 95
Cheikh Fadl	Fr. 754
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 24½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte ..	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. —
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 448
Unifiée	L.E. 801
Privilegiée	693
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 54
Do. Fondateur	£ 23
Pressage et dépôts	£ 32
Nungovitch Hotels	£ 2½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 34
Do. Ord.	35/9
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 44
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 54
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 104
Do. Jouissances	Fr. 155
Egyptian Markets	26/9
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 240
Do. Div.	Fr. 155
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Fr. 200
Egyptian Salt and Soda	24/10½
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 590
Do. 1888 Oblig.	Fr. 326
Do. 1903 ..	Fr. 249½
Do. 1911 ..	Fr. 258
Delta Lands	—
Port Said Salt	37/6
Cotton Ginners	8½
New Egyptian Co.	8½
United Lands	P.T. 4
Levant S.S. Co.	35/-
Do. Fond	195/-

CREDIT FONCIER EGYPTIEN.

Notice is Hereby Given to the Shareholders in above Company that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Registered Office at Cairo on Monday, 22nd day of January, 1917, at 3 p.m.

BUSINESS.

1. To receive the Report of the Board of Directors on the General transactions.
2. To receive the Auditors' Report.
3. To approve the Accounts, and declare a dividend for the year ending 1916.
4. To elect Directors.
5. To elect two Auditors for the year ending 1917.

Holders of 50 shares are entitled to attend at the General Meeting, and pursuant to paragraph 28 of the by-laws shares must be deposited within the dates hereunder, at any of the following places:—

In Egypt: Not after 20th January, 1917.

In Europe: Not after the 11th January, 1917.

Deposits will be received at:—

Cairo: At the Registered Offices.

Alexandria: At the Crédit Lyonnais.

In Europe, at:—

The Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas.

Crédit Lyonnais.

Société Générale pour favoriser le développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

Société Générale de Crédit Ind. et Commercial.

THE KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP

AND GRAVING DOCK CO. LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1916, a final DIVIDEND of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent.—i.e., 20 per cent. in all—on the Ordinary Shares of the Company, less Income tax at 3s. 6d. in the £, declared in General Meeting on the 4th instant, will be PAID at the Bank of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, on the 30th inst. Holders of Ordinary Share Warrants to Bearer are therefore requested to present coupon No. 9 for payment by that date.

The Ordinary TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 26th to the 30th inst., inclusive, for the preparation of dividend warrants.

By order of the Board.

G. R. BRANCH, Secretary.

No. 37, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,

19th December, 1916.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK

IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,

KHARTOUM.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 295.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1916.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	193	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	200	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	211
Cairo	194	Germany's Eastern Aspira-	201	The Sudan and Its Economic	
Khartoum	197	tions		Advance	212
Cyprus	197	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	202	Sudan Produce	212
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	206	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	213
An Appeal to the Arabs ..	198	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	207	Produce Report	213
Terrorism in Syria	199	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Campaign against Locusts ..	214
LEADING ARTICLE—		The Consular and Diplomatic		Trade Notes	214
The Near East in 1916 ..	204	Services (Sir H. H. John-	200	Engineering Notes	215
		ston)		Company Reports	215
				On 'Change	216
				Stock and Share List ..	216

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Egypt's satisfactory record for the year has been well maintained until the closing days of December. It is a little more than four months since the Turkish attack on the Suez Canal ended in the complete discomfiture of the enemy. As a result of that defeat there was no need to fear for the safety of the Canal, but the anomaly of the greater part of the Sinai Peninsula being in Turkish hands remained. Military activities on both sides have been restricted to patrol encounters and to air raids, in which, as might be expected, British airmen displayed marked superiority. The success of the enemy, however, in bombing Cairo in broad daylight revealed the danger of allowing him to remain in undisturbed possession of the eastern portion of the Peninsula. Air raids could not be relied upon to eliminate Turco-German machines entirely from the air, and it was evident that, if Egypt was to have immunity in the future, more drastic measures were required to cope with the menace.

The enemy's main base within the Egyptian frontier was at El Arish, a town two miles from the coast and about ninety miles east of Kantara. It was from here that the last attack on the Canal started, and to this town the routed Turks returned. Since that date the British line of defence has been steadily advanced until it reached more than a third of the way across the Peninsula, but the Turks were still protected by a stretch of desert of between forty and fifty miles. On December 21 British troops entered El Arish without opposition. The rapidity with which they negotiated the intervening distance had forestalled the arrival of Turkish reinforcements, and the garrison had evacuated the town on the night of December 19-20. Two days later mounted troops came upon the Turks at Maghdaba, twenty miles south-east of El Arish. The position was carried, and, with 1,350 prisoners taken, practically the whole force was accounted for. In the meantime a mobile column operating to the south penetrated to a point midway between the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Akaba, destroying the camps previously evacuated by the Turks. British aircraft are also reported to have attacked Beersheba and El Auja, forty-five miles south-east of El Arish, and to have damaged an important railway bridge, fifteen miles north of the former town.

Unless the Turks show an unexpected capacity for recovery the immediate effect of this successful advance

will be to cause them to withdraw from the whole of the Sinai Peninsula. Egypt may thus look for greater freedom, if not complete immunity, from the visits of hostile airmen. The attack on El Arish, it is obvious, represents something more than a mere raid on the enemy's base. It has been preceded by the consolidation of Egypt's defences and elaborate preparations for making Eastern Egypt, if necessary, a starting-off point for an offensive. The character of the desert for a considerable distance has been transformed by railways, light lines, roads, and trenches. Consequently the permanent occupation of El Arish, particularly if it should be linked up with the Canal railway system, opens up wide possibilities. In the first place it brings the Hejaz Railway well within the scope of attack, and persistent attack, by aircraft. It will not be forgotten that in the Hejaz the Grand Shereef of Mecca for some six months or more has been carrying on a splendid struggle for independence. The issue is between Arabs and Turks, and the Grand Shereef is carving out his own fortunes. But in their campaign against the Turks the Allies have no reason to refuse fortuitous assistance. The cutting of the Hejaz Railway will weaken the resistance of the Turks at Medina, and may react on other theatres of the war.

In Mesopotamia the British offensive steadily gains ground, and Kut is now closely invested on the south. There is much to be said in favour of a methodical advance, which will not only secure the troops against all eventualities, but will also restrict the casualty list. If co-operation among the Allies extends to this theatre, it ought to be possible to make it difficult for the Turks to send any large reinforcements from Baghdad. News from Armenia and Persia has been meagre of late. At this season of the year, in spite of the great achievements of the Russians in mid-winter last January and February, we can hardly look for much activity over ground where the opposing forces have been too evenly matched for months past to allow of any considerable change in the situation. But in western Persia there is more freedom of movement. Just as the fall of Kut last April gave the Turks superiority in strength over the Russians on the frontier between Baghdad and Kermanshah, so due co-ordination of effort between the Allies would ensure that the pressure now being applied on the Turks in Mesopotamia should react on the Russian position in Persia.

The first successful attempt to hold the German advance in Roumania is now being made along a line

stretching roughly from the Oitoz Pass in the Carpathians to a point on the Danube some thirty miles south of Braila. Here a battle has been in progress for five days, and even if our Allies have to yield further ground, this check to the enemy will have been of considerable value in enabling the evacuation of Braila to be completed and the finishing touches to be put to the Sereth line of defences. The Germans claim to have taken a considerable number of prisoners as a result of the fighting on this front. It would be too much to expect that the Russo-Roumanian force should be able to reproduce all at once the conditions of the Battle of the Marne, before it has fallen back on its prepared positions; but clearly the enemy's sweeping movement is losing its momentum, and possibly the memory of what the French and British achieved in the early days of the war will hearten the Roumanians not only to continue the struggle, but also to put into it such determination as will lead to a second "miracle" after the pattern of that of the Marne.

Any hopes that the enemy may have formed of an early collapse of Roumania's resistance as a result of the terrible ordeal she has had to endure will have been dissipated before now. Thus once more the German doctrine that a nation forced to fight for its homes and faith can be intimidated into surrender by mere frightfulness has been refuted. The Roumanian Parliament is now in session at Jassy, and on the opening day King Ferdinand in his speech from the Throne reflected the staunch resolve of the people to hold out to the end and their confidence in the future, despite the blackness of the present. "Up to now the war has imposed upon us great hardships and sacrifices. We shall bear these with courage, for we maintain absolute confidence in the final victory of our Allies, and, in spite of difficulties and sufferings, we are determined to struggle at their side with energy unto the end." A people animated with this determination is destined for great things. The sufferings of Germany and the States associated with her are not to be compared with those which Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, and Roumania have undergone; but the Central Alliance is now calling upon Heaven and President Wilson to manœuvre an early peace for its benefit in much the same spirit as the individual German addresses his enemy behind a bayonet as "Kamerad."

The situation in Greece remains as unsatisfactory as ever. On the one hand it is reported that the Allies' demands in regard to the transfer of Greek troops from Thessaly are being carried out; on the other hand it is asserted that a fresh concentration is in progress at Larissa. There is certainly nothing in the attitude of King Constantine or of his Ministers and the Athens Press to suggest willing compliance with the Allies' requests in reparation for the outrage of December 1. On the contrary, every public utterance of the Government seems to breathe recalcitrancy and hostility. If reports from Salonika are to be believed—little credence can be placed on heavily censored messages from Athens—King Constantine has added to his previous offences by communicating to the troops of the Athens command through his Minister of War an Order of the Day, conveying "greetings and congratulations for your exemplary behaviour during the unforgettable days of December 1 and 2." The Order continues:—"Your loyal devotion to duty, your self-sacrifice and courage saved the country in danger from enemies who hoped to overthrow the public order and the dynasty."

The Allies have something else to do than to censor King Constantine's public utterances; but they can hardly afford not to take note of flagrantly provocative language which is calculated to encourage fresh collisions between Greek troops and the Allies. All the various bodies in Greece committed to King Constantine's policy are now engaged in bolstering up each other's courage by stout words. The Allies have introduced the first instalment of the pressure they propose to exercise upon

the Greek Government in order to exact reparation for the events of December 1 and 2; but they have deferred the delivery of the second Note, which is to give extra turns to the screw. This delay is far from being to the liking of the Greek Government, for the blockade is working and being felt in the meantime. In view of all the circumstances, it seems unfortunate that the Entente Governments cannot take steps to terminate what is recognised to be an untenable situation. The failure to handle the Greek problem firmly in the past has had the effect of making it much worse than it need ever have been. If it be true that King Constantine has referred in a Military Order of the Day to the Entente Powers as "enemies," no useful purpose can be served by trying to persuade him to regard them as friends. Nor is it possible for the Allies by the presence of a few officials in Athens to instil a friendly atmosphere into a hostile administration. If the safety of the Salonika army can be rendered independent of the good will of the Greek Government and army, King Constantine should be left to his own devices. If it must be dependent on the good will of Athens, then the capital, the administration, and the country must be purged of all hostile agencies. The problem, we believe, would not be found so difficult if it could be handled firmly.

A further reason for finding a solution of the situation in Athens is supplied by the fate of prominent Venizelists. The Greek Government has officially stated that between December 1 and December 20 inclusive 268 members of the Liberal Party were arrested, of whom 91 have been released for lack of evidence. This admission that at least one out of every three arrests was purely arbitrary confirms to a certain extent the earlier accounts of the mild reign of terror instituted by King Constantine's army as a result of the events of December 1. The excuse given by the Greek Government is that Venizelist agents tried to spread panic in the town by firing from the windows and balconies of several houses. An inquiry into the occurrences of those days is said to form one of the demands of the Allies in the Note which has yet to be presented. From this, if it be true, as well as from the fact that the Allied Ministers have asked to visit M. Benakis and General Corakas in prison, we may infer that the Entente Governments are prepared to examine the Greek version, and consequently do not vouch for the accuracy of the first reports. Meanwhile, a large number of Venizelists remain in prison, in spite of the undertaking given by Admiral du Fournet that they would be protected.

From the Macedonian front there has been little news during the past week. Mud has hampered operations no less than in France, but the turn of the year finds the British front being extended in both theatres. Fresh German reinforcements are reported in the neighbourhood of Monastir, and were to be expected in view of the notable shortening of the enemy's line in Roumania. Reports of an intention to drive the Allies into the sea are once more current. The year opened with them, and for a long time an attack on the Salonika defences was anticipated. It was never made, and there is little ground for supposing that the conditions are more favourable for making it now. On the other hand, weather and the situation in Greece militate against a continuation of the Allied offensive. The rôle of the fresh German troops will, therefore, be to hearten the Bulgarians by their presence and to see to the strengthening of their defences.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 30.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner and Lady McMahon are still in Upper Egypt, but are expected back in Cairo to-morrow. His Excellency will, it is understood, then proceed to Ismailia for a short visit to the Canal zone. The Alexandria committee of the British Chamber of Commerce are entertaining Sir Henry and Lady McMahon to tea at the Savoy Palace Hotel on the 14th prox., and a garden party will be held at the Residency on the 7th prox. Both these functions will, therefore, partake of the nature of an official farewell of the communities in the two cities.

The Coming Census.

The night of March 6-7 next has been given by Ministerial *arrêté* for the taking of the decennial census, which is due next year. Simultaneously, an *arrêté* has been issued appointing all omdas and sheikhs of villages of the Bedouin tribes and all sheikhs al Hara (district sheikhs) and sarrafs (tax-collectors) as census agents, and laying down what their duties are to be. As pointed out previously in this correspondence, the work of taking this census is going to be far more arduous than that entailed by the one of 1907, owing to the difficulty of getting together a sufficient staff of responsible supervisors. Had it not been for the fact that such a step would have seriously interfered with statistical calculations and arrangements, the Egyptian Government might quite possibly have postponed taking the census until the end of the war.

The Kitchener Memorial.

The various committees constituted for the collection of funds for the "Kitchener Memorial" to be raised in Egypt are all getting to work, and most of them have held meetings and taken steps to start collecting. Each Mudiria and Governorate has its own committee, which will be entrusted with the task of collecting from the inhabitants the total sum which has been marked down against each Mudiria or Governorate on the basis of the proportion of the Land and House Taxes paid by it. A sum of £E100,000 is to be raised in this manner the first year and the balance in the second and (if necessary) the third years. To the ordinary person knowing the temperament and the present financial situation of the Egyptians it would certainly appear that the best plan would have been to raise the whole amount required straight away, instead of spreading it over a long period. However, the Central Committee, on whose shoulders rests the entire responsibility for obtaining the full amount, has, it is to be presumed, seriously taken all the factors into account, and no doubt it has its own very special reasons for not making one bite of the cherry.

The Mixed Courts.

On January 31 the mandate of the Mixed Courts expires, and the time is now at hand when negotiations will be taken up—if, indeed, they have not already been embarked upon—with the various Powers interested for a renewal of the period of service of these very necessary Courts and of the contracts of the very distinguished judges who sat in them. Previous to the war the mandate of the Mixed Courts, except in the early years of their existence, was regularly renewed in quinquennial periods, the last of which lapsed on January 31, 1915. On that occasion a renewal for one year was agreed upon, followed by a further similar renewal on January 31 this year. Why a quinquennial period was not decided upon straight away is not quite clear. It is said that the idea was that the war would not last so long, and that at any rate by the time peace was declared it would be possible to introduce the changes in the relations of the various local jurisdictions which have for some time been under discussion. To those who know the facts, however, it is perfectly obvious that

if the war were to end to-morrow, or even this time next year, no immediate change would be possible, and that the existing jurisdictions would have to continue in operation under present conditions for some time to come. Therefore, since it is manifestly outside the bounds of practical politics for the requisite reorganisation to take place within the coming twelvemonth, a renewal for merely one year would certainly seem futile, and it would appear that the wisest course to follow would be to revert to the quinquennial period or to make some arrangement with the various Powers interested for the indefinite prolongation of the Mixed Courts. After all, the existence of the "Tribunaux de la Reform" until such time as the reorganisation has been agreed upon is absolutely in the interest of each of the signatory Powers; and if approached they could certainly have no objection to return to the system formerly in vogue or to the adoption of the alternative suggestion mentioned. Some such arrangement would have the additional advantage of reducing to the minimum the negotiations which have to be conducted with thirteen Powers whenever any amendment of the Mixed Court regime is necessary, and which, however straightforward they may have been, must during the past two years, owing to the annual renewals of their mandate, have added to the work of our various Chancelleries at a time when they could well have dispensed with such an addition.

The Servant Problem.

All householders and employers of servants in Egypt must have rejoiced when they read that the Ministry of the Interior had issued an *arrêté* ordering all Egyptians in domestic and similar service to register themselves annually, and obtain a certificate to this effect from the police. Not that this will entirely solve the servant problem, which at times becomes most tiresome, to say the least of it. It will, however, do away with the traffic in *shehadas* (characters) and consequent interchange of natives, which have gone on to such an extent in the past in this country, and from which employers have suffered most severely without any chance of redress. The *arrêté* will be put into effect gradually; but once it is in full operation all over the country there will be every prospect that an improvement will manifest itself in the attitude and conduct of the servant class, especially the Berberines, who have contrived to acquire the monopoly of domestic service. Since every seeker after a place must produce his identity certificate, it will be increasingly difficult for a servant who has been dismissed for bad domestic conduct from one place to find another at once by obtaining the *shehada* of one of his friends, and passing himself off as the "paragon of all the virtues" mentioned therein. Of course, there are bound to be cases where some more ingenious Berberine will succeed in hoodwinking prospective employers. If, however, the latter will only combine and insist on the production of the police certificate, with all *shehadas* given by previous employers, and if they will not be too ready to accept all explanations of lost *shehadas* and absence in their Belad (homes up country), proffered by servants in whose records of past service as borne out by *shehadas* there appear suspicious blanks—by the by, the new law might be considerably strengthened if some provision was made for registration of the movement of servants to and from their villages or outside the centre where they have registered—and if they themselves will only be candid and truthful in the *shehadas* they give to dismissed or departing menials, the new *arrêté* should be the means of considerably improving the present, at times deplorable, state of affairs.

CAIRO, December 7.

H.H. The Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan has completely recovered from his indisposition, and returned to Abdin Palace on Saturday. He has since been busy receiving officials and notables, come to congratulate him on his recovery. His visitors have included Sir Henry McMahon, General Sir Archibald Murray, the Ministers, Lord Edward Cecil, the newly-appointed Advisers, etc. His Highness presided on Tuesday afternoon, for the first time for several

weeks, at the Council of Ministers, and this morning he left for a short river trip in Upper Egypt.

The High Commissioner.

As announced previously, Sir Henry McMahon, accompanied by Sir Archibald Murray, paid a visit to the Canal zone last week-end, returning in time to be present at the banquet, which H.H. the Sultan gave in his and Lady McMahon's honour at Abdin on Tuesday evening. The occasion was quite a gala one, and the other guests included the Sultania Princes, General Murray and his Staff, the Ministers, the British Advisers, and the Residency Staff.

On the occasion of his departure, the Sultan has conferred on Sir Henry McMahon the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohammed Ali. This is a signal honour and a mark of his Highness's appreciation of the retiring High Commissioner's work. The Mohammed Ali Order, created in memory of the founder of the present dynasty, is the highest decoration of the kind in Egypt. It is expressly reserved for those having special merits, or having rendered very conspicuous services to the country, and, so far, the decoration has only been awarded to one or two of the Princes of the Sultan's family. At the same time, his Highness conferred on Lady McMahon the First Class of the Order of El Kemal, in recognition of the very lively interest she has taken in the education and social advancement of the women of Egypt.

Two Well Merited Honours.

It is with great pleasure that we have heard the news of the award of the C.B. to Colonels Sir George Macaulay and Sir Murdoch Macdonald. As Under-Secretary of State for Railways, the first-named has had charge of the transport of troops and supplies all over Egypt since the outbreak of war, and of the construction work that has been carried on on the east bank of the Canal during the past year; whilst Sir Murdoch Macdonald, as Under-Secretary for Public Works, has been responsible for all the inundation defences and other important works on the Canal rendered necessary by the Turkish menace to Egypt, and required for the advance eastward which is gradually taking place. In both cases the honours are well merited. In this connection it is amusing to note that the first intimation was in the form of a private congratulatory wire to one of the recipients, and that it was not until quite forty-eight hours afterwards that the nature of the honour was made known to the two fortunate officials and the general public, through Reuter's.

The Wealth of Mecca.

The Sultania Society of Political Economy, Statistics and Legislation, which under the able presidency of H.H. Prince Ahmed Fuad has contributed so usefully to the study of the various economic, scientific, legal, and literary questions that have arisen in Egypt during the past seven years, inaugurated its new premises on Friday last. M. Mirel, the Chairman of the Board of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, and vice-president of the society, was in the chair, and quite a large gathering of members and notables put in an appearance in honour of the occasion. The subject before the meeting was "The Great Fortunes at Mecca During the First Century of the Hejira," on which the Rev. Father Henri Lammens, one of our most noted Oriental scholars, read a most interesting paper. With great lucidity and many witty touches he explained how it came about that the Mecca population had at that time acquired such a reputation for opulence; that enormous profits were derived out of the caravan traffic, wherein, to quote an old Arab text, "each *dinar* of capital produced two *dinars*"; what keen business men the Meccans were, as witness the exclamation of the Prophet, himself a good judge of men and a keen bargain-driver, that "some of them could amass a fortune even by selling the sand of the desert"; what competition existed between the millionaire commercial houses, especially the Omayyades, the chief organisers of the celebrated Badr caravan (A.D. 623-624), and the Makhzoumites; what practical patriotism these "caravan kings" showed on occasion, and what solidarity bound all classes of the Mecca population together. Finally, M. Lammens pointed out, all these men were

unconsciously contributing towards the great rôle which the Arab Empire was destined to play later on; and he concluded by warning his audience not to fall into the same error as did the Greeks and Persians, who made the mistake of their lives in looking upon the Arabs as merely a race of camel-drivers, and in failing to realise that these much despised camel-drivers or conductors of caravans were by the ever-extending scale of their commercial and financial transactions rapidly acquiring the experience, knowledge, wealth, and self-confidence leading inevitably to political ascendancy.

The Cost of Living in Egypt.

Those of your readers who have had the opportunity and, having the opportunity, have had the inclination to peruse the local Press will have remarked that of late the latter has contained numerous paragraphs complaining of the great rise in the price of many food-stuffs and articles of first necessity. The paragraphs in question are fully justified in so far as they call attention to the increase which the cost of living has undergone in Egypt since the outbreak of war; but where they err is when they express astonishment or alarm at the rise which has taken place and is still taking place. An increase in the cost of living was but to be expected as a result, first, of the shortage of cereals and other agricultural products in the world; secondly, of the diminution in shipping with its consequent effect on freights; thirdly, of the substitution invariably practised by consumers whenever they find that the articles to which they have been accustomed have risen either beyond their means or to a point where they can be usefully and economically replaced by other commodities; and finally, of the sympathetic rise which such substitution produces in the price of the articles substituted. In their last monthly bulletin the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture publish a most interesting table showing the increase in the prices of the most important articles of first necessity during October of the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, as compared with the prices ruling in July, 1914, i.e., prior to the outbreak of war. From this we see that the average this year of the rise in wholesale prices is 28 per cent. for Cairo and 26 per cent. for Alexandria, whilst the average of the retail prices is 22 per cent. and 39 per cent. respectively. Some of the commodities, such as eggs, petroleum, and native soap have risen considerably, but taken all round the rise in the cost of living is far less than anyone knowing the situation in other parts of the world would have expected. Indeed, the Egyptians may consider themselves a very fortunate people. During the first year of the war they scarcely suffered any increase in the cost of living, and at the same time derived great profit from the peculiar position in which their country found itself vis-à-vis the rest of the Empire. To-day they are still gaining considerably from that position, but it is contrary to all economic canons and to the dictates of common sense for them to expect their country indefinitely to remain unaffected by the general situation in the world's markets; and if they are now being called upon to feel the pinch of war as revealed to them in the general rise in the cost of living in Egypt they have little cause for complaint and no grounds for alarm. Indeed, so long as the war lasts they must expect prices to go on soaring upwards, and they must make up their minds to put up with abnormal prices, even after the termination of hostilities, until such time as the shortage in shipping is rectified and the world's markets and sources of supply have regained their equilibrium.

"THE SULTAN OF ARABIA."

Reuter's Cairo Correspondent reports that, according to *El Kibla*, the Arabic journal published at Mecca, the Grand Shereef was declared Sultan of Arabia on November 4. The town of Mecca was decorated, and flags were flown to celebrate the occasion. From early morning Arabs of various tribes in their thousands flocked into the town. The proclamation was read to enthusiastic and cheering crowds, after which the Sultan returned to the Palace amid the cheers of the crowds and the joyous songs of the school children.

Thereafter, taking his seat in the grand hall of the Palace, the Sultan received the high officials and ulema, giving them wise counsel on the manner in which they should conduct the affairs of the country.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, December 4.

Race Meeting.

The first race meeting of the season at Khartoum took place on the 3rd inst. Owing to indisposition, H.E. the Governor-General was unable to be present. A large number of people took part, and the events went off with great success. The most interesting race of the day was for country-breds, and this was won by a bay horse bred by Lieut.-Colonel Carr, the Director of the Veterinary Department. The sire was a horse presented to the country by Lord Kitchener, and this is the first of his breed to appear on the racecourse. The closest race of the day was that for the Kerreri Cup, for Arabs round the course, a distance of about a mile and a-quarter. Haramis, which had made all the running, was challenged by Starlight up the straight, and was headed for a moment, but just got away past the post by a short head. In the absence of Lady Wingate, the Culex Cup, for the country bred race, was presented to the winner by Mrs. S. Stack. The cup was presented by Dr. A. J. Chalmers, of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratory. The meeting was enlivened by the playing of the Sudanese Infantry band.

The "Remnants."

The second performance of "The Remnants" took place on Saturday, 3rd inst. With the certainty of a high standard of entertainment the public had eagerly bought up tickets, and the house was crammed to its utmost. The performance fully justified the anxiety to obtain seats, and went off with great *élan*. Local colour was supplied in a duet by Messrs. Dupuis and Toovey in a song entitled "Really? Well, I am surprised!" which was much appreciated, whilst Mr. Toovey's heartrending tragedy of murders was also enthusiastically received. But it would be invidious to select any special numbers for notice, when all were received with well-deserved applause.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The New Archbishop.

The new Archbishop, Kyrillos Vasileou, has been duly installed; but the chapter of events which immediately followed his election has furnished the Greek Church and community with many topics of discussion, and the Press with abundant material for comment. The enthronement of the Primate was to have taken place on the day of his election, but the Holy Synod was advised, apparently through the chief Greek interpreter, Mr. D. Carageorgiades, that it would be advisable to postpone the ceremony until the High Commissioner had ratified the election. Accordingly, the Bishop of Papho formally announced the appointment in writing. Sir John Clauson, being absent in the Kyrenia District, could not reply until the evening, when, after his return to Nicosia, the Archbishop was informed that his Excellency would receive his Beatitude at 10 a.m. next day, November 25. The Primate-elect, accompanied by the Bishops of Papho and Kition, waited on H.E., and Sir John had a private conversation with the Archbishop, which lasted for an hour and a-half, Mr. Carageorgiades acting as interpreter. After this an official writ, signed by the Chief Secretary, and recognising the election, was handed to the Primate, who invited his Excellency to be present at the ceremony of enthronement. Sir John Clauson expressed his regret that he was unable personally to do so, but added that he would send the Chief Secretary to represent him.

The Bishop of Kition was anxious to know whether the writ referred to was to be regarded as taking the place of the Turkish Imperial *Berat*, which it was necessary to obtain under Ottoman rule, as a sanction

of the Porte, or whether the formalities now adopted marked a new departure to be observed under British rule. Sir John Clauson, it is said, concluded his reply by stating that he could not be basing his action upon Turkish precedent, otherwise he would be sending back the Archbishop on his own horse, whereas he could not even offer him his motor, as his chauffeur was laid up!

The enthronement took place the same day at 4 p.m., the church being densely crowded. The ceremony was short but pompous. H.E. was represented by his Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. Fenn, and Mr. Lukach. On November 26 the electors were entertained at a banquet by the Archbishop. On the following day the Primate paid a visit to Government House, by invitation, and was entertained at tea by Sir John and Lady Clauson. On November 29 an official visit was paid to his Beatitude by Mr. Fenn, on behalf of the High Commissioner. He was received by the Primate, who wore his full robes and insignia, and by the Bishops. The Venerable Archdeacon Beresford Potter also paid a visit to the Archbishop, accompanied by Canon Newham and Mr. Smale, chaplain at Nicosia, all in their robes. Many telegrams have been received and gracefully acknowledged by the Archbishop, including greetings from the Patriarch of Alexandria and the large "Cypriote Fraternity" in Egypt. The Primate is losing no time in grappling with the work that lies before him, and is already taking steps towards the establishment of a fund from which the new clergy will be paid. The election of a Bishop of Kyrenia, to fill the vacancy caused by the late Archiepiscopal election, should take place in about two months.

A Convict's Request.

A villager of the Papho District, Chrisanthos Nicosphoros, who was sentenced to death for murder at the last assizes, and who should be hanged on December 12, has petitioned the High Commissioner that he may be sent to the field of battle. His petition has been forwarded by the Commissioner of Papho for consideration. Large numbers of villagers are ready and eager to enlist, should an opportunity be given of raising a contingent in Cyprus.

Forest Fire in Papho District.

A considerable area, just within the Papho District, at a spot called Orites, near the village Kuklia, where stood the far-famed temple of Aphrodite, has been burnt. At this place an unsuccessful attempt was made some years ago to plant a colony of Jews, who were despatched to Cyprus by the agents of a British charitable fund. A "forest" in the lowlands of Cyprus does not connote a growth of trees such as we associate with the term. In this case the trees are chiefly a sparse covering of holm-oak, cypress, wild olives, and carobs, with undergrowth. But a fire of this kind blackens and disfigures the landscape, besides destroying useful trees.

High Cost of Living.

Government is now selling grain—barley, oats, and vetches—to farmers in need of seed, fifty bushels being the maximum issued to any individual. Prices vary according to the qualities at the different stores. Wheat is not yet issued. Officials with small salaries still hope for an increase, or at least a war bonus. A further rise in the price of bread is anticipated. Olive oil and other local produce is at almost prohibitive prices for the poor. Native cheese, of a kind much used, which used to cost about 10 piastres is now sold at 30 piastres the oke. Olives, which were bought for 2 or 3 piastres, now cost 12 piastres the oke. The prices of other food-stuffs have risen proportionately.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS YAGHOURT

may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also LEVANT PRODUCE:
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locomes, Walnuts,
Sardines, &c.
Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

AN APPEAL TO THE ARABS.

[The following is a translation from *Al Mokattam* of Wednesday, November 15, 1916.]

The Address of the Martyr Abd al-Ghani al-Arisi.

Abd al-Ghani al-Arisi, proprietor of the newspaper *Al-Mufid*, was one of the leaders of the Arabian Reform Society. Expelled by the military from Beyrout, he fled to Taif, and from there sent the following address to the Arabs. He subsequently fell into the clutches of the Unionist party, who hanged him, together with his patriot colleagues, as we have previously mentioned. The following is the text of his address, taken from the Argentine newspaper *Al-Hawi* :—

Sons of Yarob, offspring of Kahtan, seed of the honourable and noble, descendants of valiant conquerors who entered the world in their might and by justice held sway over it; ye of pure ideals and lofty soul and glorious traditions; haters of injustice, champions of honour, ever true to your bond; brethren who are scattered in every quarter of the world—peace be unto you all.

Standing on the brink of death, I send you this message. I am fallen a prey to the Turkish beast who devastates your land and destroys your homes, who makes your little ones orphans and your women widows, who abases your sisters and enslaves your wives; who refuses the necessities of life to your weeping children that he may satiate his own vile brood. I speak to you from the Syrian desert, from among the tents of your heroic brethren who are called to the supreme task of delivering their country and overturning the throne of injustice and tyranny and every abomination.

Ere you read these words you may hear that I am dead, for those tyrannical Turkish infidels have pronounced against me and several other men, good Syrians all; and though I have escaped out of their hands and am a free man in a land where freedom rules supreme over the brave and the fair, yet I feel it is my duty to return to Damascus. I shall set out to-morrow, having first commissioned my brother in the holy cause, al-Najdi, to convey my letter to you by whatever way he deems best. If I get through, and escape a second time, my object is accomplished; if not, I shall have had the satisfaction of serving my people and my country to my last drop of blood. I should not be the only man who dies to-day for Arab nationality. I have numerous companions, for truly the ideal we urge and pursue demands many sacrifices. The pillars of freedom rest upon the bones of true men, and can only be safeguarded at the cost of many lives. Therefore, grieve not if to-morrow you hear that hundreds of the noblest of the Arabs have been slain, for in the long procession of days the day of deliverance shall come at last, if it please God.

You shall hear—it may be you have heard already—with shuddering and horror of the atrocities committed by those descendants of Chenghiz Khan and Timur Lenk among the noble Arab people. They determined to obliterate the Syrian community, even to the children, and for months past they have subjected the country to the most rigid military control. It was their intention also to crush the people of Irak; but in Irak their power is not nearly so strong as in Syria. Syria has certainly lost two-thirds of her normal population, for most of those who escaped hanging have met their death by starvation. The few survivors are being banished to Anatolia and Roumelia, with the idea that in confinement there, among Turks, they will soon become Turks themselves and their grandchildren will have no remembrance of their noble origin. The Arabs, who themselves raised those infidels to power and fame, are now being abased and destroyed by them. Their weapons are the sword and the gallows. They deport numerous families from Syria and the Lebanon, and employ all means of destruction against them. Houses, villages, and towns are cleared of their rightful inhabitants, to make room for immigrant Kurds and Turks, who can be relied upon to commit the same outrages on the Arab community as they did among the brave Armenians.

They tried to kill our language and destroy our national aspirations. They did everything possible to Turkify us, but in vain. Now their design is to exterminate us altogether, to transport the remnant of our agricultural and labouring classes from Syria to a place where they will use their high national characteristics. This is a thing we cannot endure. The arch-spy Jemal Pasha, Commander of the Fourth Army, has undermined all our efforts. After the failure of his expedition against Egypt, by which he intended to reduce that fortunate land to slavery, he affected great solicitude for the Arabs, and declared to many influential Syrians that he was all in favour of the independence of Syria. At banquets he made frequent allusions to this theme, and urged some of the prominent men to proclaim a revolt and throw off the suzerainty of Turkey. Many of us believed in him; but others, who were not deceived, made a point of warning their friends not to be caught in his toils. By this piece of political treachery he got some of the Syrians to commit themselves, and then fell upon them with the sword. But his sword, his death sentences pronounced at courts martial, his tyrannical decrees, and all his iniquities really constituted the greatest justification of our cause and the strongest encouragement to our Holy War. No doubt they have postponed our movement; but they have stiffened our resolve and taught us vigilance, foresight, and reflection.

We are seeking life in the jaws of death; our policy is settled; and the gospel of Arab independence is being proclaimed in Syria. Salvation is bound on our spears and inscribed upon our glittering sword-blades. From the desert shall come forth deliverance, and the auspicious flame now kindled in the Hejaz shall shed blessings over all the Arab lands. Soon also Nejd will be up in arms; the lion of Irak will spring once he gains more strength, and his Syrian cub, now languishing behind iron bars, will receive new power and confidence which will enable him to burst from his prison and rend his jailer in pieces. Before autumn is ended and the storms of winter are come, our whirlwind shall be let loose and shall sweep down on the heads of these infidel monsters.

My dear brethren, whom Turkish persecution has driven into distant climes, I beseech you, in the name of that mighty nation of which we are all members, that you do not hesitate or delay to answer the call of your motherland; it is the call of freedom and sweet independence; it exhorts you to unity, co-operation, and endurance, for your own sake, for the sake of your native country, and for the deliverance of all that you hold dear, from death, destruction, and shame.

Remembering that your brothers here are laying down their lives in the national cause, you will surely not scruple to join your forces and stand together as one man. I beg you to subordinate all your parties and factions. Among us to-day there are no Christians, Moslems, Jews, Druses, or Pagans; there are only Arabs. Amongst the Arabs there are no rival parties of the Lebanon, Beyrout, Damascus, Aleppo, Homs or Hama; for the fortunes of Beyrout are bound up with those of the Lebanon and with those of Damascus, Aleppo, Palestine, Irak, Hejaz, and Yemen. I say this with the utmost confidence. Cease, then, to raise complaints and to segregate yourselves into societies and schools of opinion, and reconcile your jarring prejudices and policies. I appeal to you all, beloved brethren, wherever two or three of you are gathered together to form yourselves into societies in the name of Syria alone, to recognize one another under that name, and collectively to expend those gifts and possessions granted to you by God in the raising up of a new and independent Syria.

CREATION MYTHS AND HEBREW TRADITION.

On Monday and Thursday of last week Professor L. W. King delivered the second and third of the series of Schweich lectures on "Biblical Archaeology," the first of which has already been noticed in these columns. Monday's lecture dealt with Deluge stories, that of Thursday with myths and legends of the Creation. Professor King said that the long, narrow valley of the Nile had perhaps suggested the early Egyptian figure of a man lying prone upon his back. Such was Kem, the earth god, whose counterpart in the sky was a goddess bending over him in an arch; her feet and hands just touching the limits of the world and her curved body forming the vault of the heavens. Of still earlier date was the idea that the sky was a great cow. In no Egyptian myth was there any striking or detailed parallel to the Hebrew tradition. In Babylonia, as in Egypt, we found traces of conflicting ideas, but the Creation myth of the city of Babylon had ousted its rivals and won a dominant place in the national literature. In this legend the creation of the world was represented as the result of a conflict, order emerging out of chaos; but this underlying dualism did not appear in the primitive texts more recently recovered. The legend represented the Creation as being carried out by the three greatest of the Sumerian gods, assisted by a goddess. One Sumerian legend of the Creation was found included in a magical incantation for the cure of tooth-ache. Another represented the creating agent as laying bundles of reeds in the waste of waters, and heaping on earth beside them in the same way as an early Sumerian cultivator reclaimed his field from the flood. American discoveries had thrown some additional light on the origin and character of early myth and legend; but, at the same time, viewed from the purely literary standpoint, we remained unable to trace back to a primitive ancestry the traditions which, under a very different aspect, eventually found their way into Hebrew literature.

On the question as to what was the period and what the process by which the Hebrews became acquainted with Babylonian ideas, the lecturer said that the tendency of the purely literary school of critics had been to explain the process by the direct use of Babylonian documents during the Exilic period; but there were three pre-Exilic periods at which the Hebrews might have acquired a knowledge of Babylonian mythology. The earliest of these was the age of the patriarchs. Those who supported the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch might assume that Abraham heard the legends in Ur of the Chaldees. The second period was when the Hebrews settled in Canaan, and came into contact with a people who used the Babylonian language as the common means of communication in that part of the world. The third period was that of the later Judean monarchy, when, in consequence of the westward advance of Assyria, the civilization of that country was once more carried among the petty States and cities of Palestine. In this period the reigns of Ahab and Manasseh were of special interest. During the latter reign especially everything Assyrian was fashionable in Jerusalem; so that when in 586 B.C. the Jewish exiles came to Babylon they must have recognized several of the stories as akin to those they had already assimilated and now regarded as their own.

Lantern slides illustrated the lecture. One of these showed an ancient boundary-stone which was considered, said Professor King, to have marked the site of the Garden of Eden.

TERRORISM IN SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 13.

The Arabic press in America has lately been publishing letters which the writers have been able to send out of Syria by daring spirits who were able to leave that country, and who posted them on to their destinations. These letters, which have thus escaped the eye of the Turkish censor, contain harrowing details, and bear out the previous reports of hanging, extermination by famine, and all the accompaniments of a reign of terror, such as the Turks alone know how to exercise, and which surpasses in cold-blooded cruelty all that has been committed in this war. As an example is cited the case of a woman who, pushed to the last limits of despair, publicly offered her daughter, aged seven, in exchange for two oke of pure flour; her husband being said to have died from eating bread made of flour sold by the Government and adulterated with sawdust, sand, and other noxious substances. Espionage is said to be rampant. Two or more persons seen talking together are liable to be denounced by the secret police. According to news received in Paris, from more or less reliable sources, the Anasairi Chief, Emir Mohammed el Dandashli, was hanged in Damascus. The Turkish Government is said to have undertaken, about two months ago, the digging of trenches all along the coast from Tripoli to Sour (Tyre). All the Lazarist convents in Tripoli, Beyrout, and Damascus, as well as the French hospital in Beyrout, with all that they contained, are reported to have been seized by the Turkish Government.

The inhabitants of the vilayet of Syria seem to have suffered no less than those of the Lebanon. The population of this vilayet, according to the last census (of 1910), amounted to 750,000 souls, of whom four-fifths are Moslems, while the remainder are Christians of various denominations. In the Balkan and Tripolitan wars about 20,000 men of this vilayet perished in the service of their country; and in the present war the vilayet has furnished not less than 70,000 men, to say nothing of contributions in money, material, and beasts of burden, to the Army. It is estimated that up to August 1 last not less than 20,000 of this force have been lost in killed, wounded, and sick. This generous contribution, however, has not prevented the vilayet from being treated as worse than an enemy; and its inhabitants are said to have been reduced, through famine, disease, and flight to the neighbouring Bedouin tribes, to 530,000, which proves that the devastation which the Turks have been carrying on in Syria is the outcome of an instinctive love of destruction, and not merely of a spirit of revenge for so-called "disloyalty."

Details are given of the destruction, pillage, and massacre perpetrated in the principal villages of Jebel Qalamun by a force of Turkish regulars on its way from Homs to Damascus, on the flimsy pretext that the inhabitants failed to supply them with water. The water supply of two of these villages consists of two wells; and, as all the beasts of burden had been requisitioned, the villagers, mostly women and children, could hardly meet their own requirements, far less supply such a force on short notice. After laying waste these two villages, the Turks, arriving at the third village, set about making further trouble on the same pretext; and on the head of the leading family there—which had given repeated proofs of its loyalty to the Ottoman Government—endeavouring to show them their error, they opened fire. A fight ensued, in the course of which forty women, old men and children perished. Their bodies were left unburied, until the remainder of the inhabitants, who had fled, returned to the village on the departure of the troops and performed this elementary duty of humanity.

Thus, this force throughout its march to Damascus lay waste four villages, hanging many of the inhabitants, and destroying the wells. An ever-recurring refrain in the abuse they poured on the inhabitants, whether Moslems or Christians, was the exclamation "Infidel Arabs."

Following the receipt of an anonymous letter, containing the accusation that some deserters were being sheltered in the village Ma'lula, an armed force was sent thither. The sheikhs of the village denied the existence of such deserters, and invited the officer commanding to conduct a house-to-house search. The latter, instead of doing this, let loose his men on the village, and an orgy of rapine, pillage, and murder followed. This village is a well-known summer resort for the well-to-do families of Damascus, being distant from that town about ten hours' ride, and it contains some fine modern houses built by some of the inhabitants who had emigrated to America, also two large convents, one for the Greek Orthodox and the other for the Greek Catholics. None of these was spared, and the Turkish soldiery respected none, but the most dastardly of their outrages was the hurling over a precipice the son of one of the three sheikhs.

The same fate overtook el Ma'arra, on the same false charge of hiding deserters. The inhabitants of these parts

are mostly pure Arabs, living in a primitive state, who are incapable of organizing any hostile movement against the Government. Their simplicity, indeed, is said to be such that they do not know which of their sons in the army are living or dead. Their only fault, in fact, is that they belong to the "traitor Arab race," which was never consulted on this suicidal war, and did not wish it.

In the Beka'a matters seem to be no better. One of the prosperous villages on the confines of that plain, Deir el Ahmar, was attacked and pillaged, again on the charge of hiding deserters. The Turkish Government seems to be wildly seeking men, and more men, to satisfy the never-ending demands of its insatiable "ally," Germany. The Young Turks have, unhappily, been given every chance to mobilize the Arab population, and they have fully availed themselves thereof.

In the Mutessarifat of El Karak, where distress has assumed an unusually acute form, a rebellion is said to have broken out, with what results it is not known yet. In the most sorely tried parts famine has caused a general scattering of the population in quest of food.

In Acre and Caiffa, whose chief trade was with the Hauran, business has suffered seriously from the cessation of communications with that district. As to the German colonists there, who have always had their own way, they are now the lords and masters of the place. It is said that petitions now are no more accepted in Arabic, and that they must be written in Turkish or German.

OPERATIONS ON E. EGYPTIAN FRONTIER

The War Office issued the following statement last Friday afternoon:—

On December 21 the Egyptian town of El Arish was occupied by our troops, after being two years in the hands of the enemy.

From the fact that they had constructed a very strong entrenched position at Masaid, covering El Arish, and that a large amount of work had recently been carried out there, it appeared that the enemy had every intention of offering a stubborn resistance. It would seem, however, that the rapidity with which our advance was carried out completely upset their calculations, as it forestalled the arrival of their reinforcements. They abandoned their positions on the night of December 19-20 before touch with their outposts was established, and retreated to the east and south-east. The recapture of this town from the Turks after their long occupation is a serious blow to them, both from a moral and also from a military point of view.

A further statement, issued on Saturday, added some details, as follows:—

On December 22 our aircraft carried out several successful raids in the El Arish region. At Maghdabah about a ton of high explosives was dropped on an enemy concentration, causing many casualties to personnel. Attacks were made on Beersheba and Auja, and an important railway bridge over a deep ravine at Tel-el-Sharia, 15 miles north of Beersheba, was seriously damaged. All our machines returned safely.

A statement issued on Saturday reported:—

On the afternoon of December 23 our mounted troops carried a strong enemy position at Maghdabah (20 miles S.S.E. of El Arish), after an engagement which commenced at 9 a.m. Five hundred prisoners were taken. Aircraft co-operated in the attack both with bombs and with machine-gun fire from a low altitude.

And on Monday it was announced:—

Although the full report of the action at Maghdabah on 23rd inst. is not yet to hand, the following further particulars have been received.

The total captures now amount to 1,130 prisoners, at least two guns, and a large quantity of arms and war material. The enemy's casualties in killed and wounded are considerable. Our aeroplanes are continuing to harass the enemy.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessities of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I see "Commentator" raises again in your columns the important question of the reform and reorganization of the Consular Service. I commend to his attention what I have written thereon in my little book, "Common Sense and Foreign Policy" (1913), and in the just published "Truth About the War" (*Review of Reviews*). The only way to deal adequately with the Consular Service and the Foreign Service generally is to make the Consulates the basis of the diplomatic career. The examination to enter the Foreign Service of the Crown should be the same for all branches of the Consular Service and for Diplomacy. All diplomats should begin as Vice-Consuls—not as Attachés—and should pass up through the ranks of Consul and Consul-General into secretaryships, ministries and embassies. The Consular and the Diplomatic Services must be absolutely fused. We should attract to this profession our ablest young men, and their physical fitness for the work should also be seen to. Boards of nomination for the Foreign, Colonial, Indian, and other branches of the Public Service should be appointed by the Sovereign, and from them should proceed (and not from the Secretary of State) the requisite nomination. Following on a nomination should come the proper examination, and appointment by a Secretary of State be conferred on successful competitors.

But I very much doubt whether we shall get this and similar reforms urgently required by the country and the Empire without something like a bloodless revolution, some re-creation of the misled Liberal Party.—I am, etc.,

H. H. JOHNSTON.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Apropos of the calling up of Serbian subjects in this country for medical examination, M. P. van Meurs writes to the *Daily Mail*, asking whether this is not a matter that "ought to be taken up by any really patriotic Englishman." He goes on to say:—

I happened to come across a Serbian who told me that in all there are in Great Britain at present 150 Serbians. All these will have to be sent to Paris to be medically examined at the expense of this country, as, of course, their own country could not afford this trip to Paris for its subjects. Could these Serbians not be examined here, and thereby save the nation's money? It seems absolutely terrible waste of money to me—a neutral, who, however, has the Allied cause much at heart.

I, for one, entirely agree with the writer. I am not a very clever business man, I fear; but it does seem to me that it would be much more economical to arrange for the medical examination over here, even if it were necessary to bring one or two Serbian military doctors over for the purpose. As it is, it looks as if the Mountain is to be transferred to Mohammed, so to say; which must, I imagine, be a more costly matter than moving Mohammed.

The publication last Friday of the lengthy list of honours and awards for services in connection with the operations in Mesopotamia was very welcome—I had very nearly written "a very welcome surprise"; for the publication had been looked for so long that its appearance, at last, was almost a shock. The delay, I know, caused not a little dissatisfaction among the gallant soldiers who have been going through such a trying time in that field of operations; and it is not surprising that lately there have been one or two references to the matter in the Press. However, the list is out at last, and it must have made a pleasant Christmas for a good many families. Also, incidentally, it will doubtless have an excellent effect upon our Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force as a whole. Whether the latter consideration had anything to do with its appearance at this time I cannot pretend to say; but I should not be surprised if it had. On the other hand, it may well be that our new Government really has "got a move on" with regard to Mesopotamia, as to certain other not unimportant matters. If so, we shall all rejoice, for we were getting tired of "wait and see" on the Tigris and Euphrates, as elsewhere. No doubt the period of waiting has been very necessary, and very well employed. At any rate, we may hope so. Now—well, we shall see what we shall see, and I hope that 1917, being an "odd number," will prove a "lucky" one for us.

This reminds me that, by a printer's error—and it really was a printer's error, please!—the address of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund was wrongly given in these notes

last week. It should be 15, Aldford Street, Mayfair (not Alford Street). When I read the paragraph in print, I am afraid that I very promptly supplied the missing letter; for I pictured harassed post-ladies vainly endeavouring to find "Alford" Street in order to deliver sacks of cheques and postal orders, and ceasing not from their toil. On second thoughts I concluded that the Post Office, which does such wonders in the way of "tracing" addresses, would not find the puzzle a very hard one; and that the cheques, etc., would reach their destination in safety. But if you are sending another donation this week it would be just as well to get the name right.

The Fund, I am reminded, is for the benefit of the British troops in Mesopotamia. The Indian troops are looked after, so to say, by the Indian Soldiers' Fund, of which Sir John Hewett, G.C.S.I., is the chairman. Subscriptions for the latter fund should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 1, Carlton House Terrace; and comforts or clothing to 11, Somerset Street, W.

Fortune-tellers in London, especially those in the West-End, have been having anything but a happy Christmas. I am glad to learn, thanks to the active measures the police have been taking against them. One hears occasionally of remarkable "successful shots" scored by these gentry. Only last week I heard of one, an Indian, in Egypt, who foretold many things that were to happen, and did afterwards actually happen, to a friend of mine, and I should certainly not like to say that it was impossible for certain individuals to foretell the future to a certain extent. In fact, I believe that it is possible, and that it is quite often done. But that it is very rarely, if ever, done for money, or as a means of earning a livelihood, I most emphatically decline to believe. The "professional" is usually a fraud; and I am glad that the London police are, at last, treating him as such; for in these times he (or she) may do incalculable harm; and one seldom hears the faintest suggestion of any good results from a visit to their "parlours."

What leads me to refer to this subject is a report of police court proceedings against a certain "professor," which I read in an evening paper last week. In this report I came across the following paragraph:—

A quantity of fortune-telling apparatus was produced in court, including two crystals, a horoscope, kismet, mirror, two phrenology heads, forty books, a cushion, crystal stand, and several incomplete packs of cards.

Now the packs of cards, the crystals, the cushions, and most of the "apparatus" I can understand. But what manner of thing is a "kismet"? With Kismet of the East I am familiar, but as a bit of apparatus I know it not. Can any reader enlighten my ignorance?

A correspondent writes:—"Private George Moffatt, of the — Rifles, a patient on the hospital ship Braemar Castle, met his death as a result of the torpedoing of that vessel in the Aegean. His body was taken to Syra on November 23 to be buried. The Mayor called a meeting of the Municipal Council, and it was decided that he should be given a public burial, a wreath placed on his coffin, and the municipal flag hoisted at half-mast during the ceremony. Citizens of Syra were asked to attend and show their sympathy at the murder of this British soldier. As a result of this resolution, the funeral was the most impressive that has taken place in Syra for many years. Many thousands of people were present at it, and it was personally attended by local authorities, members of the Municipality, and Consular representatives of the Allied nations, and of Spain. Members of the trade unions, working men's clubs and lodges, together with the principal residents, followed the hearse. This ceremony, and the resolution of sympathy passed by the Municipal Council of Hermopolis, with their protest against the torpedoing, as contrary to international law, shows clearly how strongly public opinion in the Greek islands was influenced by the sinking of the Braemar Castle and by the landing of its sick and wounded survivors. The resolution passed by the Municipal Council would appear to be a valuable indication of the discredit that Germany is drawing upon herself by this most recent crime of extending her submarine warfare to hospital ships. Needless to say, I heartily agree with the writer. But how long will it be before the neutrals take action—of some kind—in this matter?

CORSAIR.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMANY'S EASTERN ASPIRATIONS.*

The English translation of M. Chéradame's striking review of the politics of the war could not appear at a more opportune moment. Events of much importance have happened since the French edition was published in the autumn, but, for the most part, they prove the accuracy of his forecasts. Moreover, the time has come, or is close at hand, when the allied nations must decide how to act in a critical position of affairs which, when the book was being written, its author considered likely to occur, but which, tomorrow if not to-day, may be the dominating feature of the situation. M. Chéradame felt certain that before long Germany would put forward more or less definite proposals of peace. His main object was to place in the hands of his countrymen, and the people of nations allied with them, such a clue to the enemy's motives as would guide them to a right understanding both of their own interests and of the moral aspect of the question. He was also anxious that in neutral countries there should be some corrective to the insidious and incessant attempts of Germany to pose as the victim of unprovoked aggression, or—for this may be the next quick-change—as ready herself to give incensed neighbours indemnity for the past and security for the future.

That in any of the allied countries there is the least disposition to perceive in the enemy's present attitude the possible basis of a satisfactory settlement may be denied with some confidence. What, however, is more doubtful is whether peace terms, such as are adumbrated by the Imperial Chancellor, would be rejected, with or without contempt, for really good and sufficient reasons. It is a matter of no small importance that we and our friends should be obviously and intelligently in the right either in having gone to war or in making peace. In the next place, public opinion must be safeguarded against the danger of accepting terms several degrees more favourable to the Allies, and at first sight more humiliating to their adversary, than any yet formulated or hinted at in Berlin. This is the danger which M. Chéradame is especially desirous of exposing. He puts it in this way:—

Let us suppose that in consequence of the victorious offensives of the Allies, Germany should declare herself disposed not only to evacuate Poland, the French department, Belgium, and Luxembourg, but also to restore Alsace-Lorraine to France, and even to give as an indemnity all the rest of the left bank of the Rhine, under the sole and tacit condition that Germany should keep her preponderant influence, direct or indirect, over Austria-Hungary, the Balkans and Turkey.

What would be then the answer of the allied nations? As to what it must be, were the Governments capable of looking ahead, and if public opinion was founded on a true perception both of Prussia's aspirations and of the historic, ethnographic, and social conditions prevalent in the areas indicated, M. Chéradame is perfectly clear. If the Allies, he maintains, are ever tempted to negotiate peace on such a basis, it would be a hollow one. The restitution of Alsace-Lorraine could be only temporary; since, with a peace like that, Germany would retain all the elements of power requisite for the recapture, after a brief respite, of all she had surrendered. What is more, she would be left with the capacity to overthrow the Allies separately or in union, to carry out the Pan-German plan in its entirety, and in the end to become master of the world.

Presented in the shape which is perhaps least likely to meet with immediate and general acceptance, such is the warning which a French publicist, exceptionally well-informed on everything that concerns the manifold problems of the Near East, seeks to impress on the intelligence and conscience of his generation. His readers are not confronted all at once with this crucial proposition. An acute and lucid exposition of the aims of Pan-Germanism makes it plain that what, almost from the commencement of his reign, the Emperor William has persistently worked for is the Germanization of all that lies between Hamburg and the Persian Gulf. The subservience of Austria-Hungary, the subordination of the Balkan States, the abject compliance of Turkey—that is, of the Young Turks—with orders from Berlin, were essential to the successful execution of the scheme. A formidable obstacle might have been erected had the Treaty of Bucharest proved durable; for it would have established in the Balkan peninsula two groups of States of which one would have been impervious to German influence and intrigue. M. Chéradame blames English statesmen for having, in the first year of the war, failed to see the unwisdom of trying to satisfy Bulgaria at all costs. But it will be, in his judgment, an even more fatal mistake not to include the termination of Germany's control over

Austria-Hungary among the objects that must be attained before the sword can be laid aside with anything like a confident hope that it will not be needed again in our days to defend the rights and liberties of nations. It is only at the bidding of the Hapsburg dynasty that Austria-Hungary is the enemy of the Allies and the Kaiser's tool and accomplice. Once secure the free development and exercise of non-German aspirations in the Dual Empire, and the support it gives to Pan-Germanic ideas will be undermined, to the manifest advantage of the world at large. There are various other points in the book which deserve careful study; but we must be content with adding that it is warmly recommended to English readers by Lord Cromer, who thoroughly agrees with the author that the creation of a Southern Slav State would be the most effective check to Prussian aggression.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Stealers of Light: A Legend. By Marie, Queen of Roumania. Illustrated by Edmund Dulac. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Documents presented to Viscount Grey of Falloden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. With a Preface by Viscount Bryce. (Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. net.)

At Swla Bay: Notes and Sketches. By John Hargrave. (Constable and Co. 5s. net.)

The High Price of Sugar, and How to Reduce it. By Harold Hamel Smith, Editor of *Tropical Life*. (Ball, Sons, and Danielsson. 1s. net.)

PALESTINE AS AN INTERNATIONAL PARK.

The *Independent* (New York) of November 6 referred to a suggestion that "at the close of the war Palestine be set apart as a peace memorial," and comments upon it thus:—

The significance of such an international undertaking would be immeasurable. Since we have city, county, state and national parks, why not an international park? If such a plan were to be adopted no more appropriate place could be chosen than that little stretch of territory that has influenced so mightily all modern states.

What rivalries it would allay to have this Holy Land under international control and open under favourable conditions to the pilgrims and travellers of all countries and creeds! For the moiety of the price of a small war this land where the Peace Movement was born and cradled could be made a world sanctuary of natural beauty, holy memories, and inspiring ideals. Why not establish an International Palestine Peace Park to heal the wounds of war and commemorate the greatest human sacrifice for ideals the race has ever made?

The following semi-official statement has, says Reuter's correspondent in Petrograd, been issued in that city:—"The Dutch newspaper, *Nieuwe Courant*, on the authority of the semi-official Bulgarian newspaper *Narodni Prava*, recently stated that the male population of the Dobruja had been carried off by the Russians to Bessarabia, where they were supposed to have been forced to join the Russian Army. We are authorized categorically to contradict this calumny, spread abroad by the Bulgarian Press, which, in slavish obedience to the Central Powers, attempts to justify by this means Germany's treatment of the populations of Poland, Belgium, and Serbia."

Dr. Poupitis, the editor of the Greek journal *Hesperia*, published in London, writes to *The Times* expressing the opinion that the recent events in Athens, "painful as they are to the Allies, are infinitely more painful to the Greeks living in this and other Allied countries," and adds:—"May I be allowed to say that we Greeks consider the small minority of King Constantine's followers as traitors both to the Greek and the Allied cause, and that as such they ought to meet with the traitor's fate."

The *Jewish Chronicle* reports that the Turkish authorities have suspended the Hebrew organ, *Hapoel Hazeir*. Its editor, M. Kazdan, who was released some time ago, was again arrested and sentenced to imprisonment for two years and to a fine of fifty Turkish pounds. Friends of the editor are now issuing in its stead pamphlets entitled *Beshoo Zu*.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated December 16, and delayed in transmission, states that the Greek officer who arrested Mr. Bridgeman, a Secretary of the British Legation, during the disorders of December 1, has been sentenced to forty-five days' imprisonment.

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

THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),
16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

* "The Pan-German Plot Unmasked: Berlin's Formidable Peace Trap of the Drawn War." By André Chéradame. Translated by Lady Frazer, with an Introduction by the Earl of Cromer. (John Murray. 2s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Dec. 29 30 31	1916. Dec. 16 17 18	Friday Saturday Sunday	1335. Rebi 1 4 5 6	5677. Tebet. 4 5 6
1917. Jan. 1 2 3 4	19 20 21 22	Monday Tuesday Wednesday .. Thursday	7 8 9 10	7 8 9 10

Next Friday is the birthday of Princess Ileana of Roumania, the third daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, who was born at Bucharest on December 25, 1908 (O.S.).

Mme. Georgescu, wife of General Georgescu, who is specially attached to the British Headquarters Staff, has arrived in London from Petrograd.

The King of Serbia has conferred the Order of the White Eagle upon Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Mortimer J. Cromie, R.A.M.C.

M. Markovitch Bora, of the Serbian Legation, leaves London this week for Paris.

Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Public Works and War, is leaving Egypt for the Sudan on a long visit to the irrigation works on the White and Blue Niles. His Excellency will inspect the Gezira Canalization Works and the works for the proposed dam on the White Nile and other irrigation centres.

Referring to the evacuation of Bucharest, the *Independent* (New York) points out that "the American Minister, who is willing to stay behind and stand the chances of a siege, and to whom all of the Allied Powers have entrusted the care of their national interests in this crisis, is Mr. Vopicka, whom a few years ago certain American newspapers were making fun of because of his uncourtly ways."

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes under date of December 4:—

Sir Murdoch Macdonald visited Khartoum for a few days to consult on irrigation matters.

Mr. Browne, the Governor of Berber Province, came into Khartoum to settle various outstanding questions.

Mr. Matthew, Senior Inspector of Sennar Province, came to meet Mrs. Matthew, who had arrived from England.

Major Stigand returned from leave with Mrs. Stigand, and is on his way to take up his duties as Acting Governor of the Upper Nile Province.

Major Owen, C.M.G., is returning to Mompalla shortly. He will be accompanied by Major Hibbert, who came to Khartoum from the South for a few days.

Mrs. Owen, the daughter of the well-known American politician, is staying in Khartoum with Major and Mrs. Moir.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant-Colonel G. N. Salmon, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, only son of the late Admiral of the Fleet Sir Nowell Salmon, V.C., G.C.B., and Lady Salmon, and Gwladys, elder daughter of Mrs. Francis Lawson, Pietà, Malta, and granddaughter of Comtesse Sant Fournier.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES. London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C., will be OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East, and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs.

Intending Students are invited to apply at once to undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

The marriage arranged between C. R. Skrimshire, son of the late Dr. Skrimshire and Mrs. Skrimshire, of Weston-super-Mare, and Aileen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lamb, of 47, Putney Hill, S.W., will take place quietly at St. John's Church, Putney, at two o'clock on January 2. Friends will be welcomed at the church.

At St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on Wednesday afternoon, Lieutenant Allen Michell, R.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Michell, formerly of Cyprus and now of 22, Lansdowne Crescent, London, W., was married to Miss Margaret Bennett, niece of Mrs. E. C. Carnt, of West Wood, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight. The bride wore a gown of rich white silk with long train of the same material and exquisite lace. The three bridesmaids were in blue. The bridegroom and his best man, Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander S. G. Wheeler, R.N., were both in undress naval uniform, and a number of officers of both Services were present, as well as a large congregation in the church. The reception of relations and intimate friends of the two families was held at the Hotel Victoria. The Palm Court was screened by a mass of tall foliage, and from arches of greenery was suspended a large bell of white foliage, beneath which Mr. and Mrs. Allen Michell stood to receive the congratulations of the guests. Late in the afternoon they left for a brief honeymoon, the bridegroom having been only on short leave.

The *Morning Post's* Malta Correspondent telegraphs that the Malta University, appreciating the great humanitarian work performed by the eminent surgeons, Messrs. Garrod, Tooth, Thorburn, and Ballance, who are now serving as Colonels with the British Red Cross, has conferred on them the *honoris causa* degree of M.D.

Captain Amery, who returned to the House of Commons last week after a long spell with the Salonika Force, has had his share of adventure. He was in the *Caledonia* when she was torpedoed by a submarine. The submarine took off Captain Blaikie, but missed Captain Amery, who took advantage of such cover as could be found in a small open boat. Captain Amery was afterwards picked up by a French hospital ship, and, in a letter to his constituents, he is warm in his praise of his treatment on board her.

Under the heading of "The Campaign in Mesopotamia" a supplement to the *London Gazette* was issued last Friday. Amongst the Distinguished Service rewards figures the name of Captain George Edward Whittall, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, who has been awarded the Military Cross. Captain Whittall had been mentioned in despatches three times, but up to the present, except for the Kut honours, no awards had been made to any of the men serving in the Mesopotamia campaign. We learn that Captain Whittall has now recovered from his illness and has returned to the front to rejoin his regiment.

Appealing on behalf of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, Mrs. Maude writes:—"My husband, General Maude, is most anxious that the supply of comforts should not fail. The many and stupendous difficulties which confront our men, now gallantly fighting in Mesopotamia, cannot be exaggerated, and those at home can give great encouragement by helping to lighten their hardships. To maintain an adequate supply of comforts for the British units out there, at least £5,000 a month is required. Much valuable work has already been done by our committee, but further funds are now urgently needed. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Mesopotamia Comforts Fund,' crossed 'Cutts and Co.,' and sent to the Hon. Secretaries, 15, Aldford Street, Mayfair."

The Lord Mayor, Sir William Dunn, makes an appeal on behalf of the National Roumanian Relief Fund, the object of which is to provide Roumania with Red Cross equipment and to ameliorate distress among the civilian poor. Donations should be sent to

the Hon. Treasurer, Lord Mayor's Appeal for the National Roumanian Relief Fund, 30, Bishopsgate.

At the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday, at the conclusion of the Liturgy, a Requiem Service was solemnised for the British and French subjects and Venizelists who were killed during the events of December 1 at Athens. The interior of the church was draped. The Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, and the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis, officiated. Among the Hellenic congregation were M. Jean Gennadius, Mme. Gennadius, M. and Mme. Stavridis, M. N. Giannacopulo, M. and Mme. Scouloudi, Mme. S. Metaxas, Miss H. Schilizzi, Mme. M. G. Mavrogordato, M. P. Ralli, Miss P. Argenti, Mme. Metaxas, M. M. Rodocanachi, M. Zariffi, Mr. E. Spartali, and Mrs. Stillman. There were also present several Russian, Serbian, and English soldiers.

Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, the Nationalist member for North Roscommon, who died in London last Friday, had an adventurous career. At one time ('85) he set out for the Sudan for the purpose of "interviewing" the Mahdi on behalf of the *Daily News*; and for a time it was thought he had been killed, as nothing was heard of him, or from him, for so long. Needless to say, perhaps, he did not achieve his purpose; but he did succeed in getting near to Omdurman, and eventually returned to this country in safety.

Marvellous accounts are given of the exploits of a Greek from America, one Demetrios Pavlou from St. Louis, who joined the Foreign Legion last January, and who is said to have performed prodigies in bombing German trenches in France. He was born at Salonika, but was taken when six years old to America by his parents, who keep a restaurant at St. Louis.

Lady Victoria Buxton, of 2, Prince's Gate, S.W., formerly of Warley, Waltham Abbey, widow of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, and daughter of the first Earl of Gainsborough, left £16,118, of which £15,457 is net personality.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Balfour has taken charge of the Foreign Office as from Wednesday in place of Lord Robert Cecil, who has been acting since the departure of Viscount Grey.

General Gouraud, the new French Resident-General in Morocco, has arrived at Rabat and visited the Sultan.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—The Hellenic Consul, M. P. Paraskevopoulos, having been summoned by telegram to take up duties in the Foreign Office at Athens, leaves by the next mail steamer. The work of his office will be carried on by M. N. Themistocles, who has acted on several previous occasions.

Mr. McCaskie, President of the District Court of Famagusta, having returned, now acts in the Larnaca District as well as his own. Owing to the absence of two other judges, double work is still being carried out by the Presidents of Nicosia and Limassol.

Our Roumanian Correspondent reports that Mr. Charles Ramsden, Third Secretary at the Bucharest Legation, has been transferred to Petrograd, and has left to take up the duties of his new position.

The *Morning Post* announces that Ismail Khan Fanzaneli has been appointed Persian Minister in Rome.

Under date of December 23, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—M. L. Ciftanzoglou is leaving shortly on a special mission to London, where he will take charge of the Greek Legation. M. Ciftanzoglou is not the Minister of that name, but has had a long diplomatic career, and has already served in London as Secretary of Legation and as Chargé d'Affaires. He is a Doctor of Law and a Member of the Victorian Order.

In a message dated December 19, which has been delayed in transmission, Reuter's correspondent telegraphs from Jassy:—In well-informed circles it is stated that M. Porumbaro, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, will take the Presidency of the Senate, and M. Bratiano, the Premier, will become Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A Reuter's message from Jassy, dated December 24, says:—M. Porumbaro, the late Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been elected President of the Senate, and M. Ferekide has been re-elected President of the Chamber. M. Marzesey, Deputy and Mayor of Jassy, has been elected Vice-President of the Chamber.

Major J. J. McEnnery, Lancashire Hussars, having reported his arrival in Egypt from England, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, granted the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudan Government as Inspector, Upper Nile Province.

Bimbashi R. F. White, Equatorial Battalion, has been posted to the 1st Battalion.

The *Egyptian Gazette* learns that "the Government has decided to appoint Sheikh Ismail El Azhari, Cadi of Blue Nile Province, as Cadi of all Darfur. The selection of Sheikh Ismail for this important post is" the *Gazette* adds, "certainly a happy one, for in addition to his personal ability and profound knowledge of Mohammedan law, he is well-known as a loyal and sincere supporter of British rule in this country, and is one of those native notables who have exercised a widespread and wholesome influence among their countrymen, particularly during the last two years of war."

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR H. B. TUSON, K.C.B.

General Sir Henry Brasnell Tuson, K.C.B., died at Surbiton on the 21st inst., aged 80. The son of Lieutenant James Tuson, R.N., he was born in 1836, and was educated at Christ's Hospital, and King's College, London. He entered the Royal Marine Artillery as second-lieutenant in April, 1854 and was made lieutenant in June, 1855.

He saw considerable service during the second China War, and was mentioned in despatches. He was present at the attack on the Peiho Forts and at the capture of the Taku forts in 1860. In 1879 he commanded the Royal Marine Artillery, which, with a detachment of Royal Marine Light Infantry, was sent to South Africa, and in 1880 he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel for special services in the Zulu War.

Throughout the Egyptian campaign of 1882 he served as lieutenant-colonel, in command of the R.M.A. battalion. For his services, for which he was three times mentioned in despatches, he received the C.B., the medal with clasp, the Khedive's Star, and the third class of the Mejdideh, and was rewarded with the brevet rank of colonel, and appointed an extra aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. In 1882 he was confirmed in the rank of colonel. In 1888 he was promoted to the rank of major-general, and in August, 1893, to lieutenant-general. He succeeded Sir Howard Jones as Deputy Adjutant-General of Marines, and held this post until March, 1900.

Sir Henry married, in 1864, Ann Frances, daughter of Major J. Bates, commanding the 40th Madras Native Infantry.

Major-General W. Sholto Douglas Home, Grenadier Guards, fourth son of the eleventh Earl of Home, died last Friday at The Hirsell, Coldstream, at the age of seventy-four years. He served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, when he received the medal with clasp, the bronze star, and the Fourth Class of the Osmanieh.

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

Three years later he took part in the Sudan Expedition in command of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, receiving a clasp.

We regret to announce the death, at Mar-seilles, of Mr. Percy Smith, a partner in the firm of Messrs. C. J. Grace and Co., of Alexandria. Deceased, who was a son of the late Rev. Percy Smith, Grinton, Yorkshire, was one of the oldest Anglo-Egyptians resident in Alexandria, and was one of the most popular figures among the local mercantile community.

The death occurred at his residence, Cor-storphine, Ryde, on Sunday, of Mr. William Jarrett Lewis, late staff surgeon, R.N., at the advanced age of eighty-five. He was a Crimean veteran. He entered the Navy on September 2, 1854, and was appointed to H.M.S. Furious, sixteen gun steam frigate, serving in the Black Sea, and was present at the siege of Sevastopol. Later he served on the North America and West Indies Station. He left the Navy in 1864.

The death of Captain Edward Henry Chawner, late of Newton Manor, Alton, a Crimean veteran, has occurred at Elm Bank, Worcester, at the age of eighty-eight. He served throughout the Crimean campaign with the 77th Foot, gaining distinction at Inkerman and receiving the decoration of Knight of the Legion of Honour.

The death in action is announced of Baron Herbert de Reuter, a private in the Black Watch, and only son of the late Baron Herbert de Reuter, who was well known in Egypt, having been chairman of the Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt, Ltd.

SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged...	6,135	10	0
Bleachers' Association, Ltd.	105	0	0
Sir Frederick H. Smith, Bart.	50	0	0
Messrs. Joshua H. Smith (1908), Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. E. Rothwell and Sons	50	0	0
Lappitt Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. J. Mandleberg and Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. John Munn and Co.	25	0	0
Messrs. Storey Bros. and Co., Ltd. "A.B."	20	0	0
Miss Margaret Ashton	20	0	0
Messrs. E. Green and Son, Ltd.	20	0	0
Isaac J. Isaacs, Esq.	20	0	0
Messrs. Adams and Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs. Peel, Walker and Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
E. F. Sheppard, Esq.	10	10	0
Alexander Abercrombie, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. David Ades, Son and Co.	10	0	0
Anonymous (No. 3)	10	0	0
Anonymous (No. 4)	10	0	0
Messrs. Wm. Calvert and Sons, Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. Fothergill and Harvey, Lt.	10	0	0
Messrs. Middleton, Jones and Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. Edmund Nuttall and Co.	10	0	0
The Parkhouse Dyeing Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
Laurence Pilkington, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. J. F. and H. Roberts, Ltd.	10	0	0
Edwin F. Stockton, Esq.	10	0	0
Mrs. T. C. Waterhouse	10	0	0
Henry Broom, Esq.	5	5	0
William Brookes, Esq.	5	5	0
Peter Eadie, jun., Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Lowthian Drake and Co.	5	5	0
Harry Nuttall, Esq., M.P.	5	5	0
Messrs. Shorrocks, Shaw and Co.	5	5	0
Messrs. David E. Somech and Co.	5	5	0
The Rochdale Co-operative Manufacturing Society, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Ashton and Co., Ltd.	5	0	0
A. M. Callifas, Esq.	5	0	0
George Christophe, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. H. G. Cohen and Sons	5	0	0
Messrs. T. A. Curtis and Son	5	0	0
Messrs. David Dova et Fils	5	0	0
Messrs. Charles Goy and Co.	5	0	0
John E. Halliday, Esq.	5	0	0
Abalan Maneour, Esq.	5	0	0
Frederick Simpson, Esq.	5	0	0
Joseph Watson, Esq.	5	0	0
Thomas H. Watson, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. John Wilkinson and Sons	5	0	0
Sums under £5	115	16	0
	£6,933	2	0

Cheques may be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. E. Rigby, and sent to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited, Mosley Street, Manchester, or branches, who have kindly consented to receive subscriptions.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

OXBERRY.—On December 9, at Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, the wife of W. G. Oxberry, Ministry of Education, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CARVER—HAINES.—On December 23, at Oatlands Church, Walton-on-Thames, Captain Thomas Drinkwater Carver, A.S.C., of Egypt, to Doris Georgina, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Haines, of Beckenham.

SMITH—ANDERSON.—On Wednesday, December 6, 1916, first at His Majesty's Consulate and afterwards at St. Mark's Church, Alexandria, Captain G. T. Foster-Smith, R.A.M.C., formerly of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, son of G. Foster-Smith, Esq., of the Ministry of Education, attached H.H. Coast Guard, to Edith Caroline, daughter of the late Charles Anderson, of Newry, County Down, Ireland, and of Mrs. Anderson, of Barnes, London.

DEATH.

BONOMI.—On Christmas morning, at 3, Maxilla Gardens, W., Bella Bonomi, daughter of the late Joseph Bonomi, Egyptologist, of The Camels, Wimbledon Park.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURLY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURLY & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS,

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1916.

THE NEAR EAST IN 1916.

Whatever their achievements elsewhere—and they are by no means inconspicuous—the Allies can only view with chastened mind the course of events in the Near and the Middle East during the past year. It is true that the records of Verdun and the Somme, together with the Russian successes in Galicia and Italian progress in the Carso, dwarf anything that the enemy can lay to his credit for the same period, and that in the war as a whole the year has witnessed the Central Powers reaching the zenith of their military strength and starting with no slight momentum on their downward path; but the reverse of the shield is seen in South-eastern Europe, and it is far from being a satisfactory one. The year 1916 opened gloomily enough for the Allies. Suvla and Anzac had been evacuated, and the preparations for the final withdrawal from Gallipoli were just being completed. On January 8 the curtain was rung down on a great tragedy, in which neither the exploits of the troops nor the success attending the retirement could disguise the extent of the failure. Simultaneously, the enemy was putting the finishing strokes to the conquest of Serbia by overrunning Montenegro, while in Mesopotamia a relief force was being hurriedly equipped—too hurriedly, as the event proved—for the purpose of rescuing General Townshend from his precarious position at Kut, to which he had withdrawn on December 3, after a disastrous attempt to reach Baghdad with a wholly inadequate force. Both the Mesopotamian and the Gallipoli expeditions have become the subjects of special inquiries, and the reports of the Royal Commissions must be awaited before final judgment can be passed upon the manner in which they were planned and executed. In general terms it may be said that lack of co-ordination is written large across the efforts of the Allied Powers in 1916, in regard to both their joint enterprises and the measures they have undertaken individually. Freedom from this failing has given the enemy a strong advantage, of which he has made the fullest use. Nowhere has the driving power with which this concentration of control in German hands has provided the Central Alliance been requisitioned to better purpose than in the Near East. As a part of the system the Triple Alliance was formally reconstituted in April with Turkey in the place of Italy. Bulgaria nominally makes the alliance a quadruple one; but signs are not wanting that the Central Powers are inclined to take her adhesion as a matter of course, without according to her the position of equality in their councils nominally secured by Turkey. The unity of direction centred in Germany's hands cannot be reproduced to the same degree in the case of the Allied Powers; but the defects of the original lack of co-operation have been realised, and not the least cause for satisfaction at the end of the year is the knowledge that at last a determined attempt is being made to overcome the difficulties which have hampered the Great Alliance in the past.

GREECE.

Failure on the part of the Allies to make good in any other sphere turns in the last resort on military limitations. In Greece alone has diplomacy had a free hand, and, regretfully it has to be admitted, it has made very bad use of it. The opening of the year found an Allied force established at Salonika. There can be no doubt that King Constantine was exceedingly annoyed by its presence within his dominions; but whether fear of Germany or love for her was the deter-

mining motive it is not possible to say. Matters were brought to a head when enemy aeroplanes dropped bombs on Salonika on December 30, 1915. The Allies resolved that they could tolerate no longer the equivocal position, with the advantages it offered to enemy spies, and arrested the consular officials of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Greece protested against this action, and against the air-raids on Salonika. At this time there was some reason to suppose that the enemy were feeling their way towards an attempt to expel the Allied troops from Macedonia. In view of this menace it was open to the Entente Governments to regularise their position at Salonika and to come to a full understanding with Greece. The feeling of indignation caused by the bombardment of the port from the air would have proved a useful lever in the negotiations. The Allies, however, appear to have been content to live from hand to mouth in all their dealings with Greece. It was found necessary to take steps from time to time to cope with a changing situation, but as explanations had to follow and could not precede the measures adopted, the cumulative effect upon Greece was inevitably bad. Quite early in the year King Constantine was pouring out his woes to journalistic ears in a way that, it would be thought, might have been avoided, if he had been approached more tactfully by the Allied Governments. By the end of May the situation had gone from bad to worse, and nothing but the most drastic action could have changed the subsequent course of events. The Central Powers had abandoned all ideas of attacking the Allied troops in Macedonia, and were more concerned with preventing them from assuming the offensive. With this end in view the Bulgarians invaded Greek territory. King Constantine and his Ministers were undoubtedly parties to this proceeding. Whether they were by that time wholly committed to Germany or whether they were content to put a spoke in the Allies' wheel by encouraging the other set of belligerents to do what the Anglo-French troops had done may remain an open question. The results were the same, and it was not long before Greece officially set herself to play Germany's game alone. By June 8 the Allies announced that they were taking certain precautionary measures: a mild form of blockade was established, to be relaxed almost immediately, when as a result of a disorderly demonstration against the Entente Legations in Athens, the Skouloudis Government resigned and M. Zaimis became Prime Minister. In spite of his goodwill towards the Allies, the latter made no real headway against the German influence which now guided Greece's policy. A régime of Pull Devil, Pull Baker began, with King Constantine indulging in bluff to his heart's content. The Allies' demand, made in June, for real and complete demobilization was never fully carried out, and by September 2 it became necessary for their executive officer, a French Admiral, to take control of the Greek posts and telegraphs, and to supervise the policing of Athens. The growing dissatisfaction in Greece with the attitude of King Constantine and his advisers found expression in Salonika, where the Greek population decided to cut themselves adrift from Athens. The reply of the military party which now dominated the King and Government was to arrange for the surrender of the Fourth Army Corps, based on Kavalla, to the Bulgarians and Germans. On September 25 M. Venizelos, whose friends had considered it necessary to provide him with a personal bodyguard for some time past, left Athens to place himself at the head of the Salonika Greeks in a National Movement for the liberation of Greek territory from the Bulgarians. The unedifying struggle between the Allies and King Constantine continued, the latter still resorting to a variety of measures, which always stopped short of the practical steps required to bring the military party into line. Towards the middle of October the Allies called upon the Greek Government to hand over the fleet; a month later they decided that the accumulation of troops and war material in Thessaly was a menace to the safety of the Salonika Force, and demanded the surrender, against financial compensation, of a quantity of war material. It was not until the refusal to comply with this request caused

the French Admiral on December 1 to land detachments of bluejackets, who were fired upon as they approached Athens, that the Allies found that it was no longer politic to use velvet gloves in dealing with Greece. A blockade of the Greek coast was established, and after a fortnight's delay demobilization was once more insisted upon: the Greek troops in Thessaly were to be transferred elsewhere, and the Allies were to resume control of the post and telegraph services. There the problem rests for the time being.

ROUMANIA.

If we seem to have laid undue stress on a matter that possesses at the moment little or no military significance, it is because the Allies' dealings with Greece are typical of the whole story of mismanagement in the Balkans, which has so seriously affected the course of the war. Where, as in the case of Roumania, Allied diplomacy has achieved happier results, these have been stultified by the course of military operations. Roumania declared war on Austria-Hungary in the last week of August. She appears to have persuaded herself that she could hope to carry out a campaign in Transylvania without being committed to a struggle with Bulgaria. So little, after two years of warfare, had the Allies appreciated the solidarity of the Central Alliance; or, if they had appreciated it, so lax were they in bringing home to the Roumanian Government a proper conception of the situation. The Roumanian army hurried almost unopposed into Transylvania, and immediately von Mackensen fell upon the Dobruja. Russian assistance, although liberally given, has failed to neutralize Roumania's mistakes. The enemy has overrun Wallachia and the Dobruja, is in possession of Bucharest, and threatens the great grain port of Braila. But the Roumanian army remains intact, the spirit of Roumania undaunted, and the Allies are at one in their confidence in the ultimate victory which is to bring for Roumania as well as for Serbia, Montenegro, and Belgium complete rehabilitation and the fulfilment of their national aspirations.

EGYPT AND ARABIA.

Among the countries which fall within the purview of these pages Egypt alone can look back upon the past year with any considerable degree of satisfaction. January saw in progress the first steps for the settlement of the unrest on the western border. Two months after the occupation of Mersa Matruh, Sollum was recaptured (March 14), and peace was restored. Further south the Sultan of Darfur had shown that he, too, had fallen a victim to Turco-German intrigue. In March a punitive expedition was despatched from the Sudan. On May 23 it routed Ali Dinar's forces twelve miles from his capital, El Fasher, which was immediately occupied. The end of the chapter was reached in November when the fugitive ex-Sultan was once more engaged, and the next day was found to have met his death. Darfur is now incorporated in the Sudan. On the eastern frontier the policy of waiting behind the Suez Canal for Turkish attacks was abandoned at the beginning of the year. Katia and Jifjaffa were occupied in April, just in time to meet a Turkish attack which achieved some measure of success. It was clear that the defences of Egypt were not yet perfect; but no time was lost in making good the defects. When the enemy launched a far more serious attack on the Canal on August 4 it was, we may infer, for the last time. He was decisively routed, and by the end of the year the tables were turned. The capture of El Arish by British troops on December 21 and the defeat of a Turkish force at Maghdaba two days later mark, we may hope, the conclusion of the Turkish occupation of the Sinai Peninsula. Politically and economically Egypt has a no less satisfactory record for the past year. German intrigue has been scotched, and the German grip on Egyptian trade has been practically eliminated. Nothing has occurred to impair the hold that Sultan Hussein has established on the affections of the people, while the resumption of the Mecca pilgrimage, which was carried out under the most favourable conditions, provided an object-lesson to the pilgrims of the advantages accruing to another

country from being rid of Turkish suzerainty. For it was only on June 9 that the Grand Shereef of Mecca raised the standard of revolt against the Turkish Government. Trouble had been brewing for several years between the Constantinople authorities and the Arabs, who seem to have entertained from the outset the gravest misgivings in regard to the intentions of the Young Turks. Early in 1916 Enver Pasha had paid a hurried visit to the Hejaz, and the fact that official accounts of the tour laid special stress on the good feeling between Turks and Arabs justifies the supposition that his purpose was to allay the fears raised by the attempts to "turkify" Arabia. A few months later the Grand Shereef felt strong enough to declare his independence. Mecca and Jeddah made short work of their Turkish garrisons, and Medina and Taif were invested. The latter has been captured, but the Turks were able to throw reinforcements into Medina and still hold the town for the Sultan.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

In the Middle East the outstanding feature of the year has been the Russian advance into Armenia. The Turks were completely taken by surprise, with the result that Erzeroum fell, after five days' fighting, on February 15, within a few weeks of the first encounter on the frontier. On March 2 Bitlis, to the south, was captured in a snowstorm, and, pressing on westwards from Erzeroum, the Russians entered Ashkala a fortnight later. In the more difficult country along the coast progress was slower, but Trebizond fell on April 18, four days after the murder of von der Goltz Pasha, the German Generalissimo in Asia Minor, supplied an earnest of what the relations between the Germans and Turks are likely to be when once the fortunes of war set irrevocably against the Central Powers and their vassals. Appreciating the need for stemming the Russian advance, the Turks, under German direction, launched a counter-attack, selecting the country south-west of Erzeroum for their main effort with a view to threatening the Russian lines of communication. Our Allies were still able to press on to Erzincan, but at this point the menace from the south demanded special attention. Early in August Mush and Bitlis were evacuated by the Russians, the former to be reoccupied eighteen days later. The latter months of the year have produced little change in the situation; the Turkish offensive soon spent itself, and the Russians have not been in a position to follow up their advantages with any general advance.

Before the Grand Duke Nicholas started his offensive from the Caucasus Turco-German intrigue had enjoyed a free hand in Persia. The ground having been carefully prepared, a Turkish force, largely composed of irregulars, crossed the frontier and occupied Kerman-shah early in January. From that point bands penetrated into the interior, necessitating wide sweeping movements on the part of the Russians when the Caucasus advance began. The Turks, however, were driven back to the frontier at Kasr-i-Shirin by May 10. On April 25, after three months spent by the Relief Expedition in a vain attempt to reach Kut, General Townshend had surrendered. The temporary collapse of the Mesopotamia Expedition enabled the Turks to strengthen the forces opposed to the Russians. At no time in any great numbers, the latter found themselves outnumbered, and began a withdrawal which ultimately extended to some distance beyond Hamadan. The arrival of General Sir Percy Sykes at Kerman on June 12, on a mission for the creation of a new gendarmerie, was a landmark in the history of Southern Persia. It failed, however, to exercise any influence on the course of events in the North, and only towards the end of the year have the Russians been able to drive the enemy slowly back towards his frontier. Although Persia may not yet be clear of Turkish marauding bands, the heyday of Turco-German intrigue has passed. An understanding has been reached between Russia, Great Britain, and the Persian Government which is of good augury for the future of the country, and success for the British arms in Mesopotamia must quickly bring about a collapse of the Turkish movement in Persia.

The Mesopotamia Expedition resumed the offensive in the second week of December, and ought shortly to be once more in Kut. Its future operations will serve a double purpose. They will re-establish British prestige in the eyes of the Arab world in Mesopotamia, and will leave Persia free to enter upon a long-delayed era of reorganization.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Prisoners of the Turk.

December 21.

Mr. J. F. HOPE informed Mr. Stewart that the Government had information that the condition of the Turkish prison camps at Kastamouni and other places where British prisoners were confined was most unsatisfactory, and that parcels sent to prisoners at Kastamouni had not reached them. The Government were making every effort, through the United States Embassy, to ameliorate the lot of the prisoners.

The Ultimatum to Greece.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether an ultimatum had been delivered to King Constantine of Greece, or whether the communication was one of a series of Notes; and whether, if it was an ultimatum, steps would be taken, on the expiry of the allotted time, to recognise M. Venizelos and to extend his government to the whole of Greece.

Lord R. CECIL: No ultimatum has been delivered to the Greek Government beyond that accepted by them on the 14th inst.

Mr. LYNCH: Has that been followed by any definite action according to the terms of the Allied Note?

Lord R. CECIL: Yes, sir; so far as the Government are aware, the ultimatum is being carried out.

Armenian Atrocities.

Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. A. Williams that the Government had lately received information from a reliable source giving detailed evidence that systematic cruelties and outrages had been inflicted on masses of Armenians deported from their homes. The report showed that the Turkish officials had had recourse to various methods in order to exterminate these poor people by deliberate exposure to infectious disease, by famine, by forced marches of old men, women, and children, and by the massacre of labourers on charges of insubordination.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR: Can the noble lord say whether there have been any remonstrances from Germany against these atrocities?

Lord R. CECIL: So far as I know, there have not been remonstrances of any sort or kind by the German Government, who undoubtedly could have stopped these outrages if they had chosen.

The Situation in Greece.

December 22.

Mr. RONALD McNEILL asked whether the withdrawal of the Royalist troops from Thessaly, in accordance with the Note accepted by King Constantine, implied that the troops and authority of M. Venizelos would be allowed to extend to places now evacuated south of the neutral zone.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: No; the object of insisting on the withdrawal of troops from Thessaly and Epirus is to protect the rear and flank of the Allied Forces from the possibility of attack by such troops.

Mr. R. McNEILL: Does the decision to recognise the agents of Venizelos, announced by the Prime Minister, imply full and official recognition by the Allies of the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos at Salonika?

Lord R. CECIL: I am not quite sure what is meant by the "full and official recognition of the Provisional Government." We recognise that it is, in fact, a Government where its authority is established, and we have agreed to receive the agents of M. Venizelos and discuss with them affairs of interest to us both. At the moment I do not know what more we can do.

Mr. McNEILL: Does the noble lord mean by that that we recognise two Governments in Greece, thus continuing the policy of the Athanasian Creed?

Lord R. CECIL: I cannot compete in Biblical knowledge with my hon. friend, but as to the substance of his question, I do not think it is at all unusual to recognise two Governments in a country. For instance, in the North and South war in America there was recognition both of the North and of the South.

Mr. McNEILL: Yet the noble lord says there is only one Government in Greece.

Mr. PRINGLE: Are we to understand that the Government do not recognise that M. Venizelos is acting on behalf of the King?

Lord R. CECIL: It would be rash to recognise that he was acting on behalf of the King.

Mr. PRINGLE: Is not that what the noble lord once said?

Lord R. CECIL: No, sir.

Mr. R. McNEILL asked whether the fact that we were in diplomatic relations with M. Venizelos would make any material change in the situation in Greece.

Lord R. CECIL said he was glad the question had been asked. It was one of the advantages of the new arrangement, by which we received agents of a diplomatic character from M. Venizelos, that we should be able to discuss with them the exact position the Venizelos Government holds in Northern Greece.

Mr. LYNCH: Will the noble lord inform the House whether the dilatory and dangerous policy in Greece is moulded by dynastic reasons?

Lord R. CECIL: I have told the hon. member in the House several times that that insinuation is a very cowardly insinuation to make, and absolutely untrue.

Mr. LYNCH wished, "on a point of order," to make "a personal explanation to repel the charge of cowardice," but the Speaker ruled that he was not entitled "to make a personal explanation which repeats the offence."

Our Roumanian Allies.

Mr. KING asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether our Roumanian Allies were being supported in their defence of their country by the financial and material aid of this country and its other Allies; and whether he could, without prejudice to Allied interests, make a statement concerning this matter.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I think it would not be in the public interest to make any further statement.

Mr. HOUSTON asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs what quantity of wheat and other cereals were purchased by our Government in Roumania, the price paid, when payment was made and in what form, and what had become of the cereals.

Lord R. CECIL: I am not prepared, in the public interests, to make an answer to the question.

Mr. HOUSTON: Is the noble lord aware that the Kaiser has declared that German troops are being fed on food bought by England?

Lord R. CECIL: I have already intimated to the hon. member that it is inadvisable that this question should be answered.

PRO-GERMANS IN ATHENS.

Reuter's Agency reports that according to telegrams received by the Anglo-Hellenic League from Salonika, the continued concentration of troops at Larissa and Pharsala is exciting much comment. At the same time M. Gounaris, the ex-Prime Minister and leader of the Germanophile party in Athens, has been delivering at Larissa very violent speeches against the Entente, and urging the population to rise in arms "in defence of King Constantine, whose life is in danger."

The Athenian papers are full of similar language, extolling the "happy victory of December the First." The *Emvros* openly declares that if the blockade continues Greece must extricate herself from her difficulties by taking arms for Germany and Bulgaria in defence of King Constantine.

Arrests continue, particular attention being paid to the learned professions, the educated classes having been naturally attracted by the ideals of M. Venizelos. A number of ladies whose husbands have succeeded in escaping from Athens have now been interned.

Among the Serbian boys in England there are several who, although very young, have taken part in the war. These are now in Great Britain only as convalescents. One of those boys died on December 3 at the St. Andrew's Hospital in South Hayling. His name was Milan Papitch. His entrance into the war and his death are worth recording. He was born in Herzegovina, and before the war attended the fifth class of the Lycee in Mostar. As soon as the war broke out, he fled to Serbia with a school-fellow and joined the Serbian Army. During the whole of the war he heroically fought against the Austrians. In the last battles fought by the Serbs in their retreat, Papitch was severely wounded. Worn out and broken down by his wound, he could not recover. He was buried on December 6 in the cemetery of South Hayling according to the Orthodox rite. The Serbian Minister, M. Jovan Jovanovitch, was present at the funeral.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Gallimard, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepheard's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacam-ulli and Company, 12, Rue Sossatri; Librairie Calabotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SYRANIA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vañades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vañades.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Socec and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Russia and Constantinople.

In his notes upon "Foreign Affairs" in the *New Age* (December 14) S. Verdad declares that, "no matter what Power has the Dardanelles, the Straits will be fortified; and the internationalisation theory would break down hopelessly in practice." He then proceeds to show why it is in our interest to substitute Russian control of the Straits for Turco-German. "After the war," he writes, "it may be said Russian interests may conflict with ours," and he admits that the objection is a practical one. But it is easy to answer:—

In the latter part of the last century Russia was feared because of the danger to India. But if Russia had the Dardanelles given and guaranteed to her by "literal possession"—the precise contrary of the *Nation's* recommendation—her thoughts, commerce, interests, and sentiments would inevitably flow towards Asia Minor and away from India and Persia. Further, the cynical saying of the late Lord Salisbury must be remembered, namely, that it would be to our advantage to see Russia in Constantinople, as the Germans would spend the next hundred years in trying to get her out again if she were once established there. This is plain; transparently clear since the agitation about "Central Europe." But a Russia threatened by Germany at Constantinople would necessarily be a Russia driven to depend upon England and France; and a Germany menaced by Russian influence in the Balkans, thanks to the possession of Constantinople, would be a Germany with little time to spare for renewing a campaign against the British Empire. And this bond of interest common to ourselves and to Russia would considerably assist in maintaining the Grand Alliance after the war. Above all, Russia's possession of Constantinople ensures the fulfilment of one of our own aims in the war—the destruction of German militarism through the severance of connections in war time between the Central Empires and the Baghdad Railway.

The Kaiser and Enver.

In the *Daily Telegraph's* leading article on the Armenian massacres, which we quoted last week, the subservience of the "Young Turks" to their German taskmasters, and their utter failure to do good to anybody but themselves, is well brought out. The passage, which follows immediately after the reference to the alliance between the Kaiser, Enver, and Talaat, is as follows:

The German Emperor impersonates an exaggerated ideal of military discipline, and yet he thought it right to work in harmony with Enver, a military adventurer who some two years ago was notorious for having consented to the death of his own Commander-in-Chief, Nazi Pasha. Of course, the truth is that in these and other matters the fate of Turkey has passed from the control of the Turk, and is being decided by a cabal or clique of revolutionaries and infidels, in whose hands the Sultan is a merely helpless tool. The Committee of Union and Progress, it may be remembered, was largely supported at its inception by many honest politicians, who entirely mistook its real principles and its use of certain claptrap phrases borrowed from French Jacobins and modern democratic theorists. The Committee tried to persuade the world that they were reforming the Ottoman dominions. We now know that, so far from doing anything to heal the disorders of their country, they only succeeded in aggravating them, and have done their best to bring about a reign of terror more tremendous than anything conceived by Abdul Hamid.

The *Manchester Guardian* (December 15) also dealt with the subject of the massacres in a leading article, "Turkey and Armenia." The substance of the Blue Book, it says, "is perhaps the most terrible tragedy ever set forth in a Government publication"; and the article concludes:—

Political depravity or incapacity has never had such horrible results to show. The lesson is so clear as to be outside contention. Whatever virtues the Turk may have he is absolutely unfit to govern anyone but himself. His crimes have nothing whatever to do with religion. They are the product of sheer political depravity which cannot be cured. A war for liberty which left Turkey as an Imperial Power would be a satire on itself.

It is at least satisfactory to find it acknowledged that these horrible crimes are not due to religious differences, as has been only too often stated in the past.

Progress in Egypt.

On December 19 *The Times* published an article, "Egypt Within the Empire," by its Cairo correspondent. The writer refers to the defeat of the Turks on the Suez Canal and of the Senussi in the west; and declares that the internal political position, too, is very much improved. The Sultan has united the people in

love and respect for him, and "continues to endear himself to them by many acts of charity and kindness." The article continues:—

The year has, moreover, been marked by an event of great importance to the Moslem majority, whose religious desires have been accorded full satisfaction through the carrying out of the Mecca pilgrimage, which had had to be stopped on the outbreak of the war. The decision to permit the pilgrimage this year has afforded the Moslem world a unique opportunity for contrasting the terrible state of affairs which reigned when the Turks were supreme in the Holy Places with the peaceful conditions amid which this year's pilgrimage took place.

Economically and commercially, the position is more satisfactory than a year ago, says the writer. And he concludes:—

From every standpoint, therefore, the situation of Egypt has greatly improved as compared with that which existed a year ago. The people are happy and contented, and the machinery of government is running smoothly. In such circumstances Sir Reginald Wingate, the new High Commissioner, comes to a very different Egypt from that which confronted his predecessor when he took up office in January, 1915. There lie before him, of course, many new problems of great importance requiring delicate handling; but half the battle has been won by the creation throughout the country of a feeling of contentment with the British régime.

Turkey's Fidelity.

On Wednesday the military correspondent of the *Morning Post* considered our position in Egypt from the military point of view. After reviewing the recent successful operations at El Arish and Maghdaba he went on to say:—

Unfortunately, our position in Egypt is essentially defensive, for it offers no opportunity for offensive action, except, possibly, for raids which might cause the enemy some annoyance. Also, unfortunately, it locks up a force of some magnitude, which remains in idleness so far as the greater issues are directly concerned. These, however, are drawbacks inherent in the conditions of our world-wide Empire, of which the Suez Canal—described by von Moltke as the "neck of the British Empire"—is a main line of communication. The force in Egypt occupies a strategic position not merely important, but indispensable, in relation to the war, and those who complain that it is wasted, or needlessly large, hardly grasp the full significance of the situation. And, although unfavourably placed for offensive action, its recent strokes in the neighbourhood of the Syrian frontier, which have closely followed General Maude's new move on the Tigris, are not likely to be reassuring to the Turks, who were to find in Egypt the reward for their devotion to the Germanic cause. Of the four partners in the Teutonic adventure they have prospered least, for they have to reckon big losses and no compensating gains. One wonders why the Turks should show such staunch fidelity; and, if they thought out the pros and cons of the matter, they would, perhaps, wonder themselves.

Excavations at Babylon.

Under the heading "A Day at Babylon," Mr. Lewis R. Freeman describes in the *Contemporary Review* (December) a visit he paid to the German excavations at Hilla. The following is his account of the inception of the expedition and its methods of work. It is based on what he was told by one of the excavators, Dr. Wetzel, as they went over the ruins:—

Then I learned that the mission, which owed its inception largely to the efforts of the Emperor William, had come out to Mesopotamia in 1899, Dr. Koldewey having been in charge from the first. Work was started on a large but only slightly explored series of mounds on the old channel of the Euphrates, above Hilla, from which the brick to build the latter town had been quarried, and from which, also, much of the material for a comparatively useless barrage at Hindia had been taken by the Turks. At the time nothing definite was known as to what ruins the mounds really were, but the fact that all of the quarried bricks bore the name of Nebuchadnezzar stamped upon them in archaic cuneiform had led to the belief that the heart of the most opulent of the ancient civilizations may have been at that point. Work had been prosecuted, as was explained to me at Baghdad, with the idea of revealing all that was hidden, and before many

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

years had gone by not only had the identity of the ruins been established beyond question, but a series of tablets was also discovered, the translation of which cleared away the mists of doubt which have always obscured many of the most striking events told of in the Old Testament, notably the Deluge. Other tablets turned out to be the "books" of a great Babylonian banking institution, others told of remarkable social and economic conditions hitherto unguessed, while others proved to be architectural records of such accuracy as to be of the greatest help in prosecuting further exploration. Now, after a dozen years of interrupted work (it had hitherto been the custom for archaeological missions in this part of the world to push operations only in the cool winter months) nearly all the salient objects of the Biblical and Grecian descriptions of Babylon stood revealed beyond a doubt, and as Dr. Wetzel led me here and there through the uncovered ruins he spoke of this and that feature of interest with the easy assurance of a Cook's guide in Rome or Paris.

The statement that other excavators worked only in the cool months is incorrect. The Americans at Nippur worked throughout the summer for several years.

From Bucharest to Jassy."

The following passages are taken from an article with the above title which appears in the *Independent* (New York) of December 4. The writer has been pointing out that the fortifications of Bucharest, though formerly considered impregnable, have been rendered untenable by the development of the big gun. He continues:—

There was, then, good reason for the removal of the Government from Bucharest to its ancient rival, Jassy. The modern Roumania owes its elbow shape to the fact that it was formed by the union of two countries, Moldavia and Wallachia. Bucharest was the capital of Wallachia, and Jassy was the capital of Moldavia. When the two were united in 1861 the National Assembly decided to make Bucharest the capital of the new nation, and voted that \$700,000 be paid to Jassy in compensation of her lost prestige. But the Roumanian Government has never been very particular about promises, and the money has never been paid. The change in capital really means that Wallachia has passed into the control of the enemy, but that there is still hope of saving Moldavia.

Russia has come to the rescue, but four months after she promised to, and four months is a long time to lose when wars are speeded up as they are now. Roumania was wary of entering the war. She held off for two years, with both sides bidding for her support. The Allies were the more generous in their offer of enemy territory, and finally Roumania agreed to join them on condition of getting Transylvania, the Banat, and the Bukovina. But she insisted upon one precaution: the Allies should promise that, simultaneously with her attack on Hungary, the Russians should attack Bulgaria from the north, and the French and British from the south. With this assurance of aid, Roumania invaded Hungary the last of August. But December is now well along, and neither the northern nor the southern frontier of Bulgaria has yet been reached by the forces of the Allies.

All in good time!

Germany's Eastern "Allies."

In a leading article, "The Allies of Germany," the *Morning Post* (December 22) remarks that the proposal to discuss terms of peace apparently emanated from Austria-Hungary, and adds: "It is also possible that Bulgaria desires peace ere worse befall." The article continues:—

The fact is that Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire have to all appearance more to lose by a German victory than by a German defeat, and certainly more to lose by a German victory than by a peace secured on almost any terms. For the main object of Germany in preparing and making war was to obtain predominance in the East. Between Germany and her coveted gains lie the territories of her Allies; and unless they were reduced to a complete submission to German aims they must obstruct her path. Perceiving that contingency, Germany devised what is called the Mittel-Europa scheme, which in effect consisted of a plan to pool the resources of the Central Empires in the interests of Germany, which retained the controlling influence. The result would have been an extremely powerful combination, which would or might have conferred great material prosperity upon its members. But it would also have involved the cession to Germany by the other partners of their economic independence, and therefore in fact of their national independence. The German Empire would have virtually included Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Roumania, and no doubt it would have been exceedingly well organized. But

there is such a thing as a spirit of national independence, and the enterprise failed. The offer was refused for the time being, though it is far from being altogether rejected. The German plan was in the nature of a compromise, and as it failed of acceptance in the event of a German victory the present Allies of Germany would still obstruct her path eastward, inasmuch as they retain their national independence and their national aspirations.

The writer says truly that "the prospects of neither Bulgaria nor Turkey seem particularly inviting, even if the German triumph were complete." And he concludes: "It seems that alliance with Germany is a costly business. The world-conqueror brooks no rivals and acknowledges no equals. If Germany is driven to ruin she will take care that her friends go down with her."

Another Macedonian Victim.

The following passage is taken from an interesting short article, "Nature Studies in Macedonia," contributed to the *Hospital* (December 16) by an officer of the R.A.M.C. The writer refers apparently to an incident—a very minor incident—in the fighting in the Struma Valley:—

During the battle of September 15 I was surprised to see two hawks of a large size and chestnut colour, with yellow beaks and a white band of feathers at the root of the tail, serenely hawking about over the crops not 400 yards behind a line on which we had several batteries in action. They took no heed at all of the report of our guns, nor of the sounds of the bursts of the shells sent in reply by the enemy. I watched them work over the same area for over an hour. I cannot name the species. Later I moved my position and passed by a heavy gun hidden in the plain. Close by it I saw a bird fluttering curiously on the ground. I went to pick it up and saw it was a crested lark, common here, and similar to, if not identical with, the English lark. It had no wing or leg broken, yet it could neither run nor fly, but fluttered and pushed with its legs along the ground rapidly on an erratic course, much as a partridge shot through the brain will flutter. Yet it appeared to be conscious, for it seemed to make progressive efforts to escape me. I caught it and examined it. I could see no injury. One of the gun team told me he thought it had been knocked over by the blast of the explosion of the gun. I think he was right.

SERBIA'S NEED.

According to the arrangements made between the Serbian Relief Fund and the Serbian Legation in London, the work of collecting funds in Great Britain for the Serbs is divided so that the Legation will administer in future the following two funds:—

1. The Fund of the Serbian Red Cross Society, which will have no other representative in Great Britain except the Legation.
2. The Fund for Serbian Distress in the War at the disposal of the Serbian Minister in London, from which help will be sent where it is the most urgently needed.

The Serbian Relief Fund (5, Cromwell Road, S.W.), which works independently of the Legation under a British Executive Committee, administers now, in addition to their former funds, a Fund for the education of Serbian boys in England, and a Fund for the Serbian orphans (St. Helen's Fund).

The donations sent to the Legation will be acknowledged by the Serbian Minister in London, who will keep his Government informed.

To avoid all misunderstanding, donors are requested to mark clearly for which of the two funds the subscription is destined, and to address envelopes to the Serbian Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.

The Legation will be thankful for all donations, and will be pleased to answer all inquiries with regard to the Funds.

Under date of December 27, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—A telegram from Sofia states: "The Bulgarian Minister at Berne, M. Radeff, has been instructed to hand to-day (December 27) to the Swiss Federal Council the Bulgarian Government's reply to the Swiss Government's Note regarding peace. The reply is identical with those given by the other Powers of the Quadruple Alliance. The reply to the United States Note has been delayed because, for technical reasons, the United States Representative in Sofia has not yet communicated the Note to the Bulgarian Government."

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.
General Managers.

THE NEW ARMENIA

A LITERARY AND POLITICAL PERIODICAL.

THE NEW ARMENIA, published semi-monthly, is the only English Periodical in America for those who are interested in Armenian life and letters; and for all devotees of justice who believe, with the late Gladstone, that "to serve Armenia is to serve civilisation."

Agents in London: "The Near East" Office.

Yearly Subscription, \$2.00 in advance. Foreign countries, \$2.50.

THE NEW ARMENIA, 618, BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of British residents in the Near East, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from the Near East whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

- AITKEN, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Holly Bank, Dalry, Ayrshire, N.B.
- ALDERSON, Mr. and Mrs. W. J., Lloyd's Agency, 17, Battery Place, New York
- ALDOUS, A. H., Banbury Road, Brockley, Northants.
- ANDERSON, J. H., and family, 114, Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin; or c/o Gill and Cook, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.
- ANDREWS, H. L., care of Crédit Lyonnais, Lombard Street, E.C.
- ARLAUD, J. A., C.S., 63, Guilford Street, W.C.
- ATEKINSON, Bombardier G. M., R.F.A.
- BAKER, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, 5, Giltspur Street, E.C.
- BAKER, Miss Dorothy, 5, Giltspur Street, E.C.
- BARFF, Mrs. Edward D., and daughter, 20, Hereford Square, S. Kensington, W.
- BARNHAM, Henry D., C.M.G., Francis Hotel, Bennet Street, Bath.
- BIRWELL, Mr. and Mrs. M. E., 38, Edwards Road, Erdington.
- BRAUMONT, H. D., British Embassy, Rome.
- BELL, Mrs. H. J., 71, Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W., or care of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., Parliament St., S.W.
- BENNETT, A. A., 11, Basford Bank, Stoke-on-Trent.
- BENNETT, Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor, 1, Halton Road, Wallasey, Cheshire.
- BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, 4, Woodland Villas, Muswell Hill, N.
- BINNS, Miss Hilda, Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham.
- BINNS, Lieut. H. H., on Active Service.
- BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G., 4, Woodland Villas, Muswell Hill, N.
- BINNS, Mrs. Walter, 7, Ferndale Road, Hoylake, Cheshire.
- BINNS, Lieut. W. Hyton, c/o British Consul, Brindisi.
- BINNS, Mrs. W. Hyton, 13, Rue de la Grange Batelière, Paris.
- BINNS, Mrs. C. E., Pond Farm, Old Malden, Surrey.
- BIRD, A. E. C., c/o Messrs. Henderson and Co., 4a, Odos Xenophontos, Athens.
- BLAIR, Charles, and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
- BOND, Miss, 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
- BOND, Mrs. R. M., and daughters, Laurel Dene, Northallerton.
- BOND, A. W., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
- BOND, Miss E. G., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
- BOND, Miss H. V., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
- BOND, Miss I. A., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
- BOND, Mrs. E., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
- BOND, Mrs. J. J., and daughter, 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
- BOND, Stephen J., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
- BOND, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine, and family, 46, Gordon Road, Cardiff.
- BOROUGH, Rev. Roland, Breadsall, near Derby.
- BOWMAN, Joseph, and family, 6, Crewdson Road, Brixton, S.W.
- BOYD, W., 22, Charles Street, Wigan.
- BRISTOCK, Dr. and Mrs. P. W., C.M.S. Hospital, Old Cairo, Egypt.
- BROOK, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, 46, Savile Road, Dewsbury.
- BROOKS, W. W., Greenock, N.B.
- BROOKS, Mrs. W. W., and daughter, Hotel Metropole, Athens.
- BROWN, Canon J. Carnegie, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields.
- BROWNLOW, Miss F. A., 8, Homefield Road, Wimbledon.
- BURROUGH, Rev. Howard C., and family, 5, Rue des Protestants, Tunis, N. Africa.
- CAMPBELL, J. L., c/o Barnes, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Pireus, Greece.
- CAMPBELL, Mr. J. L., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
- CAMPBELL, R. J., 73, Odos Nikis, Salonica.
- CAMPBELL, W. Gordon, care of Standard Oil Co. of New York, Salonica.
- CAMPBELL, Mrs. R. J., Sea View, Fleet, Hants.
- CANAN, Julian, 17, Via Ariosto, Milan.
- CARPENTER, Rev. F., Rushington, Braywick Road, Maidenhead.
- CATONI, A., care of Lloyd's Agency, Larnaca, Cyprus.
- CATOR, Judge and Mrs., Carlton Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt.
- CEVAT, A. Edgar, care of British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott.
- CHALMERS, D., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
- CHALMERS, Mrs. D., jun., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
- CHARNAUD, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B., 7, Arnyll Mansions, Chichele Road, Cricklewood, N.W.
- CHARTERS, Miss, Elmwood, Harrogate.
- CHISNELL, George A., Salonica, Greece.
- CLARK, Miss Jeannette Griffith, The Hutch, Shepherd Road, Watford, Herts.
- CLEWOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.
- COLS, Donald A., M.D., c/o Lloyd's Bank, 72, Lombard Street, E.C.
- COLLER, Miss Evelyn, Seabank Road, Liscard, Cheshire.
- COMBER, Mrs. F., Hartford Cottage, Parkgate, Cheshire.
- COMBER, F., 55, Avenue Alexandre le Grand, Alexandria, Egypt.
- COOK, H., Tower Bungalow, Tankerville Drive, Leigh-on-Sea.
- COOK, Mr. John A., Grand Hotel Princess Sophie, Athens.
- COWE, Alexander W., c/o British Legation, Athens.
- CRAWFORD, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, 13, Melrose Avenue, Hoylake, Cheshire.
- CRAWFORD, Sir Richard, British Embassy, Washington, U.S.A.
- CUMBERBATCH, A. H., care of Messrs. T. Bowen Rees and Co., Ltd., 34, Rue du Stade, Athens, Greece, and Hotel Majestic, Athens.
- CUMBERBATCH, Cyril J., Esq., British Legation, Athens.
- CUMBERBATCH, H. A., C.M.G., Foreign Office, S.W.; or 30, Braham Gardens, Earl's Court, S.W.
- CUMBERBATCH, Mr. and Mrs. A. H., Odessa.
- CUMBERBATCH, Miss Lillian, c/o Mrs. J. Gilbert, Manor Lodge, Egham, Surrey.
- CUMING, Mrs. J. B., "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
- CUMING, Miss M. Constance, "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
- DASTON, John Philip, War Office Postal Censorship, Strand House, Portugal Street, Kingsway, W.C.
- DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., R.F.A.
- DEAN, Mr. and Mrs. S. Gregory, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
- DEVRY, G. P., 48, Kedcliffe Gardens, S.W.
- DOLKEA, A., Woodham Grange, Byfleet, Surrey.
- DOUGLAS-WATSON, F. (General Manager, Constantinople Telephone Company), 27, Derby Street, Glasgow.
- DRAKE, Albert, c/o Messrs. Fisher, Fox, and Co., Bradford.
- EDWARDS, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Middleton, 4, Fellows Road, S. Hampstead, N.W. Tel., Hampstead 3638.
- EDWARDS, Mrs. Charles Reade, Pond Farm, Old Malden, Surrey.
- EDWARDS, Miss Vivian, 5, Giltspur Street, E.C.
- ELDRIDGE, E., Foreign Office, S.W.
- ELLIOTT, C. F. J., Chief Officer, No. 1 Munition Stores, Birmingham.
- ELLIOTT, Mrs. C. F. J., and family, 19, Greenfield Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
- ELLIS, Mr. and Mrs. F. T., care of Church Missionary Society, Salisbury Square, E.C.
- ELWELL, J., 5, Lancaster Park, Harrogate.
- EYRES, H. C. A., Foreign Office, S.W.
- FARRELL, Miss G. M., 81, Birkbeck Avenue, Acton, W.
- FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
- FERGUSON, F., Postmaster, Croydon.
- FORBES, Mr. and Mrs. D., Hyde Park Hotel, S.W.
- FULLER, W. E., 12, Elmfield Mansions, Elmfield Road, Balham, S.W.
- GANDON, Mrs. J., Derrybaum, Mayow Road, Sydenham.
- GEERE, Miss Ada, 62, West Kensington Mansions, West Kensington, S.W.
- GERBAULT, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, 13, Rue de la Grange, Batelière, Paris.
- GILCHRIST, Mr. and Mrs. Gavin, Waldon Rise, Bude, Cornwall.
- GINGELL, W. F., and family, 93, South Side, Clapham Common, S.W.
- GOODWIN, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., 10, Drayton Court, Drayton Gardens, S.W.
- GORDON, Mrs. and family, Alexandria.
- GOUT, Edgar, British Consulate, Cairo, Egypt.
- GOUT, Mrs. Edgar, 6, Downe Mansions, Condar Gardens, West Hampstead, N.W.
- GOYARD, Mrs., Ladies of Slon, Chepstow Villas, Kensington, W.
- GRAHAM, Miss S. J., 43, Lythos Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
- GRAVES, Philip, c/o Grasham House Pension, Cairo.
- GRAVES, Mrs. Philip, 5, Killerton Road, Bude, Cornwall.
- GREENWOOD, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P., at Avenue Cottage, Rainhill, Lancs.
- GURST, W., c/o Etablissements Oradi Back, Cairo.
- HABAKUK, William, c/o The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 1, Flusbury Circus, E.C.
- HACK, Charles, St. James's Hotel, Valetta, Malta.
- HALLIFAX, Commander G. W., R.N., Kingsland House, Shawford, Hants.
- HAMSON, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E., 10, Linden Gardens, Bayswater.
- HAMSON, Mrs. Annie and daughter, 10, Linden Gardens, Bayswater.
- HANNAH, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J., 320, Stanstead Road, Catford, S.E.
- HANNINGTON, Dr. and Mrs., Glasgow Medical Mission, 113, Moncur Street, Bain Square, Glasgow.
- HARDMAN, Mr. and Mrs. L. H., Tudor House, Newington Green, N.
- HARTY, H. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
- HARTLEY, Henry J., 56, Wood View, Bradford.
- HARVEY, E., 46, South Quay, Great Yarmouth.
- HAYDEN, A. J., Claremont Cottage, West End, Esher, Surrey.
- HEATHCOTE-SMITH, C. E., H.B.M. Vice-Consul, Mity-Jene.
- HEATHCOTE-SMITH, Mrs., Mitylene, Greece.
- HENSMAN, R., Fairlawn, Haven Green, Ealing, W.
- HENSMAN, Mrs. E. G., Fairlawn, Haven Green, Ealing, W.
- HIGHTON, Mrs., Seaton Cottage, The Common, Gerard's Cross.
- HILL, A. A., and family, No. 1, Prince's Square, Bayswater, W.
- HOYT, Miss Gladys E., 85, Heath Street, Hampstead, N.W.
- HOOGEN, Miss E., Tudor Hall School, Chislehurst, Kent.
- HOLMES, Mr. and Mrs. Charles, and family, 28, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.
- HUGHES, Mr. and Mrs. Richard, Haulfryn, Bettws-y-Coed.
- IRLAND, D., and family, 29, Bonneville Gardens, Clapham Park, S.W.
- JACKSON, A. H., Netherlands, St. James's Park, Harrogate.
- JAMIESON, J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
- JOHNSON, Dr. F., "Pelhurst," Cypress Road, Newport, I. of W.
- JONES, E. Bird, and family, 2, Grove Road, Hoylake.
- JONES, Mr. and Mrs. W. J., 9, Morrab Terrace, Penzance.
- KERNEY, Henry P., 146, Tritonville Road, Dublin.
- KRY, W. H. M., M.D., c/o Messrs. Coutts and Co., London, W.C.
- KEYSER, Mrs. Edward and family, 16, Richmond Mansions, Earl's Court, South Kensington, S.W.
- KINGHAM, Mr. and Mrs. H. P., Kupert Place, Hemyey.
- LA FONTAINE, Miss Kathleen, 1, Prince's Square, Kensington.
- LA FONTAINE, Miss Edith F., 35, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, N.W.
- LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L., 6, Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
- LA FONTAINE, Mrs. Percy C., Princess Club Hospital, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.
- LA FONTAINE, Richard, H.M.'s Legation, Athens.
- LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney, 10, Nottingham Place, W.
- LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred, H.M.'s Legation, Athens.
- LA FONTAINE, Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R.
- LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. E. L.
- LAKE, O., Bristol Terrace, Brynamman, near Swansea.
- LA PAGE, Eng. Lieut. R.N., and Mrs. G. W., care of Dr. Morgan Rees, Benton House, Whitechurch, near Cardiff.
- LORIMER, Mr. and Mrs. D., Majestic Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
- LORIMER, Corp. David, A.S.C., on active service.
- LORIMER, Sub-Lieut. J. A. R.N.V.R., on active service.
- LYSTER, Alfred J., Kerry House, 46, Auriol Road, West Kensington, W.
- LYSTER, Miss Edythe, Kerry House, 46, Auriol Road, West Kensington, W.
- LYSTER, Fred. J., 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
- MACANALERS, Pension Merlin, Athens.
- MACDOVELL, Mr. and Mrs. J., Post Office, Shanghai, China.
- MACKENZIE, William, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, Egypt.
- MACHRAY, E. D., c/o British Consulate, Salonica.
- MACHRAY, Mrs. E. D., and family, Balham, S.W.
- MOGILL, Mrs. Robert, and children, c/o Mrs. Robinson, Mayfield, Alburgh, near Liverpool.
- MADGE, Harold, and family, 62, Balls Road, Oxton, Maltass, Albert and family, Odos Kokinaki, Kefassia, Greece.
- MALTASS, Mrs. Charles, 20, Hereford Square, S. Kensington, W.
- MALTASS, W., 8, Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, W.
- MALTASS, Mr. and Mrs. T. J., and daughter, Odos Parthenos, Patassia, Athens.
- MARSHALL, M. B., 30, Saltwell Road, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
- MARTIN, Mr. and Mrs. P. M., 7, St. Ives Gardens, Stranmillis Road, Belfast.
- MARTINDALE, Percy, 62a, Church Road, Hove, Sussex.
- MASHAM, c/o W. G. Masham, Esq., I.S.O., 68, Rosendale Road, Dulwich, S.E.
- MASHAM, Mrs., Lower Eastwood, Ledbury, Hereford.
- MASTERMAN, E. W. G., M.D., Camberwell Infirmary, Brunswick Square, S.E.
- MAYOR-METCALFE, Mr. and Mrs. A., "Laurel Dene," Northallerton.
- MCCRUE, Mr. and Mrs., Sunset Cottage, Stoke Fleming, Dartmouth.
- METCALFE, Miss E. J., Thornsgill House, Askrigg, Yorkshire.
- MILLINGEN, Mrs. and Miss Van, Yewside, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells.
- MILLINGEN, Mrs. Horace, Martin House, Witely, Surrey.
- MILLS, New House, Craneswater Park, Southsea.
- MINER, Miss F. J. (Superintendent of Traffic, Constantinople Telephone Co.), 57, Peak Hill, Sydenham, S.E.
- MITCHELL, E. A., Keyward House, Wells, Somerset.
- MONCK-MASON, A., c/o Foreign Office, S.W.
- MONNIER, Louis and family, La Villanille, Chemin de Villard, Lausanne, Switzerland.
- MORRISON, J., 8, Morton Terrace, Greenock, N.B.
- MOUNTAIN, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
- MOUNTAIN, Mr. and Mrs. W. C., and family, 33, Promenade, Cheltenham.
- MUMFORD, Mrs. N., c/o Lloyd's Register, 71, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
- MUMFORD, Newman, c/o Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Pireus, Greece, and 61, Odos Notarar, Pireus.
- MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., Scottish Rifles.
- NAVILL, Pryame, c/o The Imperial Ottoman Bank, 28, Thromorton Street, E.C.
- NEWNHAM, Miss Sophia, 24, Brunswick Road, Hove, Sussex.
- NEWTON, Miss F. E., International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W.
- NIAS, Arthur, care of The Imperial Ottoman Bank, Thromorton Street, E.C.
- NOWILL, Stephen, Sandycote House, Sheffield.
- O'NEIL, Miss, 14, Odos Homerou, Athens.
- PALMER, S., and family, Alexandria.
- PAPFITT, Rev. Canon J., M.A., 88, Edward's, Victoria Road, Worthing.
- PAPFITT, Harold, 176, Whitehorse Road, Croydon.
- PATERSON, Mrs. Alexander, Allanshaw, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, N.B.
- PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
- PEARS, Sir Edwin, 10, Lowther Road, Barnes, S.W., also Reform Club.
- PEARS, Henry E., 7, Nottingham Place, Marylebone Road, W.
- PEARS, Miss Lorne E., 7, Nottingham Place, Marylebone Road, W.
- PEDDIS, F., 109, Avenue de Villiers, Paris.
- PIANL, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, and son, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.

DIRECTORY—Continued from page 209.

PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, Boulevard Constantin le Diadoque, No. 58, Piræus.
 POYNTER, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E., 70, Addison Road, W.
 RAMSAY, Miss, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
 RAMSAY, Mrs. Alexander, and family, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
 RAMSAY, G. McGregor, 79, Odos Nikis, Salonica.
 RAMSAY, Mrs. G. McGregor, Odos Andros, Patissia, Athens.
 RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
 REES, Messrs. T. Bowen and Co., Ltd., 34, Stadium Street, Athens.
 REES, T. Bowen, 34, Stadium Street, Athens.
 REES, The Misses, 55, Campden Hill Court, Kensington.
 REITH, Mrs. G. Douglas (née Ada Binns), New Clunie House, Murthly, Perthshire.
 RIZZO, Alfred, and family, Switzerland.
 RIZZO, Edgar V., and family, British Consulate-General, Salonica, Greece.
 ROBSON, F., 142, Earliston Road, Liscaird, Cheshire.
 ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. R. A. C., Royal Engineers.
 ROWELL, Mr. John, Old Phaleron, Greece.
 ROWELL, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, and family, Ridgmont, Russell Gardens, Golders Green, N.W.
 RUSSELL, Mr. and Mrs. J. MacDowell, Post Office, Shanghai, China.
 RYAN, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew, 64a, Maitland Park Road, N.W.
 BACKVILLE-WEST, Hon. B. G., 13, St. George's Road, Eccleston Square, S.W.
 SAMSON, Colonel L. L. R., C.M.G., Junior Army and Navy Club.
 SCRIMGOUR, Dr. and Mrs. Maadi, Egypt.
 SEAGER, Driver Basil W., H.A.C.
 SEAGER, Edward, c/o British Consulate, Salonica.
 SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, Middlesex Regiment.
 SEAGER, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, 18, The Promenade, Hoylake, Cheshire.

SELLAR, Alfred W., care of Joseph Livada, Esq., Salonika.
 SELLAR, Mrs. Alfred, Old Phaleron, Greece.
 SELLAR, Miss, c/o F. B. Sellar, Esq., Ranworth, Eastcote, Middlesex.
 SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., Royal Scots.
 SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C., 19, Howard Road, New Malden, Surrey.
 SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 19, Howard Road, New Malden, Surrey.
 SILLEY, Mr. Ronald H., Rio di Janeiro, Brazil.
 SILLEY, Mrs. Ronald H., and family, Villa di Maria, Island of Capri, Italy.
 SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
 SIMMONS, Mr. and Mrs. Albert, 146, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
 SIMMONS, Miss E., 27, The Common, Woolwich.
 SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
 SKRIMSHIRE, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
 SMITH-LYTH, Mr. and Mrs. William, 153, Westbourne Terrace, W.
 SMITH, A. H., Mrs., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro', Llandrindod Wells.
 SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
 SMITH, Mrs. H. Watson, Clatterbach, Walton Hill, Clent.
 SMITH, S. C. H., Post Office, Box No. 130, Salonika.
 SMITH, Mrs. Stanley, and family, Elmhurst Avenue, East Finchley, N.
 SOPIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
 SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
 STELIANDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hotel Métropole, Athens.
 STERLING, Rev. Canon and Mrs., 1, Norham Road, Monkseaton, Northumberland.
 STEVENS, Mr. and Mrs. W. R., Hotel Minerva, Athens.

STREATER, F. W., 55, Avenue Alexandre le Grand, Alexandria, Egypt.
 STREATER, Mrs. F. W., Odos Tritis Septembriou 1332, Athens.
 STOCK, Mrs. H. W., 5, Giltspur Street, E.C.
 STRONG, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
 SUMMERS, Mrs. H. C., and family, 34, Broadmead Road, Folkestone.
 SUMMERS, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
 SWAN, Mrs. T. Angus, 4, Royal Crescent, Scarborough.
 SWAN, T. Angus, 41, Clarendon Road, Egremont, Cheshire.
 SWAN, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
 SYKES, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
 TALBOT, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
 THRELWIS, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Malda Vale.
 THOMPSON, William A., H.M.S. "Europa," care of G.P.O., London.
 THOMPSON, Mrs. Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
 THOMPSON, Mrs., Ridgmont, Russell Gardens, Golders Green, N.W.
 THOMPSON, Miss C., c/o Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
 THOMPSON, Miss Gladys, Ridgmont, Russell Gardens, Golders Green, N.W.
 THOMPSON, Mrs. John, Villa Yasmin, Ramleh, Alexandria.
 TRISTRAM, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, Hyde House Hotel, 49 and 51, Queensboro' Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tel., Park 4400.
 TUBINI, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
 TUCKER, C. H. W., c/o British Legation, Athens.
 TUCKER, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kehaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
 TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o British Legation, Athens.
 TURNER, Charles, Irlam, Manchester.

Continued on page 214.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
 — CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
 Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
 Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
 CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
 OTHER GOVERNMENTS.**

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
 CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
 Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
 makers of every description of Cotton
 Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
 Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
 Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
 Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dharawal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
 Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Sir Harry Johnston, whose letter on another page in this issue will be read with interest, makes a noteworthy suggestion with regard to the British Consular Service. It is not for me to say whether he is right or wrong in his reference to one of the great political parties; but the need of reform is apparent, and so long as it is accomplished the means employed do not matter very much. Sir Harry's suggestion that "all diplomats should begin as vice-consuls—not as attachés" opens up a new vision of two very distinguished services of the Crown. It would be interesting to know what their members think about it.

That was a very interesting lecture which Father Lammens delivered recently at a meeting of the Sultanieh Political Economy Society in Cairo, on the subject of the past glories of the land of Arabia—the lecture is referred to by our Cairo Correspondent in his letter this week. In the past we have paid very little attention to Arabia, past or present; but if I mistake not we shall do better in that respect in the future. The war has not been without its influence on the country. The Mecca movement provides a vision of a new future, and a greater one, as we all hope, while further away at the tip of the Persian Gulf the Arabs will not be long before they begin to appreciate the utility of British justice and institutions, to put it on no higher level. Trade and commerce are the great possibilities of a not distant future for Arabia and Irak, and, purged of Turkish corruption, developments should be rapid.

I am pleased to see that the British Industries Fair is again to be held next year, under the auspices of the Board of Trade—the tentative programme was published in *THE NEAR EAST* last week. The Fair last year, limited as it was to certain trades, was a success which, if improved in the coming show, should establish it as a permanent annual trade event. The 1917 Fair is to be held partly at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and, owing to the increased demand for exhibiting space, partly in the galleries of the Imperial Institute, from February 26 to March 9. Concurrently, Scotland is to have its fair at Glasgow—an innovation that hardly commends itself, for reasons obvious to anyone. If Scotland must have hers, let her choose a date in the autumn. Thus, spring travellers to this country from abroad would have the advantage of

the London Fair, and autumn travellers one in Glasgow. After all, however, I doubt whether either of these fairs—or any held in this country—will be as helpful to a noticeable increase in our foreign trade as local permanent samples of British articles exhibited abroad. Admittedly, the time has not yet arrived for the organisation of these exhibits, but we ought already to be considering their prospects and to be taking the necessary steps to prepare for them. Which, by the way, is a matter to which I shall have to revert again.

The *Times* Cairo correspondent reviews the economic situation in Egypt in a most optimistic vein, and his two salient statements are noteworthy—namely, that the country is more prosperous than it was last year, and that the German element is being completely wiped out. The latter, above all, is of transcendent significance, and that the Egyptian Government has succeeded in eradicating the evil influence of the Hun "trade pirate and political intriguer" speaks volumes for its energy and determination, and is in striking contrast to the lukewarm indifference displayed here at home, in the heart of the Empire, to all matters pertaining to the liquidation (which has been anything but prompt) of enemy firms. Our Government could easily take a leaf out of Egypt's book: we should all welcome it.

A correspondent writes:—"Where there is smoke there is generally fire. Assuming this to be so, we must admit that in Germany's peace proposals there is something, at least, which is sincere, and I should not be at all surprised that it has to do with Near Eastern matters, and more particularly with the growing greediness of Germany as regards food-supplies, to the detriment of her Allies. In other words, our blockade is beginning to tell, and the Austro-Turkish pinch of last year is beginning to reach Germany. Naturally, the Germans looked to their successes in Wallachia to appease their hunger, when up spoke Austria and claimed her share. Now, the Roumanian stocks would not suffice to still the Boche belly, let alone that of his Vienna confederate. Friction between the two countries—latent as yet, perhaps—is the outcome, and Fritz at last begins to see a danger ahead. So he throws out peace feelers."

Almost simultaneously with the peace proposals, Herr v. Batocki visits Vienna, and the Austrian Cabinet falls. A pro-Tiza combine—in other words, a Prussian-cum-Hungarian Government—is appointed. And we can see the way the wind blows. Von Körber, the retiring Premier, was an Austrian above all things, and, in his country's meat plight, he wished to import Balkan cattle duty-free. Such an action would have deprived Germany of considerable supplies for her own use, and so Batocki influenced Tiza to veto it in the interest of Hungarian cattle-breeders. So the Cabinet fell, and the Balkan cattle proceeds to Prussia. All of which points to the beginning of the end, and blesses the world with Germany's

altruistic peace proposals. Austria, in dire plight, agrees to them, and so does Turkey, sick of the whole war and anxious to come to terms with the Allies before Constantinople is lost.

Austria, I think, stakes practically everything on the success of Germany's scheme, and it is in Austria that the first effects will be seen of our refusal to meet the Kaiser's wishes. If rumour be correct, she is already more than half willing (or is she forced thereto?) to buy Italian friendship, the price being Trieste. She is also considering the advisability of creating a Yugo-Slav State—Agram, I take it, to be the capital—so as to placate the Croats in the eleventh hour; and she is being driven to the wall by Prussia in Poland, and by Bulgaria in Serbia and Macedonia. Much further she cannot be pushed, and food she must have—more so than Germany. Economically she is ruined, and in Turkey she has no friend. Let Trieste go, says the wily Turk, if I can thereby retain Constantinople.

The situation, therefore, is anything but a hopeless one. Leaving aside the military aspect of the question and the glorious burst of valour of our Allies at Verdun, it would seem that, thanks to our blockade, the end of the war will be produced owing to economic difficulties—as always upheld in these columns—in the Middle East and to the refusal on the part of Germany to succour her enfeebled Ally. On the contrary, her Prussian lord seems intent on driving her to the wall, and her spoliation by the Hun would come as a surprise to no one acquainted with the Waumann theory. Let it be so. For it would do our principal enemy no good. So, ahead with the blockade, and down with the peace proposals. The enemy is worse off, economically, than we are.

We need not bother about peace: it is war that matters, and we have to proceed with the war at the very top of our energy. Roumania, Serbia, Belgium and France have to be restored to their complete integrity not as an act of grace of the greatest brigand in history, but as the result of his complete defeat by the Entente. If a nation, or its sovereign, is to be permitted to run amok at its pleasure, and to stop doing so at its pleasure, without punishment of any sort, the world will be an unsafe place to live and work in. Peace will come: we may rely upon that; but it will not be established when the German Emperor wills; it will be imposed upon him when he is defeated. It is satisfactory to note that neutrals are no more impressed by the German peace trick than are the Allies of the Entente. They understand German bluff too thoroughly for that.

COMMENTATOR.

THE SUDAN TIMES.
PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.
For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—
**THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.**

**"THE EXPORT WORLD
AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."**
The Journal which circulates abroad and is read
wherever English is spoken. The advertising
medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.
Send for particulars.
31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

The Sudan and Its Economic Advance.

No. 1.—The Bahr-El-Ghazal.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

The second largest of the fifteen political divisions into which the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is now divided, the Bahr-el-Ghazal has also in its time proved one of the most troublesome. It is inhabited by natives who, like all other bush people, are indifferent fighters except among themselves, and then, apart from their religious feuds, war mainly for loot and women. The section of the Dinkas found here have been described in anything but complimentary terms by Schweinfurth; but he seems to have known them before the blessings of good government were offered to them by their present rulers, and although the latter, if asked for their opinion of their charges, might be inclined to cite the famous cartoon in *Punch* on the Thibet question—the inhabitants of which country, it may be remembered, “did not want the benefits of civilisation but had to have them”—the people of the Bahr-el-Ghazal are not without some recommendation.

Major B. C. Carter, a former Acting-Governor of the province, once declared that “the inhabitants are for the most part savages.” Some decade ago a large amount of slave traffic went on in the north-west corner of the Bahr-el-Ghazal, slaves, both male and female, being brought across the frontier from the French Congo, and imported into Kordofan and Darfur. An improvement in the condition of things followed upon the establishment of posts, in 1903, by Major Ravenscroft.

The Bahr-el-Ghazal became famous in history in 1898 in connection with the Marchand Expedition, while it was not until 1901 that the territory was definitely occupied by the troops of the Sudan Government. Its immense area of 126,290 square miles, with its population of 810,000—the largest of any of the Sudan provinces—makes it of very considerable importance from a future economic point of view. Within its extensive boundaries are to be found rubber of the best, ivory of the finest, forest woods of almost all descriptions and of a highly marketable value, such as African mahogany—*Homoptera Khaya Senegalensis*—the most beautiful timber known to commerce. Iron and other minerals, beeswax and honey, salt, and a remarkably productive soil, when properly cultivated, will all spell much in favour of the province when once its development is taken seriously and systematically in hand.

There are fourteen governmental divisions, or *manurias*, as against thirteen in Mongalla, and eight in the Upper Nile. None of the other provinces have more than seven *manurias*. For administrative purposes the Bahr-el-Ghazal has been divided into three separate districts—the “Eastern,” with the headquarters at Rumbek; the “Central,” headquarters at Wau, also the seat of the Governor, and the “Western,” with headquarters at Dem Zubeir. Early in the taking-over of the province, the Government established a line of posts from east to west as follows:—Shambe on the Nile, Rumbek, Tonj, Wau, Chamamui, Dem Zubeir, and Telgona. In December of 1905 the Southern Bahr-el-Ghazal was re-occupied by the Government troops, posts being formed at Rikta, Yambio, and Zungumbia. In those days there was constant friction between the British and Belgian troops stationed at Manga and Moiwawa, and only the great tact and good nature exhibited upon the part of our officers and those of the Belgians in charge saved a serious encounter from breaking out between the truculent warriors concentrated on the frontiers. It was the good feeling between Captain Channer, on one side, and Commandant Gilson, on the other, that served to keep the peace.

“Rivers,” declared Pascal, “are roads that move and carry us whither we wish to go.” Certainly in regard to rivers the Province of the Bahr-el-Ghazal is well provided. It is bounded on the south and west by the Congo-Nile watershed, on the north by the Bahr-el-Arab and Bahr-el-Ghazal, and on the east by the Bahr-el-Jebel. But notwithstanding all these waterways, the country is greatly dependent upon seasonal rains for its small amount of agriculture. The rivers of the Sudan, moreover, cannot always be relied upon for inland communication, for they are subject to rapid falls and just as rapid rises at certain times of the year; when the Jur, for instance, is as low as it was in 1905, the greatest difficulty is experienced in maintaining inland communications. One day the Government may be able to overcome some, if not all, of such drawbacks by opening-up these and other waterways, several schemes of that character now being under consideration.

The principal trade of the province has always been in ivory, and in 1905 the amount collected produced a revenue of £4,700, but in view of the uncertainty of the market in this article—the trade for 1915-16, like that of the two previous years, owing doubtless to the war, had fallen off very greatly—something more stable will have to take its place if the Bahr-el-Ghazal is to become one of the Sudan's remunerative provinces. Rubber cultivation has been tried, but the climatic conditions made almost impossible for Europeans without a great risk to health, and that the Government has no wish to encourage. Nevertheless, a rubber factory was established several years ago at Limbo, near Wau, by the Vines and General Rubber Trust, under the auspices of the Kordofan Trading Co., and, notwithstanding labour troubles, it had not done badly. Then Egyptian cotton cultivation has been essayed, but with little success. The experiments undertaken, however, have not been final, and something more encouraging may yet be gained. On the other hand, excellent results have been secured in pineapple-growing, the only problem being that of transporting the fruit in good condition to Khartoum. The experimental rice-crop grown about 10 years ago at Meridi turned out so well that high hopes of future progress in this direction were entertained. A sample of the produce was sent home by the Governor, (at that time Major, now Colonel) R. M. Feilden—to the Imperial Institute, and a very satisfactory report obtained. Other attempts were made at Wau and Lau, the neighbouring Sultans being much interested. *Dura* is likewise grown, and the area of cultivation is continually extending. From time to time small exports of *dura* have been made from the Eastern and Central districts, in addition to the usual requisitions supplied annually to the Army.

The inhabitants are beginning to realise the advantages of trade. The stores established at Meridi, Yambio and Tembura, the first of their kind, proved instantaneously successful, and there is no doubt that the province, now that means of communication are being gradually improved, may become revenue producing upon an advancing scale in a few years. The minerals that are known to exist there, but which have never been properly prospected, may also have an important bearing upon its future prosperity.

The administration of the Bahr-el-Ghazal is entrusted to El Miralai R. M. Feilden Bey, as Governor, who has seen some twelve years' service in the Sudan Government; El Kaimakam Viscount Hawarden Bey, Senior Inspector; El Kaimakams P. M. Larken Bey and C. M. Northcote Bey, El Bimbashis R. S. Hart, R. G. C. Brock, L. S. Lloyd, C. Kennedy-Crauford-Stuart, D.S.O., and H. B. Watson, Second Inspectors. The majority of these officials are located at Wau, while others are settled at Tembura, Meridi, Raga and Rumbek.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

Official Reports of October Conditions.

We take the following from the monthly report (October, 1916) of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government:—

Royalty Paying Articles—Exports.

Gum.—During October, 1916, 115,553 kilos of gum, valued at £3,841, were exported via Port Sudan. Of these, 67,172 kilos are hashab gum, valued at £2,970, and 48,381 kilos are talh gum, valued at £871.

Cotton.—The following reports have been received from the Berber province:—Cotton prospects are quite good, in spite of much early cotton having been swamped by the high flood. After allowing for losses from this cause, the area of American cotton on sakias is at least as great as last year, and, although there is a certain amount of boll worm about, sakia cotton is everywhere looking well. In the south end of Shendi Merkaz a good deal has been planted very late, as late cotton there did quite well last year.

The cotton on the native lands watered by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate at Zeidab is looking remarkably well. Picking has begun on that planted in June, and a good yield seems assured from both June and July sown cotton.

News from Tokar is very reassuring. Everything indicates a record crop, in spite of the shortage of seed, as the wastage of the same this year has been very small, only two or three seeds being planted in one hole this year as compared with a much greater number in previous years. The crop, taken as a whole, has this month progressed quite satisfactorily. In a few parts of the Delta a little cotton is already to be seen. The lateness of the sandstorm season this year has kept back cotton, but, given good rains, this may not matter.

Cultivators are putting more work into their land this year than last. This is due to two reasons: (1) good prices last year, and (2) smaller areas of land were allotted this year to lazy and inefficient cultivators. The price of labour has fallen from T£13½ to T£6 per day.

Miscellaneous.

Dura and Dukhn. The following reports have been received from the Blue Nile Province:—September.—The dura trade was more brisk than in August. Prices dropped slightly. October.—The price of dura has steadily risen instead of falling, or, at all events, keeping steady. This is due to heavy export demands and also the fact that the new crop has not yet been thrown into the market.

Kordofan Province.—The rains ended before the middle of the month. Almost everywhere the rains this year have been exceptionally good, and the grain crop is expected to be considerably in excess of the normal. Dura and dukhn have remained fairly steady at approximately T£64 to T£70 and T£64 to T£67 the ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos). There has been, however, no great quantity on the market.

Berber Province.—October.—Wad Hamid Basin: The Nile has held up too long to suit this basin, and at the end of the month there were still about 3,000 feddans under water. Much land that would normally be sown in September could not be sown until nearly the end of October, and much of this has been planted with dura.

The price of sakia dura was T£110 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos); red dura, T£110.

It is notified that owing to the further increase in the price of coal the temporary surtax on all rates for goods and animals carried on the Sudan railways will be raised from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent., with effect from January 1, 1917.

The coal stock preserved in Egypt for the Irrigation Department now amounts to about 200,000 tons, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. According to a native contemporary, the Ministry of Public Works, calculating the orders received by the Mechanical Department for coal from different parts of Egypt for agricultural purposes, has found that the total quantity of coal supplied by the Government to cultivators and landowners for this year does not exceed 10,000 tons.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Holiday influences have prevailed throughout the market during the short week, and it is not possible to record any particular development in the situation. Raw cotton rates are rather firmer, and spinners and manufacturers have been difficult to deal with.

A further development in connection with the wages question has taken place, in that the operative spinners have decided to apply for an advance of 20 per cent. The demand will not be made to the employers until next week, and six weeks' notice will have to be given. With regard to the cardroom workers' application for an advance, the two sides have not been able to agree as to an arbitrator, and it looks as though the matter will have to be left in the hands of the Board of Trade.

No particular fresh news has come through relating to the Egyptian crop. The general demand in piece goods for Egypt has continued rather quieter. Certain buyers, however, find it necessary to purchase particular cloths from time to time, as according to advices from the other side clearances continue healthy.

Only a miscellaneous business has been reported in piece goods for India, chiefly in light makes. Comparatively few workable offers have been met with for China. The South American markets have not been at all active. Manufacturers of cloth continue to derive a considerable amount of strength from the contracts on the books, and there is no running after fresh orders.

American yarns for home consumption have not attracted very much attention, but prices remain very firm, and easy sellers are difficult to find. Only odd lots have been put through in shipping yarns.

Egyptian spinnings remain strong owing to the extensive engagements of producers, and full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted.

BRITISH TOBACCO.

Finding a Substitute for Turkish Leaf.

The stocks of Turkish tobacco held in this country are now getting low. Cigarette manufacturers say that they can go on moderately well for another three months, but at the end of that period there must be a limitation of the consumption.

After the war it is possible that British smokers will become less dependent on foreign countries for their tobacco than they have been in the past. Great possibilities of successful tobacco cultivation exist within the Empire, and these are likely to be extensively developed in the future. The Imperial Institute is doing useful work in encouraging experiments, in analysing samples of leaf sent to London, and in obtaining commercial opinion on the practical value of the tobacco.

Definite success has until now been confined to a few districts. Attempts are at present being made in Cyprus to produce latakia tobacco, which obtains its distinctive flavour by a secret curing process. Refugees from Asia Minor who have settled in the island during the war believe they have discovered in Cyprus the tree which yields the wood necessary for the process, and a good deal is hoped for from the experiments now being conducted. Good tobacco of the Turkish type is already grown in Cyprus.

In Uganda a good leaf of the Turkish variety can be grown, but the crop is always in danger from violent hail storms. Samples which have just arrived from Northern Nigeria suggest the possibility of producing there a good sun-dried tobacco.

It has been suggested that to encourage the cultivation of tobacco within the Empire a lower rate of duty should be imposed on Empire-grown material than upon the tobacco imported from other countries. The one objection to this would be that difficulty would arise in regard to the drawback.

In Nyasaland and Rhodesia at any rate a good start has been made, and these countries should eventually become great tobacco exporting areas.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, December 28.

Owing to the holidays, which apparently have kept many of the principal dealers away from the markets, and to the prevailing fog, no serious attempt was made at business generally this week; in fact some markets were hardly opened at all. In the dry fruit market the absence of light, owing to the fog, has considerably hampered the transaction of business, and only few sales, of not much importance, have taken place.

Currants.

There has been no demand, and only very small business was done at late rates.

Sultanas.

Some Australian and Afghan parcels were sold to country dealers at recent quotations, otherwise there has been no change in the apparent inactivity of the market. Prices, however, are well maintained.

Figs and Dates.

No sales were reported and no change in quotations.

Seeds.

Linseed opened steady, and only few transactions have taken place in spot and afloat parcels. Rapeseed is quiet for all positions. Cottonseed is firmer, but no sales were reported at closing time.

TREBIZOND FILBERTS.

Review of Five Years' Crops—This Year's Estimate.

Apropos the article in THE NEAR EAST last week in which the filbert oil industry of Trebizond was discussed and described, some figures are now available, with the assistance of which it is possible to venture on a short review of the crops of the district for the past five years.

In 1910-1911 the crop of filberts was smaller than in 1909-1910, showing a difference of 24,000,000 pounds. The total exports for the season were 107,113,300 pounds, to which 5 per cent. for local consumption should be added to show the total amount produced. Of these exports 48 per cent. went to Germany, 22 per cent. to Austria, 10 per cent. to France, 10 per cent. to Egypt, 4 per cent. to America, 3 per cent. to England, and 3 per cent. to other countries. The crop of the 1911-1912 season proved to be much smaller, the total being only 58,591,400 pounds. Prices were consequently much higher; they reached 30s. 10d. per 100 pounds, as compared with about 20s. 8d. in 1910-1911.

Three years before the landowners began to give scientific and systematic attention to the cultivation of the trees, instead of letting them grow wild. New groves were also planted and the soil more carefully treated. That their efforts were well rewarded is proved by the fact that in 1912-1913 the crop amounted to 74,475,400 pounds, and the quality was considered slightly better. In 1913-1914 the previously unheard of amount of 148,800,000 pounds was harvested. Excellent climatic conditions were partly responsible, but the additional care expended undoubtedly largely contributed in making such a result possible.

It is obvious that in a district occupied by two belligerent forces it is impossible to obtain official and comprehensive crop statistics. Still, though no figures are available for the many small villages comprised in the district (which usually yield abundant quantities of filberts), it has been found possible to estimate this year's crop for the immediate vicinity of Trebizond proper. This estimate is 4,340,000 pounds, as against 17,551,000 pounds in 1913 and 31,000,000 in 1914, an abnormal year. About 2,480,000 pounds were left on hand from last year's crop, making the total present stock 6,820,000 pounds, which is rapidly diminishing. The export of nuts is forbidden by the authorities. Small quantities are sold for eating purposes, but the bulk of the stock is either sold to local firms, which crush out the oil from the nuts, or is being held for higher prices.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

British telegraph money orders may, after January 1, be sent to Gibraltar.

The properties of R. and O. Lindemann, in liquidation, are advertised for sale in the *Egyptian Journal Official*.

A proclamation has been issued in Cairo prohibiting the storing of cotton or its disposal to anybody except residents without special permit.

The Anchor Line have taken more commodious offices at 16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., where, on and after January 1 all communications should be addressed.

Mr. Emmanuel A. Benachi, Mayor of Athens, who was so brutally treated by the Royalists, has been the senior member of the firm of Messrs. Davies, Benachi, and Co., Liverpool, for forty years.

Lord Milner, having accepted office in the Government, has resigned his seat on the directorate of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited. The Earl of Selborne has been elected a director of the bank, and succeeds Lord Milner as chairman.

An official decree prohibits the importation into France and Algeria of alcohol and liqueurs from abroad. The prohibition does not apply to alcohol imported by manufacturers of liqueurs, vinegar, chemical and pharmaceutical products, varnishes, and perfumery.

The Postmaster-General announces that parcels can now be accepted for transmission to Salonika (including the intermediate locality) and the islands of Crete, Thasos, Lemnos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Fourni, and Syra. Parcels cannot be accepted for transmission to any other part of Greece.

A special message to *The Times* from Jassy (Moldana), dated December 4, states that the important oil wells at Moreni, near Ploesti, worked by British companies, have been destroyed in order to prevent their falling into the hands of the Germans. The works of the American company, "Romana-Americana," the Dutch company, "Astra-Romana Sequestre," and the German company, "Steaua Romana," have also been destroyed.

The British Consul-General at Tunis (Mr. E. J. L. Berkeley, C.B.) reports that the value of imports of cotton goods into the Regency in 1915, although falling short of that in 1913, showed a marked increase as compared with 1914. Imports from the United Kingdom more than doubled when compared with 1914, while the value of imports from Italy also showed a substantial increase. The total value of imports of cotton goods from all countries in 1915 was £592,537, as compared with £450,727 in 1914, and £604,221 in 1913.

Continued from page 210.

VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Corigliano, Calabro, Italy.
WAUGH, A. T., Hotel Continental, Athens.
WEAKLY, E., C.M.G., c/o Foreign Office, S.W.
WEALE, W. W. C., Lieut., Intelligence Department.
WEALE, Mrs. 192A, Durham Road, Wimbledon.
WEALE, Miss M., "Rosedale," Wellington Street, Slough, Bucks.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEI, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Hotel Ackton, Phaleron, Greece.
WHARTLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
WHITE, P. E., 4, Via Partenope, Naples.
WHITEHOUSE, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 65, St. James's Street, S.W.
WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 80, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. J. H., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W., and c/o Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WHITTALL, Charlton, Hotel Majestic, Athens.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, Mrs. J. W., c/o Mrs. W. Lawson, Alexandria.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Hotel Continental, Athens.
WORTHAM, Mrs. 24, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park.
WRATISLAW, Mrs., c/o Hotel Minerva, Athens.

Campaign Against Locusts.

How the Invasion of Egypt in 1915 was Met and Defeated.

One of the most interesting reports issued by the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt recently is that which deals with the great invasion of locusts in Egypt in 1915 and with the measures adopted to deal with the evil.

We are told that the cost of the campaign amounted to ££16,927, of which sum ££14,785 was actually spent on the destruction of flying locusts and locust eggs. The following are the conclusions set out in the report:—

The locusts in 1915 came both from the west and from the east, as they evidently did in 1914 also. Their arrival in the Nile Valley is dependent on weather conditions.

For Egyptian conditions the best method of destruction of hoppers is by driving them into small trenches and burying. Contact insecticides are useful, but not to the same extent.

It is decidedly useful to collect and destroy adult locusts. Fellahin willingly do so if paid one millieme per oke.

The use of internal poisons and of *Coccobacillus acridiorum* has been tried and found unsuitable in Egypt.

No locust swarms arrived at maturity in Egypt, and the damage done was generally very small. Where appreciable damage was recorded it was usually due to indifference or negligence on the part of the owner of the cultivation destroyed, or of the 'Omda of the village in question.

Government supervision is absolutely necessary; left to themselves the fellahin would not be able to cope with a locust invasion.

The locusts appeared in practically every part of Egypt, and the cotton crop of the Delta, although it was in great danger, was saved, with the exception of a few feddâns.

History of the Invasion.

In a brief history of the invasion, it is stated that the pests were first seen in Baharia Oasis in January; the report was, however, not received until February 4. In the Nile Valley the great invasion started on February 2, on which date great flights were observed at Wadi Natrun in the Fayûm, at Ashmûn, Nawa, Wasta, El Saff, 'Ayât, and Shebin el Qanâter. Thus it is probable that the first wave of invasion came simultaneously from east and west.

The locusts then remained for several days in the Fayûm; those which first appeared at Shebin el Qanâter wandered towards Ashmûn and Tûkh. From Wasta the swarms wandered along the Nile Valley, partly northwards (towards Cairo, where they were seen on February 5, disappearing from all places in the Delta by February 7), and partly southwards (reaching Mallâwi on February 3, Manfalût February 4, Abu Tig February 6, Tahta February 8, and Nag' Hamâdi on February 13). By February 13 Lower Egypt, the Fayûm, and most of Upper Egypt (except Beni Suef, Fashn, Assiût, and Nag' Hamâdi) were free from locusts. On February 14 new swarms began to appear in Lower Egypt along the western desert edge at Kôm Hamâda and in Ashmûn Markaz: on the 15th the Fayûm and Beni Suef reported a new invasion, and the area occupied by locusts in Lower Egypt extended from Kôm Hamâda through Menûf, Ashmûn, Cairo, and Giza Markaz.

The Second Wave.

On February 16 locusts were reported from Suez. Thus the second wave can be seen to have come from both east and west in the same way as the first. This second wave reached its height about the 17th, when, in addition to the whole of Menûfia, Benha, Tûkh, Giza, Fayûm, Sennûres, Beni Suef, Fashn, Manfalût, Abnûb, Assiût, Abu Tig, Girga, Baliaâna, Nag' Hamâdi, and Qena Markazes reported locusts. At this date also the Army Intelligence officers reported vast swarms in the Sinai Peninsula. By February 22, however, the Delta was again free, but

the Fayûm and Upper and Middle Egypt from Giza to Baliaâna were in many places still infested, and remained so in varying intensity until the end of the campaign.

On February 27 locusts appeared at Aswân and spread northwards in the following days and on the 28th they were reported from Salhia in Faqûs Markaz. Three days later they began to come in also from the west at Delingât; spreading during the following days into Kôm Hamâda, Alexandria (March 8), Tala (March 9), Abu Hommos. Various other districts were affected from time to time; but by June 19 Egypt was everywhere free.

Methods of Destruction.

The methods employed to destroy the pest form an interesting description. In Egypt there is practically no vegetation except where water has been brought on to the land by artificial irrigation, and there is no irrigated land which is not under very close cultivation. In consequence the only vegetation available for the locusts to feed on is that of the cultivated crops. Thus the methods that would have been the correct ones in pastoral countries such as South Africa or the Argentine cannot be applied here without great risk to the crops.

The choice of methods for the destruction was restricted to killing by mechanical means, or by the application of contact insecticides. Both of these methods were used with advantage. Mechanical methods were, however, more frequently employed, as they were cheaper and required no special apparatus.

At the beginning of the campaign various methods of destruction were tried, including poisoning with arsenate of soda and Paris green, infecting with *Coccobacillus acridiorum*, d'Herelle; spraying with cyllin, katakilla and paraffin emulsion, and driving the hoppers into trenches and burying. It immediately became obvious that the last named was the quickest, cheapest, and the safest method of destruction, and it was therefore adopted.

Experience showed that elaborate trenches were not necessary, if the swarms were dealt with when young enough. For the destruction of locusts in the first stage the trenches did not require to be more than twenty to thirty centimetres deep by about thirty centimetres broad and very often not more than one to two metres long.

Cyllin solution (two per cent.) was found to be very effective in killing the locusts in their first stage, as also was paraffin emulsion. At first these contact insecticides were applied by pneumatic spray-pumps. These were, however, soon abandoned in favour of ordinary watering cans, as they were too liable to go wrong when handled by unskilled labour; they were moreover unnecessarily troublesome to use. It was found that the fluid was applied in greater volume and quicker by the watering can. This method gave excellent results, economising labour to a very great extent, and not destroying the crops. Its disadvantage was the cost of the spray.

The poison method, which is so well adapted to South African conditions and which is becoming more and more the standard method of locust destruction in other parts of the world (e.g., South Russia, Baluchistan, Malay States, Sudan), is not suitable for Egyptian requirements. Sodium arsenate sprayed on vegetation kills all plants it comes in contact with. To be effective a fairly wide belt, say two metres wide, must be sprayed in the direction of advance of the locusts and the locusts must have arrived at a stage at which they are feeding.

In Egypt we tried to realise the ideal, and nearly everywhere succeeded, of killing the locusts before they had commenced to feed, by methods already described. In passing it may be mentioned that the Ministry of Agriculture had a stock of three tons of sodium arsenate for the purpose of locust destruction before the locusts appeared. It was not used because we were early convinced of the superior merits of the methods actually employed.

TRADE NOTES.

Restrictions.

It has been notified that the application of Baron Emile de Menasce for a licence to act as Agent in Egypt of the *Première Société Hongroise d'Assurances Générales* à Budapest has been refused as from November 30, 1916. Mr. C. D. Strolago, Alexandria, has been appointed, under Article 9 of the Proclamation of August 17, 1916, Manager of the Agency of the *Première Société Hongroise* in Egypt, under the control of the Controller of Enemy Insurance Companies in Egypt.

Liquidations.

Mr. C. C. Curwen, of Alexandria, has been appointed receiver of all the property and assets in Egypt of the Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company, with instructions to liquidate the business of the company with as little delay as possible.

Mr. E. C. Widdows, Gresham House, Cairo, has been appointed receiver of the property and assets of the agency in Egypt of the *Société Anonyme des Fabriques Autrichiennes de Bonnets Turcs*, with instructions to liquidate the same.

The Public Custodian of enemy property in Egypt has been appointed receiver of all the property and assets in Egypt of Richard Dieterle, formerly of Alexandria, an enemy person within the meaning of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, with instructions to liquidate the business, and to hold any surplus assets together with private property in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Proclamation.

Licences.

The following persons have been granted licences to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain:—Engel, Ivan, 18, Rue Sesostris, Alexandria; Gebeli, Kanaa, and Co., Okella el Lemoun, Alexandria. The following firms have been granted licences to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licences granted them:—Palacci, Fils. Haym, and Co.; Van der Zee, W. F.; Electricity and Ice Supply Co., Ltd.

The licence granted to the agency in Egypt of the *Société Anonyme des Fabriques Autrichiennes de Bonnets Turcs* has been cancelled, and the liquidation of the business will be carried on by the receiver.

Greece: A Warning.

Mr. C. S. Butler, Secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States (Incorporated), Athens Branch, writes as follows to the *British Trade Journal*:—

"British manufacturers and exporters desiring to open up business with Greece should beware of the specious letters of certain so-called 'Export-Import-Commission' merchants who have lately been flooding the market from different parts of the Turkish Empire. Most of them have high-sounding titles, but few of them have even offices. Their tactics are to get into touch with one of the upper clerks at some bank, with whom they arrange for 'references,' and it is surprising how lax some Greek banks are in this respect. They next borrow a copy of a directory from some established office and send forth letters broadcast on paper with a high-flown business heading, applying for agencies, irrespective of the fact that the firms they address may be already represented in Greece. When the war is over these men will quietly disappear from Athens and from the ken of their dupes."

The Russian output of unbleached goods in 1900 made 11,703,000 poods in weight, rising to 17,052,000 poods in 1910, mostly for printing and fustian. Part is used for white things and fashion goods. There had been a great development in the production of moleskins, fustian and diagonals, which competed with woollens amongst the poorer elements of the population. Most Russian made cotton goods are consumed at home. There is as much imported as exported. Half the exports went to Persia, some to China and Finland. The population of the Empire had grown from 132,000,000 in 1900 to 164,000,000 in 1910, and the consumption of cottons per head had grown from 3.5 funts (1 funt equal to 0.9 lbs.) in 1900 to 4.1 funts in 1910. There is much room in Russia to cheapen the cost of production.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Nitrogen as Fuel.

The American mining engineer who has come to England with his wonderful invention for using nitrogen as an energy-producer in place of coal at a fraction of the cost could not have chosen a more appropriate time than the present for putting forward his invention; for if it proves what he claims for it, apart from the obvious benefits which in various directions it will impart, it will change to a great extent the prevailing conditions in naval and aerial warfare. In an interview which a representative of the "Observer" had with the inventor, the latter pointed out that there are in the atmosphere nearly four thousand billion tons of nitrogen available for use in the new power, and unlike the use of hydro-carbon fuels, which are destroyed, his method of using nitro-power (as he terms it) converts the fuel back into its elemental state. The inventor claims that this new nitro-energy can be used for every purpose for which coal and crude oil are now used, even to smelting; and that with the apparatus he has invented one ton of nitro-energy is equivalent to thirteen hundred tons of coal, and it is safer than petrol. From its electricity can, according to his calculations, be made for a fiftieth of the present cost, and five or six generating stations, with trunk lines radiating to all parts of the country, will turn every wheel in the kingdom, light and heat the homes, and do the cooking.

Applied to War.

For war purposes the apparatus could be installed in any war vessel within the next three months. A submarine large enough to mount 6-inch guns could be driven twice round the world by this energy without refuelling. She could run submerged just so long as she could carry oxygen for the crew, and no bubbles would rise to the surface to betray her presence. No batteries are needed; and the space they occupy could be given to torpedoes. She could, moreover, be driven by turbine engines and attain a speed on the surface of thirty-five knots, the same as a destroyer. A battleship, could, he says, keep the seas for a year without a new supply of fuel. No smoke-stack would be required. Half a ton of nitro-energy on battleships, cargo boats, and liners would do the work of 600 tons of coal, and leave an immense space for war material in the one, and for commerce-carrying purposes in the others. Although the temperature he produces is, according to his statements, of over 8,000 degrees Fahr., that of the outside of the generators is the same as the surrounding atmosphere. The fireroom, therefore, instead of being the hottest place on board ship, would be one of the coolest. The action is all automatic, being governed by the engines. One or two men on a shift in a vessel would be sufficient to look after this automatic machinery.

For Aerial Navigation.

Aerial navigation between England and America would, the inventor asserts, become easy, and for present war purposes aeroplanes from this country could go to Berlin and back without having to descend for more fuel. Several scientists, he said, have seen his plans, and are well pleased with them. One has said to him: "You have discovered something between the present sources of energy and atomic energy." Another holding a very high position, he said, told him: "There is no need at all for you to come to scientists with your invention; all you want now is to get in touch with practical engineers to get the apparatus made." He declares that he could, if he wished, form a company in the City to work the invention; but that is not his purpose. "It is," he says, "an invention of such stupendous possibilities that I want to place it in the hands of the British Government." And the offer, according to reports, has been made, but it

is not known whether it has been accepted or declined.

What is Nitrogen?

The invention, as outlined by the inventor, is undoubtedly of great interest, although the apparent lack of enthusiasm on the part of the scientists (referred to by the inventor) allows a certain amount of scepticism. For, considering that nitrogen has been a long problem to many eminent scientists in the past, and is a base for scientific research at the present time, the submission of plans proving clearly the possibility of the inventor's claims would naturally have created an interest of higher degree than that displayed by the two scientists to whom the inventor submitted his plans. The advice he received from one of them to get in touch with practical engineers to get his apparatus made was very good; for it depends on that apparatus to prove if sufficient "nitro-energy" can practically be produced and utilised to the extent and purposes described by their inventor.

Nitrogen, or azote (Greek, αζωτο) is a gaseous element, without odour, taste, or colour. It constitutes about four-fifths of common air the other fifth being principally oxygen. It apparently serves to dilute the oxygen in the atmosphere and render it fit for us to breathe. In its pure state it is remarkable for its negative qualities; that is to say, for the difficulty with which it enters into combination with other matters. It is almost inert chemically, and seems to take no active share in the various processes of nature that go on around us; hence its Greek name of azote (privative, α, and ζω, life). Under great pressure and very low temperature it can be liquefied and crystallised. Nitrogen is not combustible, and does not support combustion. A lighted lamp or candle placed in a space filled with nitrogen is at once extinguished. These and other characteristics of nitrogen make more interesting the invention of the American mining engineer.

COMPANY REPORT.

Roumanian Consolidated Oil.

The report of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 last shows a debit of £198,703, against which there is a balance to credit from previous years of £113,451, which reduces the net debit to £85,253. The production of crude oil during the year amounted to 60,701 tons. On June 30 the company held 15,556 tons of stock, of which 1,340 tons were crude oil, and the greater portion of the balance consisted of high-class benzines. If these products could have been delivered to purchasers the accounts would have shown a profit on the year's working corresponding with the results of the previous two years. It was, however, at that date, and, in fact, during the whole of the year under review, impossible to effect export deliveries, and in the light of the events which have now happened the directors do not see their way to place any figure whatever opposite to stocks, because they were stored in places which are now in possession of the enemy, and, if not destroyed by the Allies before their retreat, will inevitably be in the enemy's hands. With regard to the lands, all the title deeds have been safely removed to Russia. For the same reasons as above mentioned with reference to the stocks, no amounts have been carried out in the balance-sheet against plant, machinery, etc., materials and stores and furniture in Roumania.

The sale of £2,130 worth of American beans, upper leather £1,000, oleo oil £1,400, paper £1,200, pencils £200, and a large quantity of sheeting to various firms in Salonika, and of £3,000 worth of miscellaneous manufactures to the city's leading department store are among the trade results for the September quarter reported by the United States Consul, John E. Kehl, of that Greek port.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

City of Alexandria.—Notice is given that the tenth drawing in connection with the redemption of twenty-eight bonds of the municipal loan of January 1, 1902, took place at a public meeting held on December 2, 1916, at 11 a.m., at the offices of the municipality at Alexandria.

Egyptian Markets.—The first Five per Cent. Debenture Coupons No. 36 that fell due on December 1, 1916, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clement's Lane, London, E.C., at the face value, and at the branches of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

Egyptian Salt and Soda Company.—Coupon No. 29, due on December 31, 1916, will be paid on and after January 2, 1917, between the hours of 11 and 3, Saturdays excepted, by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C., where forms for listing can be obtained on application. A dividend of 12½ per cent. for the year ending August 31, 1916 (less Income-tax), will be paid on ordinary shares.

Coupons falling due on January 1, 1917, on the following Greek loans should be presented between the hours of 11 and 2 at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Sons, 70, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Payment will be made as stated in each case:—

- 5 per cent. funding loan of 1893, 32 per cent. in gold of the face value.
- 4 per cent. monopoly loan of 1887, 43 per cent. in gold of the face value.
- 5 per cent. loans of 1881 and 1884, 32 per cent. in gold of the face value.
- 4 per cent. loan of 1902 (railways loan).

Struck Off.

The following company has been struck off the register of joint stock companies:—The Anglo-Servian Trading Company, Ltd.

Unless reason is shown within the next three months the following company will be struck off the register:—The Anglo-Roumanian Trading Company, Ltd.

Meetings, Etc.

Anglo-Roumanian Produce Co., Ltd.—To-day, at Revenue House, Poultry, London, E.C.

AMERICAN SHOE FACTORY IN GREECE.

Since the days when sandals were worn the production of foot covering in Greece has been in the hands of small cobblers. No village is too small to have its local boot-maker, and except in the largest cities imported machine-made shoes are never seen. Under this system, while the average shoe worn by the lower class is cheap and durable, footwear for use among the middle and upper classes is made to order and is expensive.

To profit by these conditions, as well as to build up a market for certain kinds of leather, in the production of which it is interested, a company has been formed in Athens for the building and operation of a shoe factory in which boots, shoes, slippers, etc., will be made by machinery in large quantities on American lasts, we learn from a United States Consular report dated October 20. According to the American installer of machinery for this factory, if no unforeseen obstacles develop, the factory will be in operation in a few weeks and by December 1 should be producing from 300 to 400 pairs of shoes per day. All the machinery of the factory has been brought from the United States. American lasts and certain kinds of American leather will be employed exclusively, and it is thought that, owing to the pronounced inclination of many Greeks for American goods the factory's chances for success are excellent.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Sooters and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 177. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARAH EL MAGERHABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

FREDG. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan. "
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD, and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROMORTON AVENUE, Thursday.

Owing to the holidays there is practically nothing to report this week.

Some little business has been done in Egyptian Unifeds round 78½. A few National Banks have changed hands at 13½, and Khedivial Mails have come to business round 30s. 6d.

In Greek stocks the market is also inactive. Transactions in the oil share market have been few and far between and small in character. On Wednesday there was a sharp rise in Roumanian Consolidated, which, after changing hands up to 10s. 6d., closed 1s. 3d. higher at 10s.

In Russian issues, North Caucasians were harder for choice, but Spies Petroleums continued at about 13s. 6d., and Ural Caspians were rather uncertain at 30s.

There was a bargain done in Anglo-Egyptian "B" at 11s.

MONEY MARKET.

LONDON, Thursday.

After the holidays, the market has looked for comfort rather than hard work, and on the whole there was not much to be excited about. Short loans have ranged from 4½ to 4 per cent. with weekly fixtures touching 5 and 5½ per cent. There was a steady tone in the discount market with rates unchanged. There was no change in the rate of exchange to Alexandria, the premier rate (piastres to the £1) of 97 7-18 standing firm.

SUEZ CANAL DUES.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for December 22 and 23 amounted to 780,000 frs., as compared with 1,270,000 frs. for the corresponding days last year.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 15 tons and 198 tons; Hurghada, 1,298 tons and 1,518 tons; Baku Runian (December 16), 78,700 poods; Maikop Pipeline and Transport (December 9), 28,310 poods).

European Oilfields Corporation.—The corporation announces that the whole of its interests in Roumania, with the exception of some small royalties arising from plots leased to an American company, were satisfactorily disposed of before the German occupation.

TURKISH LOTTERY BONDS.

The following notice appeared in a recent issue of the *Journal Officiel* (Egypt):—

"With reference to the Proclamation of November 15, 1916, which requires claims against enemy Governments and enemy persons to be registered with the Public Custodian, the case of holders of Turkish Lottery Bonds requires special treatment owing to the fact that these bonds are frequently changing hands.

"The public is therefore requested to note that the declaration of Turkish Lottery Bonds should be made at a fixed date, viz., December 20. Owners whose bonds are deposited in banks need make no declaration, as arrangements have been made with the banks to give the information required on behalf of their customers.

"Any persons who have already made a declaration of Turkish Lottery Bonds, whether the bonds are in banks or in their own possession, need not make a further declaration on the above date of the 20th instant."

BANK OF EGYPT.

It is stated here that the news regarding the purchasing of the assets of the Bank of Egypt, referred to in the Press, is premature, says the *Mokattam* (Cairo). It is understood from reliable sources, however, that a group of financiers—European and Egyptian—had submitted an application to the authorities in September last making offers for purchasing the said bank, which was, however, rejected by the liquidator. It is stated that while the liquidator was considering the first application he received another one from a financial association organised in Cairo for the very purpose, but so far nothing is known as to the progress of negotiations between the parties.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended November 30, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
Nov. 20-Nov. 30	6,424 ..	7,563
April 1-Nov. 30	110,953 ..	138,116

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price July 27, 1915.	Price Dec. 22.	Present Price.
Bulgarian Ma. Bd., 1892	99	72	71½
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	46½
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5 % Bonds	96	67	67½
Egyptian Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	67	68½
Egyptian 4 % Unifed Debt	98	69	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 % 1890	88	67	67
Do. Int. 8½ %, 1890	82½	61½	53
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	80½	67	67
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½ %)	80½	67	67
Greek 5 % 1881	57	54	54
Do. 5 % 1884	56	53	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	49	49
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	42
Do. 5 % 1890	56	48½	48½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	63	63
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Do. 5 % Current	82½	89	89
Montenegro 5 % Loan	91	50½	50½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	75	75
Roumanian 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 1899	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4 % Unifed Bonds	67	75½	75½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	75½	75½
Do. 4½ % 1891	94	76	74
Do. 4½ % E. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	65½	65½
Do. 4½ % Loan, 1902	82½	50	50
Do. 4½ % Unifed	79	36	38½
Do. 4½ % Loan, 1908	65½	36	38½
Do. 4½ % 1909	69	36	38½

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	7	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red. ..	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red. ..	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank ..	12	48½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia ..	2	—	—
Bank of Athens ..	42	3½	3
Bank of Roumania ..	8½	8½	8½
Eastern Bank ..	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	72	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank ..	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited ..	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt ..	13½	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P. ..	8	5½	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Beaver ..	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red. ..	98	78½	78½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I. ..	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II. ..	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	9½	8½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref. ..	22	12½	12½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	53½	54½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb. ..	101	56½	57½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 % ..	80	54½	54½
Jermas, Athens, etc. Rail, 4½ % ..	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds ..	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	17/6	17/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red. ..	—	89½	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt ..	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	—	—	—
Do. do. Def. ..	8½	7	6½
Bahera Co. ..	4½	62/6	3½
Do. Pref. ..	2½	2½	2½
Deira Sanieh ..	—	—	—
Do. Def. ..	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 M. Db. Rd. ..	9	9 0	9/-
Do. Delta Land and Inves. ..	98	85½	85½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Trst. ..	5/-	6/-	6/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	1½	1½	1½
Gharbieh Land Co. ..	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt ..	—	97	97
Do. 5 % Debs. Red. ..	98	7½	7½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref. ..	97	75	75
Do. 4½ % 1st Chgs. Debs. Rd. ..	93	9/3	9/3
New Egyptian Co. ..	10/3	10/-	10/-
Sidi Salem Co. ..	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1/3	-/9	-/9
United Egyptian Lands ..	—	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	17½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginnery, Egypt ..	12/6	13/-	13/-
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. ..	102	100	—
Egyptian Hotels ..	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb. ..	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord. ..	1½	1½	25/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red. ..	99½	93	92½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	1½	23/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red. ..	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord. ..	—	30/-	30/9
Do. Pref. ..	3½	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	94½	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (Fr. 500) ..	£179½	157½	144
Upper Egypt Hotels ..	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Dec. 21.	Dec. 28.
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Persian ..	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields ..	3 0½	3 0½
Roumanian ..	9 -	10/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Dec. 21.	Dec. 28.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	420	420
Canal de Suez ..	—	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	661	657
Turkish Unifed 4 % ..	59.0	59.90
Egyptian Unifed 4 % ..	88.50	88
Serbian, 1895 ..	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON DECEMBER 15.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½ to
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 12½ "
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 12½ "
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 6½ "
Do. priv.	L.E. 3½ "
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Fr. 125 "
Bons de Panama	Fr. — "
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) ..	Fr. 68 "
Do. Privilegiée	Fr. 95 "
Cheikh Fadl	Fr. 75 "
Urbanes et Rurales	£ 2½ "
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£ — "
Building Lands of Egypt	£ — "
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 1 "
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½ "
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4½ "
Unifed	L.E. 80½ "
Privilegiée	Fr. 69½ "
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 5½ "
Fondateur	£ — "
Pressage et dépôts	£ — "
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½ "
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½ "
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3½ "
Do. Ord.	34/6 "
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 4½ "
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ — "
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 104 "
Jouissance	Fr. 155 "
Egyptian Markets	£ — "
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 270 "
Do. Div.	Fr. 210 "
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Fr. — "
Egyptian Salt and Soda	24/1 "
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 590 "
Do. 1885 Oblig.	Fr. 327 "
Do. 1903	Fr. 253 "
Do. 1911	Fr. 262 "
Delta Lands	£ — "
Port Said Salt	37/3 "
Cotton Ginnery	8/3 "
New Egyptian Co.	P.T. — "
United Lands	£ — "
Levant S.S. Co.	£ — "
Do. Fond	£ — "

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st October, 1916, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each) ..	2,925,000
Reserve Fund: Statutory Reserve ..	1,267,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts ..	7,074,232
Mixed Tribunals ..	1,406,903
Egyptian Government ..	2,678,494
Bankers' Accounts ..	505,582
Cheques and Bills payable ..	173,264
Sundry other Accounts ..	703,908
	£E. 16,734,863
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government ..	4,802,971
Sundry Securities ..	244,606
Advances on Merchandise ..	1,445,318
Advances on Securities ..	1,712,576
Advances on other Security ..	753,326
Advances Sundry Debtors ..	349,413
Bills of Exchange ..	2,332,333
Local Bills Discounted ..	158,796
Building and Furniture ..	238,471
Money at call and at short notice ..	1,028,625
Bankers' Accounts ..	1,026,625
Sudan Government ..	480,351
Sundry other Accounts ..	250,968
Cash ..	£E. —
Notes ..	1,744,895
Gold ..	57,800
Silver, Nickel, etc.	107,265
	£E. 19,099,960
	£E. 16,734,863

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes issued ..	19,100,000
	£E. 19,100,000
Gold ..	£E. —
* British Treasury Bills ..	6,137,574
	3,412,426
	9,550,000
Securities —	
Egyptian Treasury Bills ..	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government ..	604,886
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds ..	6,068,864
	9,550,000
	£E. 19,100,000

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

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.
ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.
A. & W. and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packing), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 296.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	217	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The Allies and the New Year ..	228	Notes and News	233
Cairo	220	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	230	Cotton and Textile Notes ..	234
Cyprus	221	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Oil in Algeria	234
Athens	221	A Great Conciliator	223	Egypt's Flourishing Finances	235
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	225	Trade Notes	235
The Arab Revolt	219	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	231	Produce Report	236
The First British Governor		LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Alexandria Prize Court ..	237
of Darfur	222	The Consular and Diplomatic		Engineering Notes	238
The Balkans—I. Before the		Services	224	Company Meeting	239
First Snowfall (H. M. Wallis)	229	The Jews in Palestine (Mr.		On 'Change	240
		Arthur Lewis; Mr. S.		Stock and Share List ..	240
		Falkowsky)	224		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The turn of the year is fraught with symptoms for those who are seeking to discern the signs of the times. Germany on the flood-tide of her conquest of Wallachia has suggested negotiations with a view to arranging peace terms. In all four countries of the Central Alliance great stress was laid on the possibility of epoch-making developments in the immediate future. There can be no doubt as to Germany's desire for peace or the indignation of the German people at the Allies' refusal to accept the peace bait. Meanwhile, the potato ration—potatoes are the staple food of the people—has been still further reduced, and the Government by means of the Auxiliary Service Law has obtained a stronger hold on the good behaviour of the proletariat. If the ostensible object of this new measure was to increase the output of munitions, it may be inferred that the successful campaign against Roumania has made a big hole in the reserves intended for use on the resumption of the Allied offensive in the West.

The Allied Governments have not only rejected the German offer; they have so improved the occasion by re-stating their case in plain and forceful language that it will be of interest to see whether the reply is allowed to be reprinted in full in the German Press. Perhaps not the least significant sign of the times is the extreme haste with which the British Government has summoned the Prime Ministers of the Overseas Dominions to attend the War Cabinet. The invitation was issued on Christmas Day, and in order to be in London before the end of February, the representatives of Australia and New Zealand must start by the middle of January. If their presence were likely to be required indefinitely, they might well regard the bare three weeks' notice as unduly short. This time, as the Allies' reply is careful to insist, Germany's so-called peace proposal was a sham one, "lacking all substance and precision . . . less an offer of peace than a war manoeuvre." Sooner or later Germany will have to be more precise and a more genuine peace offer will be made. The reply may also have to go into details, and it is natural that the British Government should wish to have the Dominion Prime Ministers associated with it before its draft terms are submitted to the approval of the Grand Alliance as a whole. The war, however, will not be won by words. German militarism can only be broken by superior mili-

tary strength, and this has yet to be brought to bear effectually in the different theatres of the war.

In a wireless message to the German Embassy at Washington the German Government claims to have discovered incongruity between the Allies' insistence on the right of nationalities and their avowed purpose to give Russia Constantinople and the Straits. There is, of course, no contradiction entailed. The right of nationalities implies that large communities or whole nations shall not be subjected against their will to alien and despotic domination, as is the case with the Armenians in Turkey, the Roumanians in Hungary, and the Slavs in Austria. It is not proposed to subject large bodies of Turks to Russian rule; but the Russian occupation of Constantinople is necessary not only to prevent the arbitrary closing of the Straits, but also to make sure that the Turco-German combination shall never again threaten the peace of Europe. The demarcation of frontiers may occasionally leave small bodies on the wrong side of the boundary line; but these will not be incorporated in the alien state without opportunity being given them to migrate. So will it be, we may be sure, in the case of Constantinople. Such Turks as may not relish the prospect of remaining on Russian soil will be able to withdraw to Turkey, which will be confined entirely to Asia. But if they elect to stay, their presence will constitute no real violation of the principle of nationality.

The battle-line in Roumania has now almost reached the Sereth positions, which, it is to be hoped, will mark the limit of the enemy's advance. Valuable service to the Russo-Roumanian cause has been rendered by the stand made against von Mackensen's forces on the left of our Allies' line. On the right wing, based on the Carpathians, von Falkenhayn has been more successful, and it is here that the defenders have had to yield most ground. The approach to Braila from the south is still held, but across the Danube in the Dobruja the Russian line has been gradually withdrawn within narrower limits guarding Macin, the bridgehead of the port on the left bank. It is clear that the enemy is intent on making further progress, if he possibly can; the granaries of Braila and Galatz would be sufficient incentive, even if political considerations did not constantly call for fresh military successes. Roumania thus becomes for the time being the pivot of the position on the eastern front. The struggle has largely devolved upon the Russians, and before long they ought to be in a position to assert their superiority.

There are many indications that in her fiery ordeal Roumania is "finding herself." In the brief session of Parliament which has now closed the country was shown to be united as never before. M. Bratiano has reconstituted his Cabinet, availing himself of the co-operation of M. Take Jonescu. He explained that he had also asked M. Marghiloman for his support, but to his regret the Conservative leader did not respond to his appeal. But even this abstention, which was probably dictated by personal reasons, for M. Marghiloman has expressed his agreement with the Government's policy of seeing the war through, detracts little if anything from the unanimity which the parties as a whole have shown in closing their ranks. Perhaps the most important feature of the session is the promise that was given of agrarian and electoral reforms. Roumania has been handicapped by a system of land tenure which fell far short of modern ideas. The need for reform had been emphasized by agrarian troubles, and was accepted by the Liberal party as a plank in its platform. In ordinary circumstances remedial measures would only have been introduced slowly. The present crisis has better attuned the spirit of the country to the requirements of the peasants, and the reforms, it is expected, will be of a far-reaching character. In addition to the agrarian question, there is the Jewish problem; but it does not loom so prominently, and we have seen no reference to it at the present time. We can but hope, however, that Roumania will have reason to be as well satisfied in this war with her Jewish as with her Christian subjects, and that out of the crisis will come a complete understanding which will lead to the removal of any grievance that may still remain.

On December 31 the Entente Powers and Italy presented to the Greek Government a second Note setting forth the guarantees and measures of reparation which they were constrained to demand for the attack on the Allied Marines by Greek troops in Athens on December 1. The guarantees comprised the removal of all Greek forces to the Peloponnese, with the exception of the minimum required for the maintenance of order and for the police, and the re-establishment of the Allied control of Greek public services. By way of reparation the Greek Government was called upon to release immediately all persons detained whether for political reasons or on charges of high treason, plotting, sedition, or similar offences, and to indemnify all who may have suffered unjustly in consequence of the events of the early days of December; to remove the command of the First Army Corps, or the General to whom responsibility attaches for the orders given on December 1; and to have the flags of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia formally saluted in a public square in Athens in the presence of the Minister of War and the assembled garrison.

When the events of December 1 and 2 are recalled—the treacherous attack on the Allied Marines and the orgy of pillage and outrage that followed in Athens and elsewhere—the Allies' demands cannot be regarded as too drastic. In the text of the Note their force is somewhat modified by the provision made for giving effect to them. Thus, no time limit is fixed for the removal of the troops to the Peloponnese, but the period for the execution of the military measures is to be "settled in common accord"; the form of the restoration of the various Allied controls is to be determined "in agreement with the Hellenic Government, in order to render them as little embarrassing as possible." Finally, under the head of reservations, the Protecting Powers pledge themselves not to permit armed forces of the Government of the National Defence to profit by the retirement of the Royal troops from Thessaly and Epirus to cross the neutral zone, but they inform the Greek Government that "they reserve to themselves full liberty of action in the event of the attitude of the Government of his Majesty the King subsequently giving them further subjects of complaint."

A feature of the Note is the omission to specify a time limit within which the Greek Government is required to signify its acceptance of the Allies' demands. As failure to comply would merely reproduce the situation as it was when Admiral du Fournet landed his detachments on December 1, and would impose upon the Allies the necessity of devising more successful means of coercion, it may have been politic to leave the question of time open. The object of the Entente is to safeguard the position of the Salonika force and to diminish the opportunities which official Greece may still have of furthering the cause of the Central Powers. It is necessary, however, that an equivocal situation should be terminated at once, and it is obvious that the period of grace allowed King Constantine cannot be indefinitely extended. The latter's first object will be to gain time, and he has shown clearly that he will leave nothing undone to achieve it. As every day is now of importance, the Greek Government's policy of bluff must be rigorously cut short. In these circumstances it would be well to let it be seen that the Allied Powers are by no means over-optimistic, and to make preparations for further recalcitrancy on Greece's part.

As a natural corollary to the recognition of M. Venizelos' Government of National Defence, a British diplomatic agent has been appointed at Salonika in the person of Lord Granville, and M. Gennadius, formerly Greek Minister in London, now represents M. Venizelos at the Court of St. James's. The British Minister accredited to the Athens Government has adopted Pindar's view that water is the best element in existing circumstances and has withdrawn to a man-of-war at the Piræus. Whether it was thought that by making his position amphibious it would become less ambiguous we have no means of knowing; but the Greek Press no longer has the opportunity of representing Sir Francis Elliot as a guest at the King's dinner-table, and so something has been gained. The anomaly of recognising both the Salonika and the Athens Government is not so serious as the delay in removing it. Greece at war with the Protecting Powers ought to be unthinkable; it would be, if King Constantine had not been encouraged to take himself so seriously. Unfortunately, the amount of ground that has now to be retraced is so great that the time taken throws purely temporary anomalies into strong relief. Meanwhile, the optimists will hope that the friendly relations officially existing between King Constantine and the Allied Ministers will ultimately acquire some reality from the sense of security now felt by each party—the German Field-Marshal behind his valiant troops, the Ministers behind the guns of the Allied Fleet. With the help of telescopes and megaphones even audiences might be held.

The bombing by naval aircraft on two consecutive days (December 26 and 27) of Turkish camps at Galata on Gallipoli Peninsula and of the Chikaldir Bridge, east of Adana, revives hopes that means may yet be found of carrying the war into Turkish territory with greater success than hitherto. Coming immediately after the assumption of the offensive in the Sinai Peninsula, this bombardment suggests that a vigorous conduct of the war in the Eastern Mediterranean might react favourably on the course of the campaign in such widely distinct spheres as Roumania, Armenia, Mesopotamia, and the Hejaz. An isolated bombardment from the air will not be sufficient, even if the objective be attained, as was the case on December 27, when the bridge over the Jihun River, an important link in the Baghdad Railway, is reported to have been destroyed. Pressure on the enemy would have to be exercised simultaneously at a number of places, and a more formidable menace contrived than an air-raid. The Baghdad Railway, however, is a vulnerable spot in the Turkish armour, and in view of what the Turks have been able to achieve with the help of this line, it is to be regretted that opportunities were not sought more persistently to damage it before reinforcements enabled the enemy to hold the Russians in Armenia and the British force in Mesopotamia.

To no one will the attempt to engage Turkish attention elsewhere be more welcome at this moment than to the new King of the Hejaz. By this title the Grand Shereef of Mecca has notified his wish to be known, and Great Britain, France, and Italy have recognized his assumption of it. From this fact we may infer that the progress made by the Arab revolt in the Hejaz is regarded as satisfactory. There was always the risk of Arab levies, however great the enthusiasm by which they might be inspired, proving no match for Turkey's trained troops. But the campaign in the Hejaz appears to have been skilfully conducted; and although the Turks are still masters of Medina, the new King does not seem to doubt the complete success of his movement. This confidence implies that he is not only satisfied with the military progress made, but also with the support he has received in Arabia. There is, however, no reason why, in the face of a common enemy, the Allies should not afford him every assistance in their power by prosecuting their own attacks on the Turks with renewed vigour. The possibilities of the Sinai offensive are far from having been exhausted; the aircraft which reached Chikaldar Bridge can find other valuable objectives.

With the turn of the year Sir Henry McMahon has left Egypt and Sir Reginald Wingate becomes High Commissioner. The welcome accorded to the latter is a pleasing feature of Great Britain's relationship with Egypt, and is a tribute to the personal popularity of the Sirdar and former Governor-General of the Sudan. But it is equally gratifying to find that the services rendered to the country in a short period by the retiring High Commissioner had won spontaneous recognition among all sections of the people. Sir Henry McMahon had little time for the more obvious short cuts to popularity; the details of his stewardship required all his attention, and he set himself to carry out a difficult task with complete single-mindedness of purpose. In the short space of two years he placed Egypt under many obligations, and it was undoubtedly a genuine appreciation of his work that prompted the sincere expressions of regret which accompanied his departure. Egyptians are not likely to forget that it was under his aegis that the Mecca pilgrimage was resumed; the British element will recall his successful handling of the Mixed Courts incident last February and the excellent relations which he contrived to establish in many quarters where before there had been a tendency to friction.

Several letters have appeared recently in *The Times* on the subject of the provision of comforts for our forces in Mesopotamia. The correspondence was initiated by Lady Chelmsford, whose record of the splendid services of the women workers of India will have been read with great interest by every one who has been acquainted with the sufferings and discomforts of our troops in Irak Arabi. But in case the impression may be conveyed that the assistance which has been given from India is adequate, it is advisable to point out that the £10,000 per month in cash and kind which is being distributed by the "Indian Comforts for Troops Fund" only amounts to a very small sum per head of the troops now engaged on this front; and when from it is deducted the large proportion which is—quite rightly, as it is an Indian fund largely subscribed by Indians—allocated to the Indian troops, the balance remaining for the unfortunate British soldiers who are enduring the miseries of the ghastly climate of Lower Mesopotamia, cannot amount to more than a few pence per head per month. This is obviously not sufficient to purchase even a single ounce of tobacco, apart altogether from the numerous other "comforts"—such as preserved fruits and vegetables, beef tea, tonics, and many other things too numerous to mention—which, although outside the scope of ordinary military supplies, are essential to the health and life of Europeans in that region. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the knowledge of what the women war workers of India are doing will not cause any slackening of the efforts of the "Mesopotamia Comforts Fund" (for British troops) which has lately been started under the auspices of the War Office.

THE ARAB REVOLT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 12.

The proclamation of the Grand Shereef of Mecca as King of the Arabs on October 30, 1916, is an event of great importance. It constitutes an outward symbol of the unity of the Arab tribes, and of their full approval and support of the anti-Young Turkish movement. The fact that, apart from the lesser chiefs, the Idrissi and Ibn Saoud have acknowledged the Shereef as King of the Arabs points to the complete unity of the Arabs in regard to this great national movement. In a letter addressed by the Imam Yehya to the Grand Shereef there is the proof of the existence of the friendliest relations between the two great chiefs of Arabia, and of the complete agreement of their views in regard to the Young Turks' Government and their Arabian policy. If the Imam has not so far effectively sided with the Shereef, this is said, by persons who are in a position to know the real facts, to be due to the traditional Arab magnanimity of the great chieftain of the Yemen, who, finding the Turkish garrison there absolutely at his mercy, did not wish to take advantage of that fact and to declare war on their Government, more especially as, after their last exemplary chastisement, the Young Turks have taken care not to give him the least cause for offence. It is typical of the Turks' character that, following the uprising of the Shereef, they have availed themselves of the right of the guest, which is held so sacred by the Arabs that a man respects the life of even his brother's murderer if the latter seeks refuge under his roof. But it is legitimate to suppose that the Imam cannot much longer dissociate himself from a movement that has for its aim the liberation of the Arab race and language and the protection of Islam.

Recent reports from Arabia state that the Young Turks are applying to the inhabitants of Medina and suburbs the same barbarous treatment that they have been and are still applying—but on a larger scale—to the inhabitants of Armenia, Syria, and the Irak. They have been hanging, crucifying, and committing every kind of atrocity on the innocent civil population of Medina and its suburbs. This reign of terror became so intolerable that many persons of Medina fled from the town at the risk of their lives to petition the Emir Faisal, in the name of his holy ancestor and of humanity, to save them from the unspeakable tyranny of the Turks. His Highness communicated the fact to his father, suggesting that the matter be submitted to public opinion in the civilized world. Subsequently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arabian Government addressed the following protest to the Allied and neutral Governments:—

In the name of humanity and justice, we protest to the Governments of the civilized world against the atrocities committed by the Turanian usurpers of the Unionist Committee and their followers, against their barbarous and savage treatment of the innocent women and children of the tribe of Al Awali, as well as their iniquitous deeds in Medina itself by hanging some and persecuting others. In this connection we desire to draw the attention of the civilized world to the great difference between the atrocities of the Turks and the humane and noble treatment which their prisoners received at our hands.

The commission of these atrocities served only to hasten and extend the movement of voluntary enlistment in the Shereef's army. The following order, issued by the Ministry of War, is interesting in that it illustrates the proud character of the Arabs and the tact and prudence which the Shereef's Government is displaying in applying the modern military system:—

Arab young men, fired by zeal, are pouring in large numbers to register themselves at the barracks as volunteers in the regular army. Some of these, however, are under the impression that certain menial services, incompatible with their rank and dignity, are required of them, wherefore the Ministry makes it known that the regular Arab army provides for all that is calculated to maintain integrity and personal dignity, and, to that end, has appointed the necessary servants for carrying out such services. It has, moreover, issued special instructions to the instructing officers not to give any orders calculated to cause offence to the privates in the course of instruction. On the other hand, the men have to observe the regulations and the duties attaching to this noble career, and, in a word, maintain the honour of the army.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 14.

Farewell Reception at the Residency.

The High Commissioner and Lady McMahon gave a farewell garden party at the Residency on Thursday last. It was exceedingly well attended, and it was noticeable that the Egyptian element, headed by T.H. Princes Ahmed Fuad and Kamel ed Din, was very much *en evidence*. This was the first occasion that the Residency had been thrown open for a public entertainment of this description since the Foreign Office acquired the extra strip of land to the south of the grounds. Part of this land has been laid out as an extension to the gardens, and the latter, always a feature remarked upon by visitors, presented on Thursday last a more than usually attractive picture, thanks to the horticultural improvements carried out.

On Tuesday evening H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, gave a farewell banquet at the Mohammed Ali Club in honour of Sir Henry and Lady McMahon. The guests included the Ministers, General Sir Archibald Murray, the British Advisers, Lady Brunyate, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, and the chief members of the Palace, Residency, and Headquarter staffs. To-day the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon have proceeded to Alexandria in order to attend the reception which has been organised in their honour by the British Chamber of Commerce. It is understood that Sir Henry McMahon will not remain in Cairo until Sir Reginald Wingate arrives, but that he will proceed Home next week.

H.H. the Sultan.

As reported in last week's letter, H.H. the Sultan has proceeded for a trip up the Nile. He is accompanied by H.H. the Sultana and his daughters, and according to the latest telegrams had reached Minia. His Highness will not be back in Cairo for the 19th inst., his Accession Day, and, in fact, is not expected to return until after Christmas.

The Greek Community.

The Greek community in Egypt is very much perturbed at what has been going on in Athens. A solemn requiem service in memory of the Allied and Greek subjects who were killed during the recent events at Athens was celebrated on Sunday morning at the Orthodox Church of the Evangelismos at Alexandria, and at its conclusion violent speeches against the King and the Royalists were delivered by prominent members of the colony amidst the loud-voiced anathema of the massed congregation.

The local Hellenic colony, which has always shown pronounced Venizelist proclivities, has during the past fortnight become more pro-Venizelist than ever. The colony includes many members who are respected and trusted by the British authorities; but it also undoubtedly comprises a number of men, some of standing, who are Royalist to the backbone and who, under cloak of pro-Venizelist protestations, rendered necessary for their own safety and freedom by the circumstances of their residence in Egypt, still continue to work for the cause of the King and his German and Germanophile backers. Until the recent tragic events took place in Athens no one bothered much about this element, but now the situation has changed and there is a decided feeling, even amongst the true Venizelist Greeks, that these false friends, whose identity is no secret, should be driven out into the open, and should be forced to give practical demonstration of the sincerity of their protestations of sympathy with the Venizelist cause—their protestations have become markedly eager of late—by enrolling themselves in the Army of National Defence. It is even suggested that the Provisional Government at Salonika should decree a general levée of adherents of military age; and that those "Venizelists" coming within that category, who without satisfactory excuse do not respond to the call to arms, should be regarded as suspects, and dealt with accordingly by the Anglo-Egyptian authorities.

Certainly something ought to be done to rid us and the Greeks loyal to the Entente of the "snake in the grass" element that is now benefiting by the freedom and protection afforded in Egypt to the Hellenic community as a whole on account of its apparently unanimous support of the Allied cause.

The Upper Nile Projects.

I understand that work is proceeding apace in the Blue Nile irrigation scheme, but that for the present not much progress is being made with that on the White Nile. Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, has just returned from a flying visit to Khartoum, where he conferred with Sir Reginald Wingate. He will accompany Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, the Minister for Public Works, when he proceeds to the Sudan on an inspection next month, and it is expected that a definite decision will then be taken as to which project is to be carried into execution first.

The Lena Ashwell Concert Party.

A most successful concert was given at the Opera House on Saturday evening by the Lena Ashwell Concert Party. It was quite a gala evening, and every seat in the house was taken, the audience including Sir Henry and Lady McMahon and General Sir Archibald Murray. The concert party has been working in Egypt for some weeks now, and has been indefatigable in giving entertainments to the troops in camp and in hospital. It started operations in Alexandria, then proceeded to Upper Egypt, and has now gone to the Canal zone after doing the round of the military stations and establishments in and outside Cairo. The men have thoroughly appreciated all that the concert party has done for them, and have given it a most enthusiastic reception on every occasion. The members fully deserved the support accorded to them by the Cairo community on Saturday, when they gave us one of the best entertainments we have had for some time past.

Death of a Great Missionary.

It was with the greatest regret that everyone heard of the death of Dr. Andrew Watson, which took place on Saturday last. Dr. Watson, who was the head of the American Mission in Egypt, was the oldest missionary in the country, and, it is believed, in all Africa. He came to Alexandria in 1861, and was eighty-three years of age when he died. During the fifty-five years he spent in Egypt he did yeoman work for the cause of Christianity and of education, and attained a unique place in the confidence not only of the European communities, but also of the Egyptian Moslems, who always came to him for advice and assistance, and never went empty away. Dr. Watson will be sorely missed, for he possessed qualities which are too often sadly lacking in those who carry out work to which he so successfully devoted his life.

In his Christmas lecture before the Royal Colonial Institute on Friday last Mr. Oliver Bainbridge said:—"Our old statesmen never dreamed of such a triumph as is exposed by the response from every corner of the Empire, and I confess to having been thrilled by this British fact more than by the greatest victories that were ever won. If the Greeks had known of such a story—if they had known of a countless multitude of men of every hue and creed, ruled, aided, educated, protected by a few thousand men of a dominant race—they would have founded an imposing myth upon it, and our students would now be learning the Hellenic symbolism in our colleges."

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country, together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

ATHENS LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, November 26.

A Strained Situation.

The atmosphere here is surcharged with electricity, and the Royalist papers are impressing on their readers that we are on the eve of tragic events. The tone of the gutter Press, proclaiming with much emphasis that Admiral du Fournet will have to take the guns he wants over the corpses of Greek patriots, and other bombastic effusions of a like character, and the strong military patrols in the streets contribute to a general state of nervousness and tension, which resembles the critical days about this time last year when Lord Kitchener visited Athens. Admiral du Fournet's ultimatum is the topic of the day, and everybody is either speculating or prophesying what will happen when December 1 arrives.

In the meantime the anti-Venizelist officers in Athens are holding meetings and indulging in much tall talk, for which they are evidently much better fitted than for following their more practical and braver comrades who have risked so much in joining the anti-Bulgarian movement.

The state of affairs in Athens at the present time bears a striking resemblance to the situation in Constantinople after the Revolution. Here the Union and Progress party is the pro-German Palace camarilla, who are the real rulers—the puppet Cabinet just does as it is told.

Drifting Towards Anarchy.

Athens and those parts of Greece where anti-Venizelism still prevail are fast drifting towards complete anarchy. Discipline in the army has almost disappeared, and, in spite of the Government's promises, the Reservist Leagues are becoming as active as ever, and are doing just as they please; and they will continue their tactics as long as they receive encouragement from the royalist authorities. There has been further trouble at Larissa, where a band of reservists prevented the removal of war material to the South of Greece.

It is to be hoped that Admiral du Fournet's next measure will be the suppression of the gutter Press and the banishment of such men as Streit, Dusmanis, and Gounaris, the leaders of anti-Ententeism.

Deportation of the Diplomats.

The Ministers of the Central Powers with their staffs, numbering some eighty persons in all, quitted Athens very quietly on Wednesday, and proceeded to Kavalla by a steamer of the MacDowall Line, which was placed at their disposal, and was escorted by British destroyers. Admiral du Fournet would not grant the extension of time for which an application had been made. The American Legation has assumed the protection of Austrian, Turkish, and Bulgarian subjects in Greece, and the Dutch Legation those of Germany.

The Nationalist Movement.

Interference and obstruction in the Nationalist movement continue, and every attempt is made to impede its progress. The French Minister has again called the attention of the Government to the methods of persecution adopted towards the Venizelists, and to the fact that the authorities here had declined to recognise the passports and other documents delivered by the Provisional Government. The Public Prosecutor is looking into the question of the publication of the Military Orders respecting Roupel, and is examining witnesses. Meanwhile the editor of the *Patris* is kept in gaol.

In spite of this persecution, volunteers continue to leave for Salonika. Many of the Athens police have recently joined the Nationalists, and the last of the King's Cretan Guard proceeded a few days ago to the Annexe of the British Legation, and offered their services.

The sinking in Greek waters of the magnificent hospital ship *Britannic*, followed a few days later by a similar fate overtaking the *Braemar Castle*, are further additions to the long list of atrocious crimes which form one of the blackest chapters ever written in the history of nations, and will make the German name loathed for

many generations. It is a somewhat pathetic spectacle to see the Red Cross nurses from the *Britannic* in Athens, and much sympathy has been shown them. The ladies of the English colony promptly set to work to supply their wants and to provide them with some diversion, and the Boy Scouts have also been entertained and shown round Athens by Greek scouts speaking English.

The mails which left Athens on October 20 were seized by a German submarine, which stopped the Greek steamer *Eryssos* on her way to Naples.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, December 11.

Good Work of the New Archbishop.

A committee representing the town and district of Famagusta has approached the Primate with a view to obtaining aid for the town hospital, which is in great need of money and may, it is feared, be unable to continue its work. The Archbishop has taken the matter up, contributing to the fund himself, and inviting, by circular, his church committees to help in supporting an institution so greatly needed in the district. The Archbishop is also giving aid to many charitable and philanthropic institutions in the island.

Want of Rain.

Although some rain has fallen in parts of the northern districts, there is still the greatest need of it in the Mesaoria plain and most of the lower lands of Cyprus. Services are being held in the churches, and prayers offered up in all parts of the island for a change which will improve the prospects of agriculturists.

Misfortunes of Cypriot Emigrants.

Pitiful accounts are being received from several of the emigrants who have sought new homes in America and in Italy. They write that, so far from obtaining work, as they expected, they have been unable to find any suitable employment. In some cases they are in great distress. Their expenses are greater than their wages when they are working in the United States. Both there and in Italy many of them make a makeshift living as porters.

Execution at Papho.

The Papho villager, a Greek, who, being under sentence of death for the murder of a fellow-villager, a Turk named Ramadan Hajji Ramadan, petitioned the High Commissioner that he might be sent to fight for his country, suffered death by hanging on December 12.

NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

An undated Reuter's message from Jassy announces that the Roumanian Cabinet has been reconstituted as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs	M. BRATIANO
Minister for War	M. VINTILA
Minister of the Interior	M. CONSTANTINESCO
Minister of Justice	M. MICHELE CANTACUZENE
Minister of Public Works	M. JUSTIANO
Minister of Education	M. DUCA
Minister of Industry and Commerce	M. GRECIANO
Minister of Finance	M. ANTONESCO
Minister of Agriculture and Domains	M. MIRZESCU
Ministers without Portfolios:—MM. PHEREKYDE, TAKE JONESCU, COSTINESCO.	

The message adds that M. Mortzun, the retiring Minister of the Interior, has replaced M. Pherekyde as President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs that the Egyptians appear to be greatly impressed by the success of our troops in the Sinai Peninsula and its possible consequences.

It is reported that General Brusiloff has left for the Roumanian Headquarters in order to confer with the King of Roumania and General Berthelot.

Sir F. Elliot, M. Guillemin, and Prince Demidoff, accompanied by the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have visited several prominent Venizelists in prison, and have expressed to them their personal sympathy, says the *Morning Post's* Athens correspondent.

THE FIRST BRITISH GOVERNOR OF DARFUR.

APPOINTMENT OF EL LEWA KELLY.

It was quite in accordance with the traditions of sound statesmanship that Colonel P. J. V. Kelly, the brilliant officer commanding the Egyptian Cavalry, who conquered Darfur, should be given the appointment of first British Governor of the new Province, now forming the fifteenth political Department of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Colonel Kelly for some time previous had been the O.C. cavalry and infantry under the Corps and Departmental Staff, and all who knew him in the Sudan recognized that he was bound to win military distinction sooner or later—and he has done so sooner. It was in March last that he left Nahud to punish the troublesome Ali Dinar, and to put an end, once and for all, to his long-endured defiance of Government authority. It is unnecessary to tell again of the completely successful occupation of the wells at Um Shanga and Jebel el Hella, near the boundary and actually in Darfur, of the masterly stroke delivered in securing control of the native water supplies, of the following-up of the advance by the battle which shattered the Sultan's forces, or of the comparatively simple occupation of El Fasher. Colonel Kelly's greatest achievement, perhaps, consisted in the fact that he took such excellent care of his troops—2,000, against 3,600 of the enemy—his losses being insignificant, while his success was pronounced. The Commanding Officer realized in every sense the meaning of the words "a victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers." The reward that he has earned by the bestowal of the Governorship over the people whom he had finally helped to redeem from slavery and persecution, is both merited and fitting.

After being ruled by a long line of sultans for close upon six hundred years, Darfur—of which the Province of Kordofan originally formed part—was conquered and annexed to Egypt in 1874, by the redoubtable slave-dealer Zubeir Pasha. This is the Darfur of to-day. Slatin Pasha was at that time in the service of the Egyptian Government, having charge of the different posts, and was made European Governor of Darfur. The flame of the Mahdi's rebellion reached his part of the country in 1882, and young Rudolf Slatin lost no time in meeting the enemy and defending his charge. Not only did he twice heavily defeat the insurgent Sheikh of the Rizeigat-Madibbo—at Injeleila, but, retiring upon El Fasher, he succeeded in reuniting the enemy from Um Shanga. It was early in the following year that Slatin received a message from Khartoum ordering him to nominate a local sultan as King of Darfur, and himself to retire on Dongola, via Kaja.

The brave Austrian did all that lay in his power to stem the tide of Mahdism that was gradually flowing towards and engulfing Darfur. Altogether he fought twenty-seven battles in various parts of the province, but by degrees his own troops—religious fanatics attracted by the new "religion"—fell away from him, and in the end he had to surrender to the Mahdi at Dara, in South Darfur, in December, 1883. It is a matter of history how Slatin became the bond slave, first, of the Mahdi and, later on, of his detestable successor the Khalifa, Abdullahi bin Sayd Mohammed, serving twelve long unforgettable years of hideous slavery in their clutches; and how he was rescued therefrom in 1895, only, however, after many failures, through the untiring efforts of his friends in Cairo, of whom General Sir Reginald—then Major—Wingate was one.

Soon after the Mahdi died, in June, 1885, a rebellion against his successor broke out in Darfur, and for years a bloody feud continued between the Khalifa and the Sheikh Madibbo. He was finally defeated, and, in accordance with the gentle methods adopted by the Khalifa towards his enemies, executed. One Zogal, who had been Dervish Emir of Darfur, having been deposed, was succeeded by Sultan Yussuf, who, likewise, soon met with a violent death. Rising after rising against the Khalifa continued to take place, the years 1888 and 1889 proving particularly bloody. This state of things continued right up to the defeat of the hated Abdullahi himself at the hands of the British.

It was believed that after all that the Darfurs had gone through a period of peace would have been welcome; but Ali Dinar, who had succeeded to the throne as the grandson

of the Sultan Mohammed El Fadl, soon developed the germs of rebellion and treachery, proving for many years a thorn in the side of the Government sitting at Khartoum. Numerous references to the political situation in Darfur, guarded, but unmistakably anxious, may be read in the Annual Reports of the Governor-General, and it must now be a source of intense relief to Colonel Stack, the new Administrator, that he can commence his duties free from the heavy shadow that Darfur had ever cast on the Palace occupant at Khartoum.

Colonel Kelly will find that, in the main, he has been called upon to rule over a very simple and peaceable people, relieved of the bane of Ali Dinar's influences, willing to submit to a just and considerate Government, and, at least, no more ungrateful than the majority of governed nations. The Fors are clean and industrious, if somewhat fanatical, and, in regard to their gradual improvement, may be expected to advance with rather more rapidity than other tribes of the Sudan. The annual tribute to the Sudan Government paid—or, rather, of late days, owed—by the Sultan Ali Dinar will not only probably be maintained, but, in course of time, added to; for under proper guidance, and with assistance, the economic resources of the province can be made to yield abundantly.

BOOK NOTES.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—The new Archbishop, recognising the need of a good history of the Orthodox Greek Church of Cyprus, has decided to arrange for the publication, partly at his own expense and partly from the Archbishop's fund, of a translation of the excellent work of the late Revd. J. Hackett, D.D., Chaplain to the Forces (Methuen, 1901). This painstaking work is the best authority in English of the island church. It appears that a translation into Greek of the book has already been made by one Charilaos Papiannion, of the Pan-Cypriot *Gymnasium*, now resident in Athens. Arrangements are being made for its speedy appearance.

"Armenia and the Armenians" is the title of a small pamphlet written by the indefatigable Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. It gives a sketch of Armenian history and contains an appeal for the Fund for which Miss Robinson works so devotedly. Copies may be obtained of the authoress (at 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington) at the price of one penny.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall are the publishers of "War Wanderings," by Mr. George Renwick. The author writes of what he has seen when acting as the *Daily Chronicle's* special correspondent in Egypt, Salonika, France and Belgium; and his views upon the future of the Balkans are very interesting and carefully weighed.

Much interesting material regarding the Gallipoli campaign will be found in Mr. Philip Schuler's "Australia in Arms." The book is full of stirring incidents and sound criticism. It is published by Fisher Unwin, at 12s. 6d. net.

Part 123 of "The Times History and Encyclopedia of the War" describes the British Advance to Ctesiphon, the siege of Kut, and other operations in Lower Mesopotamia. Part 124 describes the Russian campaign in the Caucasus in the winter of 1915 and the spring of 1916, and contains three maps and many interesting illustrations.

Messrs. Macmillan have just published "Ancient Egypt, 1916, Part IV," of which Professor Petrie is the Editor.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, whose name is familiar to readers of THE NEAR EAST, has written "The Flaming Sword in Serbia and Elsewhere," which Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton published last month, at 6s. net.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

The School of Oriental Studies (London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C.) is to be formally opened by the King near the end of next month, but classes will begin on Thursday, January 18.

At the outset teaching will be provided in seven groups of languages, comprising twenty different tongues; but it is hoped at an early date to extend the scope of the school considerably (says *The Times*). Courses on the history, religion, and customs of Oriental and African countries will form a special feature in the curriculum.

The Senate of the University of London have assented to the transfer to the school of the teachers in the Oriental departments at University and King's Colleges, excluding certain subjects, such as Egyptology, Assyriology, and Hebrew. The Oriental staffs have accordingly been transferred to the school, but since the teaching at the colleges has been on a restricted scale additional appointments have been made.

In Group II. (the Near East) the director of the school, Dr. E. Denison Ross, C.I.E., will himself fill the chair of Persian, in association with Mr. C. E. Wilson and Mr. G. H. Darnall Khan. Classical Arabic will be taught by Dr. T. W. Arnold, C.I.E., and colloquial Baghdadi Arabic by Hajji Abdul Mejid Belshah.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,
THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A GREAT CONCILIATOR.*

Hariot Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava was at her husband's side throughout his long official career. In the scanty leisure left her by a never-ceasing course of social duty and the care of a large family, she recorded her impressions of men and things in a journal. The entries made during Lord Dufferin's administration of India appeared many years ago in print; and the diarist has now published those relating to diplomatic life in Eastern Europe. Brilliant service as Governor-General of Canada from 1872 to 1878 had marked Lord Dufferin out for office more fraught with difficulties than the control of any British dependency. In February, 1878, he arrived at Petrograd as Ambassador to the Court of Russia. The Turkish war of 1877 had been chequered by many disasters, and when its goal was apparently reached, Great Britain had dashed the cup of conquest from Russia's lips. Extreme tension, therefore, prevailed between the two Empires, and an Ambassador of the ornamental type might well have fanned the flames of resentment into active hostility. Lord Dufferin was cast in another mould, and Sir Henry Lucy's recently-published reminiscences bear testimony to his "tact, patient industry, energy, and gay good humour that brightened every step he took." ("Nearing Jordan," p. 203). It needed such qualities, and many besides, to overcome prejudice which, from a Russian point of view, was quite intelligible. Lord Dufferin's success in gaining the confidence of Alexander II. and his Ministers makes one long for the presence of a larger Celtic element in our diplomatic corps. The alarming spread of Nihilism was an obstacle in his path, and political assassinations were of daily occurrence; and for the first time in Russian history the "Little Father's" sacred person became an object of attack. After two abortive attempts, one of which wrecked his apartments in the Winter Palace, the Tsar-Liberator was slain by an assassin's bomb. Throughout this trying period Lord and Lady Dufferin displayed a degree of fortitude which was worthy of the best traditions of our race. The "Journals" are something nobler than a catalogue of Court ceremonies, social functions, and pleasure trips. They record much strenuous work in the cause of charity, and here and there one lights upon an illuminating thought. At Moscow, for instance, the diarist felt "nearer history" than elsewhere, because, alone among great nations, Russia is dominated by the spirit of her historical past. The accession of Alexander III. increased Lord Dufferin's embarrassments. The terrible thought occurred to him that a holocaust of the royalties who flocked to Petrograd on that occasion was well within the bounds of possibility. Among the arrivals in March, 1881, were the Prince and Princess of Wales, for whose safety Queen Victoria held her Ambassador personally responsible! It must have been a relief for husband and wife to quit that cyclonic centre for a region of comparative calm.

Constantinople, which received Lord Dufferin as British representative two months later, was also suffering from the aftermath of war and incipient revolution. In June, 1881, the alleged murderers of Sultan Abdul Aziz were tried for high treason, and nine received sentence of death, Midhat Pasha included. Lord Dufferin was called out of church on the following Sunday to interview the convict's wife and niece:—

One was elderly, the other young and pretty. They both wore yashmaks (very thin ones), and the young one had a yellow silk dress, circular yellow cloak, a blue silk hat, with a diamond brooch in front, the whole being covered with white muslin, which was brought over the forehead and mouth as a yashmak.

We are not told the result of this feminine influence. Of course, Lord Dufferin was unable to interfere; but Midhat Pasha's sentence was commuted to one of banishment.

The distrustful and pusillanimous Sultan gave infinite trouble. Of his dilatoriness, caprices, and tergiversation there was no end, but, like everyone else, he succumbed to Lord Dufferin's personal charm. Poor Abdul Hamid must have been the victim of a bad education, followed by a degree of absolute power which he was ill qualified to wield; but the "Turkish Journals" show that he was capable of kindly impulse. They also prove that Lady Dufferin did not agree with Sir G. C. Lewis's famous dictum: "Life would be tolerable but for its amusements." The leader of society at Pera was also able to grasp the hidden meaning of things which are caviar to the general. After witnessing the *Namaz* in St. Sophia, she wrote:—

The sight of all these human beings in the attitude of profoundest humility was most striking, and, though dead silence prevailed, one seemed to feel "Lord have mercy upon us, miserable sinners," in the air. . . . People differ about it as a sight; some say there is nothing to see, that it is dull, etc. I think it one of the grandest things I ever saw, and, seated far above these people, I felt as if I were assisting at a dream, a sort of revelation, and not at a real church service.

In May, 1882, the Dufferins sought in a trip to Athens relief from the endless vexations of Constantinople. They found King George "extremely nice and pleasant"; at a small State dinner he "talked all the time, just like any other man"; resembled his sister, Queen Alexandra, but "screws up his eyes, and fails in that feature." A few days later the visitors shared a family repast at the Palace:—

The King met us at the door of her apartment and took us in to the Queen, who looked lovely in a square black dress and ruby ornaments. Then all the five children came in, and we went into the next room without taking arms. . . . Her boys are very big, and the eldest (now King of Greece) is said to be very clever. We had a merry dinner, and the servants only appeared when they were rung for.

In September of that year a more important episode finds record. Arabi Pasha's rebellion had brought the tangled affairs of Egypt to a crisis. Turkish claims to sovereignty and French "condominium" produced a deadlock which ended only when the vacillating British Government at last resolved to "grasp the nettle" firmly. The victory of Tel-el-Kebir placed British supremacy on a firm basis, and it remained only to regularise future relations with Turkey by a convention. On September 15, 1882, Lord Dufferin

was away for fourteen hours, eleven of them actually at the Palace. He declined to "argue with monarchs," and so sat in another room with about fifteen diplomatising men, who brought messages from the Sultan, argued with him, and held him by the coat-tails when he threatened to leave. The Convention was not signed, and our Government now think it too late. The Turks have made a dreadful mess of it; if they had gone to Egypt instead of us, how they would have improved their position! And now? Baker Pasha says that "No one but D. could have managed that affair; and, in spite of everything, the Turks like him."

Six weeks later he was instructed by telegram to inquire and report on the future administration of Egypt. In vain did Abdul Hamid declare that he would consider the Ambassador's acceptance of the mission as a personal offence. Lord Dufferin proved obdurate, and met with a cordial reception when he took leave of the harassed despot at Yildiz.

His stay in Egypt lasted till April, 1883, and was as fertile of solid achievement as any portion of his brilliant career. Lady Dufferin was disappointed with the winter climate; the human types encountered were less interesting than those presented by Constantinople; and the snobbery which prevailed in the European colony excited her mild amusement. After five months of strenuous labour, Lord Dufferin drew up a report on the government of Egypt which has since been the basis of our administration. Nay, on returning to Constantinople, his silver tongue persuaded Abdul Hamid to accept the inevitable compromise with fairly good grace. When in September, 1884, he exchanged diplomacy for rule as Viceroy of India, he left none but friends behind him in the Turkish capital.

These journals prove that the velvet glove is more efficacious than the iron hand. By way of contrast, I may quote an appreciation of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe uttered by an English interpreter who had served under him, and described him to Lady Dufferin as "that man who moved in the icy circle of his own pride, feared by everybody." After ruling Turkey despotically for a generation, the "Great Elchi" lit up the flames of an unjust and unnecessary war. Lord Dufferin has won more enduring fame as a Conciliator; and his widow's unpretending journals show that his success was in great measure due to her gentle influence.

F. H. S.

For Over Eighty Years the Leading Literary Journal.

THE **ATHENÆUM**

(FOUNDED 1828.)

Journal of English and Foreign Literature,
Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

MONTHLY - ONE SHILLING.

"The Athenæum" Office, 11, Bream's Buildings, E.C.

* "My Russian and Turkish Journals." By the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. (London: John Murray, 1916. Price, 10s. 6d. net.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Sir Harry Johnston's letter in last week's issue of your paper, following closely on my comments, is a welcome contribution to the campaign which has for its object the introduction of consular (and diplomatic) reforms. The more frequently writers of Sir Harry's repute keep the subject before the public, and the more determined the attitude of the Press in supporting both them and the claims of organised bodies—such as Chambers of Commerce, for instance—the sooner will our Government realise that something must be done if we are to "push ahead" and make use of all commercial openings that present themselves.

As to the nature of the reforms, we are, I believe, agreed that they must be radical; that the whole system by which we are represented abroad, diplomatically or otherwise, must be drastically overhauled. Further, I think we are agreed that the sooner the reforms are introduced the better. It is no use waiting until the war is over, and then beginning to patch up a faulty system, as though it were an old ship bound to continue plying as best it can until it falls to pieces. What we want—and by "we" I mean the nation at large—is the creation now, on modern lines, of a system that will be in sound working order by the time peace has been declared. Moreover, I am inclined to think that no opportunity for drastic action in the matter could be better than the present one. We have some practical business men in or about the Cabinet; we have a Premier who is neither afraid of nor adverse to reforms; and, finally, we have the great vested interests of the country, together with all minor industries and private individuals, unselfishly working together for the good of the whole community. Consequently, not only is immediate action necessary, as already pointed out, but it is advisable because opportune.

The question as to the nature of the reforms is one that I prefer to leave open. From Sir Harry Johnston's letter I gather that we differ on some points, but I am willing to concede that his scheme of reform, if carried out, would be a distinct improvement on the system as it now exists. Further it is not necessary to go at present. The essential problem now is to get the Government to agree: (1) that the present system is no longer seaworthy; and (2) that immediate steps must be taken to reform it on as generous a scale as circumstances permit and the volume of Imperial trade interests exacts.

Needless to say, no Government—and more particularly no British Government, with its gigantic tasks to fulfil—can be persuaded to move in any one particular matter unless sufficient outside pressure is brought to bear on it. Therefore, it is incumbent on us who realise that reforms are necessary and understand the magnitude of the issues at stake to leave no stone unturned to urge his Majesty's Government to give this subject their immediate and close attention. Moreover, the arrival in England a few weeks hence of the Dominion Premiers should be taken advantage of in order to bring this vital matter to their notice.—I am, etc.,

COMMENTATOR.

THE JEWS IN PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The article, "The Future of Palestine," by Estelle Blyth (second part), published in your last issue, contains a certain number of statements which, for the sake of justice, should not be allowed to remain unchallenged.

The author of the article in question asks: "What are the Jews doing to-day for Palestine?" and proceeds to answer her own question by stating that they have planted many fruitful colonies about the country, but that in the towns they are the chief moneylenders. The truth is as follows:—

There are about forty-five Jewish agricultural colonies in Palestine which, with the exception of two or three German settlements, are the only places in Palestine where one can see modern European and American methods of agriculture applied on an extensive scale. The value of this example

for the general regeneration of the country is obvious. 5,000 Arab labourers are to-day working in the colonies of Judea alone, and the more our settlements grow in number and area the greater will be the number of Arab labourers who will be able to find in them remunerative employment.

The Jews have planted all over the country millions of eucalyptus trees, which, through their great powers of absorption and evaporation, have brought health to many places that were formerly marshy and uninhabitable, and have thus done much to make the country in general more salubrious.

It is the Jews who have created the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station at Zichron-Jacob and Atlit, which has done and is doing much valuable work in introducing and improving the cultivation of varieties of cereals and other plants which are not very exacting and have an ample power of resisting bad weather, disease, and various parasites.

It is the Jewish doctors of the Jewish colonies who are almost the only medical assistance available in the more out-of-the-way parts of the country, and they fight epidemics and other diseases amongst the Jews and non-Jews alike. The Jewish Health Bureau of Jerusalem has undertaken in a very efficient way the struggle against malaria and eye disease, and under the central direction of this institution the local doctors in certain Jewish colonies have initiated a systematic war against trachoma. The hospitals which the Jews have created all over Palestine are more numerous than those created by any European nation.

In various parts of the country the Jews have improved the existing roads and built new ones at their own expense.

Any impartial observer who has studied the life of the Jews in Palestine will admit that, contrary to what is said in the article in question, the Jews in all their activities there have shown themselves to be conscientious and skilful administrators. With limited means, and without any support from the local government—nay, often in the face of its frank ill-will—the Jews have succeeded within a generation in setting up a colonial organisation which for the country as a whole is a most powerful leaven of progress. It is a well known fact that the extraordinary economic progress of Jaffa corresponds almost exactly with the period when the Jews began to interest themselves more actively in Palestinian economy, and, above all, when the Zionist organisation, by founding the Anglo-Palestine Company, Ltd., a British bank, began its operations in the country. It would be too much to say that the credit for this great economic progress belongs exclusively to the Jews, but it is probable that they have been the most important factor.—I am, etc.,

S. FALKOWSKY,

Agricultural Engineer at Jaffa.

57, St. Gabriel's Road, Cricklewood, N.W.,
December 26, 1916.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I, as a Jew and a Zionist, am a little disappointed that Miss Estelle Blyth is not more sympathetic to Zionist efforts, because it seems to me that it is possible to agree with her arguments in the main, to think Palestine should be placed under British rule and yet believe that a great spread of the Zionist agricultural colonies would be desirable. The spread of colonies of Jews possessed of local self-governing power may be the way in which the land may once become Jewish.

I do not consider Zionism the cure for every Jewish ill. I believe Miss Blyth might agree with me that a revival of religious feeling among the Jews is also needed. But surely the existence of a "spiritual centre" in Palestine would reinvigorate the Jews who still remained in England, Russia, or America. I mean by a "spiritual centre" a place where Jews would be Jews only, and not English, Russian, or American Jews; a place where Hebrew would be spoken, where the customs and products of the land would become distinctively Jewish. The revival of Hebrew as a spoken language in Palestine is a phenomenon which deserves attention as a proof that the Jews have still not lost all vitality as a nation, even if, as Miss Blyth correctly says, they are often "only a kindred." To me the question is, "What future worth having can they look forward to unless they become a nation again?"

I am, etc.,

ARTHUR LEWIS.

Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.,
December 29, 1916.

While the Germans are weeping hypocritically over the fate of humanity and the horrors of war, says an official Serbian statement, Bulgarian and German artillery bombards the open town of Monastir, occupied only by unarmed inhabitants. In three days eighteen persons, including nine children and three women, were killed by enemy shells. Five children were wounded.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. Jan. 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	1916. Dec. 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	1335. Rebi I. 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	5677. Tebet. 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

To-day Princess Ileana of Roumania, third daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, is eight years old.

Monday next is the Queen of Italy's birthday. Her Majesty, who is the third daughter of King Nicholas of Montenegro, was born December 27, 1872 (o.s.), and was married in Rome on October 24, 1896.

Tuesday is the birthday of Princess Marie of Roumania, who was born in 1899 (o.s.), and is the second daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie.

Sir Archibald Murray has telegraphed to King George: "In the name of the troops under my command, I respectfully beg to offer to your Majesty and her Majesty the expression of our loyalty and devotion, and the hope that the New Year will bring to your Majesties all happiness."

Sir Rennell Rodd, British Ambassador in Rome, had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Friday.

Lord and Lady Oranmore will return to London from Castle MacGarrett on January 23.

Sir Henry and Lady McMahon have arrived in London from Egypt and are staying at 59, Pont Street.

General Sir Ian Hamilton left London for Dunblane last Saturday.

Sir Reginald Wingate, the new High Commissioner for Egypt, arrived at Cairo on December 27, when he was received by Zulficar Pasha, on behalf of the Sultan, General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief, and a representative body of British and Egyptians.

The *Sudan Times* of December 16 gives an interesting account of a tea party given by the Egyptian officers of the Khartoum district in honour of Sir Reginald Wingate, prior to the latter's departure for Egypt. The party took place at the Egyptian Officers' Club on December 12, and was largely attended. Lewa Mahmoud Pasha Hilmi, president of the club, and Kaimakam Faras Bey Abu Zeid, the senior Sudanese officer present, expressed the regret felt by themselves and their fellow-officers at having to say good-bye to the Sirdar, and the latter returned thanks in a very happily-worded speech in Arabic. A donation of £52 for the British Red Cross Society, and one of £25 in aid of the victims of the air raid in Cairo, were handed to Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate by Hilmi Pasha on behalf of the officers, and were suitably acknowledged by the Sirdar.

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

Princess Helen Soutzo, the wife of the Roumanian Military Attaché in Paris, arrived in London last week.

Madame Také Jonescu arrived in Petrograd from Corfu last week.

Lieutenant-General Lawrence has received another honour; from C.B. he has become K.C.B. His full title now is Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Lawrence, K.C.B.

Sir Douglas Haig has telegraphed to General Sir Archibald Murray:—"Our heartiest congratulations to you and those under your command on your great success in the El Arish operations." Sir Archibald Murray replied:—"I and the troops under my command are most grateful for our big brothers' kind congratulations."

General Georgesco, of the Roumanian Army, who is specially attached to the British Headquarters Staff, returned to London with Mme. Georgesco on the last day of the old year.

Colonel Rudcano, of the Roumanian Army, arrived in London from Paris last week.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Sir Armand Ruffer left Egypt on December 15, in order to assist M. Venizelos to organise the sanitary and hygienic section of the Nationalist Army.

The newly appointed Serbian Minister to Washington (M. Ljebomir Michailovitch) has left for America, accompanied by the First Secretary, M. Alexandre V. Georgevitch.

M. Pavle Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, was recently confined to his room for two days by illness, but has now happily returned to his duties completely restored to health.

M. George Todorovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, left London a few days since, and has now arrived at the Foreign Office at Corfu.

M. Levitch, Secretary-General of the Serbian Ministry of Finance, has been in Paris on a special mission, but has now returned to Corfu.

The Rev. Voyslav Yanitch, Chaplain to the King of Serbia, has, says the *Morning Post*, been granted permission to visit the Canadian Army at the Front, where there is a large number of Serbian soldiers fighting in the British ranks.

The marriage of Lord Curzon of Kedleston and Mrs. Grace Elvina Duggan, widow of Mr. Alfred Duggan, of Buenos Ayres, took place very quietly on Tuesday in the private chapel of Lambeth Palace. The wedding was originally arranged to take place at the end of last week at St. George's, Hanover Square, but was postponed. The Archbishop of Canterbury being prevented by illness from officiating, his place was taken by the Archbishop of York, an old friend of Lord Curzon. Only members of the two families were present, as it was desired that the wedding should be as quiet as possible. The Hon. Francis Curzon, brother of the bridegroom, was his best man. Later in the day Lord and Lady Curzon left for the country.

On December 6, at St. Saviour's Church, Suez, the marriage took place of Miss Hilda Maud White, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. White, of Suez, and Mr. Alfred Nash Prosser, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Prosser. Both families are well known in Egypt, the bride's father being an official of the Asiatic Petroleum Company, and the bridegroom's father a former superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company at Alexandria. Captain Franklin was the officiating clergyman.

To-morrow afternoon, at 2.30, the Central Islamic Society will hold a conversazione at the Hotel Cecil, in commemoration of the birth of the Prophet of Arabia. Mr. A. Yusuf Ali, I.C.S. (ret.), will preside, and there will be music of the East and of the West.

Mr. Augustus van Millingen, of Alexandria, has arrived in London for a short stay.

The *Neue Freie Presse* announces that the house where King Nicholas of Montenegro was born, near Cetinje, has been destroyed by fire.

Last Friday Mr. Fisher Unwin published "Charles Lister: Letters and Recollections, with a Memoir by His Father, Lord Ribblesdale." Mr. Lister, it will be remembered, was a Secretary to the British Legation at Constantinople, whither he was transferred from Rome in 1913; and had he lived he would undoubtedly have made his mark in the Diplomatic Service. But early in the war he responded to the call of his country, and, obtaining special leave for a year from the Foreign Office, returned to England in October, 1914. In the following February he sailed for Egypt with the R.N.D., and subsequently took part with the Hood Battalion in the Dardanelles campaign. On August 25 he was fatally wounded, and on August 28 he died on a hospital ship. The "Letters and Recollections" constitute a remarkable and inspiring record of a splendid life.

M. Caftanzoglou, who is to take M. Gennadius's place at the Greek Embassy, is well known in London, where he made a good many friends during his stay as Secretary of Legation and as Chargé d'Affaires, says the *Leicester Daily Post*. The Royal Government of Greece is now, of course, virtually unrepresented at the Court of St. James's, and it is unlikely that the old relations between the Foreign Office and the Greek Embassy will be precisely resumed, if only because the resignation of M. Gennadius has completed the diversion of Anglo-Greek affairs into another channel. But, though the new Minister's mission is not defined, he has the very distinct advantage of a thorough understanding of the ins and outs of diplomatic work in London.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in the course of a short article on Professor Lambros, the Greek Prime Minister, refers to the Professor's distinction as a scholar and his "life spent in historical research." After mentioning many of Professor Lambros's earlier works, the writer continues:—"He has been latterly engaged on an exhaustive work in several volumes (of which only the early part has appeared) on the rule of the Palaiologoi in the Peloponnese in the period preceding the Turkish Conquest. He has also translated—for he knows English well—two English works on mediæval and modern Greek history into modern Greek. His style is pleasing, and he is an indefatigable worker."

"Professor Lambros," the correspondent goes on to say, "has been twice Rector of the Athens University, holding that place for the second time on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation, which was celebrated in 1912. Both then and when he organized the Olympic Games in 1906 his power of organization was greatly praised by all who witnessed it, among whom was on both occasions the present writer. He is a good man of business as well as a scholar, and is possessed of plenty of tact, for, like Odysseus, he has seen many cities of men, and speaks several languages well. For that reason he was often sent abroad to represent Greece at international gatherings. Thus he came to Rome in 1911 to open the Byzantine section of the Exhibition, which he did in an admirable speech; and he was here on a semi-political mission (sent by M. Venizelos) in the spring of 1913. Indeed, he was in Rome when King Constantine ascended the throne, and gave the present writer a long interview for the *Morning Post* on the character of the late and the new King. For the University of Cambridge he has published in two volumes the results of his personal investigations among the manuscripts of Mount Athos. Indeed, he is well known to all learned circles of all lands, and is probably the greatest living Mediævalist. Although often urged by King George to enter politics, he always refused, preferring to study quietly in his house in the rue Mavrocordato or in his villa at Kephissia, or to travel abroad to make researches in foreign libraries. But, then, all Greeks are politicians!"

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Foreign Office on Monday issued the following:—"Earl Granville, G.C.V.O., Counsellor of his Majesty's Embassy at Paris, has been appointed the representative of his Majesty's Government to the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos at Salonika, with the title of Diplomatic Agent." Lord Granville is leaving immediately to assume his post.

Reuter's Agency announces that M. Gennadius received on Saturday an official notification of his appointment as Diplomatic Agent to Great Britain for the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos. The latter has telegraphed to M. Gennadius that in the decree of his nomination he has received the highest grade which it is possible to occupy in the Greek Service.

M. Gennadius was received at the Foreign Office by Mr. Balfour on Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. E. S. Crispin, who has been acting as Director of the Sudan Medical Department for some time, has now been finally appointed as Director with retrospective effect from July 1, 1916.

Under date of January 3, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—"The Government has appointed M. de Billy, Counsellor of the French Embassy in Rome, to be French Diplomatic Agent to the Greek Provisional Government.

M. Milan Miloyevitch, formerly Secretary to the Serbian Foreign Office, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the Serbian Legation at The Hague.

It is stated that Judge Adlerkantz, the Swedish Judge of the Mixed Courts at Cairo, is to be appointed to a high position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Stockholm, and will be leaving Egypt shortly, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. His successor will probably be Mr. Sjoborg, of the Mansourah Mixed Court.

The Anglo-Hellenic League has (according to Reuter's Agency) received intelligence that General Zymbrakakis, Minister of War, in the Greek Provisional Government at Salonika, having asked to be sent on active service, has been given the command of the new Army Corps. His place at the Ministry of War has been taken by General Comnenos-Miliotis, one of the most distinguished officers in the Greek Army. He is a descendant of the Byzantine house of Comnenos, and was educated at the French Cavalry School of Saumur.

M. Pechar has been appointed Second Secretary to the Serbian Legation in Washington.

The Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Bimbashi H. Burges-Watson, Inspector of Kordofan Province, to be Magistrate of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Lieutenant C. Wright, Army Service Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Department of Supplies.

Kaimakam E. H. Ross Bey, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Kaimakam R. P. Lewis Bey, late Sudan Government, has been granted the Order of the Nile, 4th Class.

Bimbashi (temp. Kaimakam) J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., Sudan Government, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C., will be OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East, and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs.

Intending Students are invited to apply at once to be undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

THE LATE DR. WATSON.

The funeral of the Rev. Andrew Watson, head of the American Mission in Egypt, whose death is reported by our Cairo Correspondent, took place on December 10 in Cairo. The service was held at the American Mission Church, Ezbekieh, and the following clergy officiated: The Right Rev. the Bishop in Jerusalem, Rev. J. Kruidenier, Rev. J. R. Alexander, Rev. J. G. Hunt, Rev. S. M. Zwemer, Rev. Shenuda Hanna, and Rev. Gubrial Michail. Among those present were: Sir Henry MacMahon, the High Commissioner; Mr. Paul Knabenshue, the Acting American Diplomatic Agent; Dr. D. Dunlop, Adviser to the Ministry of Education; Miralai Harvey Pasha, Officer Commanding Cairo City Police; and a large number of leading officials.

Dr. Watson was a Scot by birth, but went to America with his parents while still a boy, and was educated at Princeton and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The following are extracts from an obituary notice published in the *Egyptian Gazette* of December 12:—"To all the growth, development, expansion, and uplift of Egypt the American Mission has contributed largely, and Dr. Watson has always been among its leaders. His greatest work, of course, was as a missionary. On his arrival in Egypt there were only six members of the embryonic native Protestant Church. To-day there is a native Protestant community of 30,000 to 40,000 members, containing over 13,000 communicants. He helped to establish in 1864 the Mission Theological Seminary—the oldest school of Protestant theology in Egypt. In 1869 he was made the Professor of Systematic Theology, and since 1892 he has been the head of the school. Through his classroom have passed the pastors and preachers of the Egyptian Protestant Church—many of whom are men of power, and occupy positions of influence in the cities, towns, and villages of Egypt, from Alexandria to Aswan. The work he did in this school has been his great life work—it and its results are his abiding monument. . . . In 1890,

during a visit to America, he was chosen the Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church—the highest Court of the home Church. In 1897 he published his 'History of the American Mission in Egypt,' a work that sets forth most vividly the conditions of the country and of mission life and work during the second half of the nineteenth century. He had a leading part in the organisation of the civil and political status and relations of the native Protestant communities in Egypt by which a Firman was obtained from the Sultan of Turkey recognising their official existence and their legal rights. He was the head of the committee sent as pioneers in establishing the American Mission in the Sudan in 1900. In 1910 he was a delegate to the World's Missionary Conference at Edinburgh.

"Dr. Watson's influence and activities extended beyond the bounds of the special work of his mission. He was a member for many years of the committee in control of the Deaconess' Hospital in Cairo. He was trusted by all. Servants brought their savings to him to invest for them. Heirs entrusted their small inheritances to his care to administer for them. And only a few weeks ago the Head of the City Police placed in his hands the administration of a sum of money to be applied to the needs of a dependent family. He was liberal and generous to the poor. No needy person was ever turned from his door without food or the means of getting food. He was a man simple, humble, faithful—he never shirked a duty and he never failed a friend."

Mr. Charles Levens, a Crimean veteran, who had acted as orderly to Florence Nightingale, died in the Kingston Victoria Hospital on Saturday as the result of an accident. He was going along Canbury Park Road in his self-propelling invalid chair on Thursday afternoon when a runaway horse came into collision with him and he was thrown into the roadway. He was eighty-five years old, and held the Crimean and Turkish medals.

OBITUARY.

Colonel John Stacpole, C.V.O., C.M.G., Army Service Corps, who had retired from the Service but had been temporarily re-employed, died suddenly on Saturday at Highfield, Southampton, following an operation. The second son of the late Thomas Stacpole, of Ballinahow, County Tipperary, he was born in 1847, entered the Army in 1874, and reached the rank of colonel in 1900, and, after serving on the Staff, retired in 1904. He took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1885 (Suakin), and was decorated with the medal with clasp and the bronze star. Colonel Stacpole was Embarkation Officer at Southampton during the Boer War, and was personally thanked by King Edward for the way in which he fulfilled the duties of that position. He was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1901, and a year later a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

We regret to learn that Mr. Frederick Francis Maling, late British Vice-Consul at Port Said, died in that town on November 3. Born in 1850, he was appointed Acting Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles in 1886, and in 1887 was nominated Vice-Consul at Port Said; and in 1889 he passed an examination and was appointed Vice-Consul in that town. He was Acting-Consul on very many occasions. In 1907 he retired on a pension.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kitchener, aunt of the late Earl Kitchener, has died at Newmarket, at the age of eighty-nine years. The late Peer often visited his uncle, a solicitor at Newmarket, in his younger days, and his aunt had a fund of anecdotes about him.

A Cork telegram announces the death on Wednesday night, at his residence, Clonty, of Surgeon-General Sir Edmond Townsend, K.C.B., aged 71. Sir Edmond served in the Abyssinian, Perak, Zulu, and Egyptian Wars, as well as in the North-West Frontier campaign in 1897-8. He was also with the First Division in the South African War. From 1902 to the date of his retirement he held the post of principal medical officer at Netley.

Colonel Ernest Grattan, who has died at the age of 73, joined the Army in 1871, and retired in 1898. He served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and took part in the battle of Kassassin; and he had previously served in the Ashanti War (1873-4) and the Zulu campaign (1879).

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—"Limassol has suffered a loss by the death of one of the leading citizens, M. Agathocles Francoudes, who was greatly respected and liked by the British as well as by the entire Greek community. Mr. Francoudes practised for many years as an advocate in the courts. His upright and sympathetic character rendered him popular with all classes in his own town, and he was greatly esteemed by his many friends in the island."

Mr. Stratis, a Greek merchant of Zagazig, has received the news that his brother, who was in the service of the British Legation at Athens, was murdered by the Royalists during the massacres there at the beginning of last month.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund, which sent 20 ambulances to Salonika a short while ago, has received a letter from the British Red Cross Society regarding them. This letter reads as follows:—"I am sure it will be of interest to you to know that we are in receipt of a cablegram from our Commissioner in Salonika informing us that the 20 ambulances so kindly presented to these societies by the British Farmers' Fund, were handed over to the medical services of the Serbian Army in the presence of the Crown Prince of Serbia, General Tersitch, Minister of War, and General Boyovitch, Commander-in-Chief, and that his Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, expressed his appreciation in very glowing terms of the kind help rendered to the Serbian Army." Further help is still urgently wanted, and all offers of assistance will be gratefully received by the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.

EGYPTIAN HONOURS.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant the under-mentioned gentlemen authority to wear Decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of services rendered:—

SECOND CLASS OF THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

George Gillett Hunter, Esq., C.M.G., Director-General of the Coastguard Administration in Egypt.
Rear-Admiral Henry Russell Robinson, Director-General of Ports and Lights, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
Arthur King Lewis, Esq., C.M.G., Director-General of Customs, Alexandria.
Walter M. G. Bond, Esq., Vice-President, Native Court of Appeal, Cairo.
George Farquhar Morice, Esq., Director-General of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.
Miralai George Samuel Abercrombie Harvey, Esq., C.M.G., Commandant of Police, Cairo.
Lieutenant Charles Herbert Whittingham (Miralai Charles Herbert Whittingham, Esq.), Inspector-General of the Prison Department, Cairo.
Sidney Herbert Wells, Esq., Director-General, Department of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education, Cairo.

THIRD CLASS OF THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

Robert Holt, Esq., Principal, School of Engineering, Giza, Cairo.
Gilbert, John Elliot, Esq., Headmaster, Tewfikia Secondary School, Cairo.
Richard Aldred Brown, Esq., Inspector, Ministry of Education, Cairo.
Alfred Hubert Sharrman, Esq., Headmaster, Sadia Secondary School, Giza, Cairo.
William Chatterton Adams, Esq., Director, Bulak Technical School, Cairo.
William Hawkins Wilson, Esq., M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Cairo.
Alfred Ernest Robinson, Esq., Inspector, Ministry of Education, Cairo.
William Charles Fletcher, Esq., Inspector of Industrial Schools, Cairo.
George Robb, Esq., Inspector, Ministry of Education, Cairo.
Richard Ratcliffe Smithard, Esq., Principal, Higher School of Commerce, Cairo.
Captain Alexander Wise, Chief Inspector of Mines, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.
Alfred Ernest Branch, Esq., Veterinary Chief Inspector, Ministry of Interior, Cairo.
Herbert William Dudgeon, Esq., M.D., Director of the Lunatic Asylum, Khanka, near Cairo.
Albert William Hazel, Esq., Inspector, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.
Arthur Ferguson MacCallan, Esq., M.D., Director of Ophthalmic Hospitals, Egypt.
Percy Glyn Savours Williams, Esq., M.D., Director of Section, Public Health Department, Cairo.
James Ferguson Lees, Esq., M.D., C.M., Medical Officer, Public Health Department, Cairo.
William Hastings, Esq., M.B., Director of Section, Public Health Department, Cairo.
Charles Todd, Esq., Director of Technical Institutes, Cairo.
Captain Alan Colquhoun Grant (Miralai Alan Colquhoun Grant, Esq.), Commandant, Suez Canal Police.
Kaimakam Thomas Wentworth Russell, Esq., Assistant Commandant, Cairo City Police.
Major Chudleigh Garvice, Assistant Commandant, Alexandria City Police.
John Hope Percival, Esq., Judge of the Native Court of Appeal, Cairo.
Thomas Bogie Hamilton, Esq., M.B., Medico-Legal Expert, Native Parquet, Cairo.
Leander Gaspard Roussin, Esq., Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
Arthur Thomas Loyd, Esq., Private Secretary to the Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
James Ireland Craig, Esq., Contoller, Statistical Department, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
Edward Henry Goschen, Esq., Contoller, Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
John Alexander Tarrell, Esq., Chief In-

spector of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.

FOURTH CLASS OF THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

Archibald D. Macdonald, Esq., Sub-Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.
Kaimakam Felix George Bonelli, Assistant Commandant, Suez Canal Police.
Bimbashi Arthur Robert Langdale Kelham, Inspector, Alexandria City Police.
Alexander Gordon Ingram, Esq., Inspector of Police, Alexandria City.
Bimbashi Henry George Archer, Assistant Commandant, Cairo City Police.
Edward Albert Moore, Esq., Suez Canal Police.
Felix Edmund Powell, Esq., Inspector, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.
Alfred Henry Armstrong, Esq., Engineer, Main Drainage Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.
Philip Foster Daniell, Esq., Sub-Inspector, Ministry of Education, Cairo.
David Tweedie, Esq., Lecturer, School of Engineering, Giza, Cairo.
George Foster Smith, Esq., Lecturer, Sultan Training College for Schoolmasters, Cairo.
William Henry Stephens, Esq., Lecturer, Nasser Training College, Cairo.
Lieutenant-Commander Edward Harry Grogan, R.N. (Ret.), Chief Inspector of Marine, Ports, and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria.
Aubrey Lovell Pryce Weedon, Esq., Inspector, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
Alfred Lucas, Esq., Director, Government Analytical Laboratory, Cairo.
Harold Charles Jefferys, Esq., Chief Inspector, Domains Administration, Cairo.
Arthur Owen Williams, Esq., Local Director, General Post Office, Cairo.
Henry Harrington, Esq., Director, Post Office, Alexandria.
Kaimakam Francis Van Zeller, Esq., Director, Coast Guards Administration, Alexandria.
Kaimakam Gordon Morice, Assistant Director of Coast Guards, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.
Joseph William Gardner, Esq., Superintendent, Floating Plant, Ports, and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria.
Robert Godfree Brunton, Esq., Director, Ministry of Justice, Cairo.

FIFTH CLASS OF THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

Henry Wilfred Skelly, Esq., Chief of Technical Service, Government Press, Boulak, Cairo.
Ely Augustus Roche, Esq., Chief de Bureau, Adviser's Office, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

Among the New Year Honours are the following, for the Egyptian Army:—
El Sagholaghassi (Adj.-Maj.) Mahmud Bahgat (Effendi), S.O. to Camel Corps.
El Sagholaghassi (Adj.-Maj.) Mahmud Hafez (Effendi), Staff.
El Sagholaghassi (Adj.-Maj.) Mohammed Hassan (Effendi), Military Works Dept.
El Sagholaghassi (Adj.-Maj.) Mohammed Niazi (Effendi), Cavalry.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) Ali Islam (Effendi) Arty.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) El Sayed Ferid (Effendi), Dept. of Stores.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) Huss in Taher (Effendi), Arab Bn.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) Mabruk Fiki (Effendi), Sudanese.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) Mahmud Shukri (Effendi), Sudanese.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) Musa Khouri Zakaria (Effendi), Med. Corps.
El Yuzbashi (Capt.) Nasralla El Burgi (Effendi), Med. Corps.
El Mulazim Awal (Lt.) Abdulla Adam Gabril (Effendi), Camel Corps.
El Mulazim Awal (Lt.) Ahmed Ibrahim (Effendi).
El Mulazim Awal (Lt.) Azab Selim (Effendi).
El Mulazim Awal (Lt.) Mohammed Talat (Effendi), Vet. Dept.
El Mulazim Awal (Lt.) Mohammed Yuzri (Effendi), Arty.
El Mulazim Awal (Lt.) Shaker Mansur El Rubi (Effendi).
El Mulazim Tah (Sec.-Lt.) Suleiman Omar (Effendi).
El Mulazim Tah (Sec.-Lt.) Zeki Ali Ghonaim (Effendi).

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS.

CASSAVETTI.—On Jan. 2, 1917, at 8, Eaton Terrace, to Demetrius John and Lilian Oswald Cassavetti—a son.

GARDNER.—On December 17, at Suez, the wife of Commander C. Gardner, R.I.M., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

PARMENTER—ELSWORTH.—On Dec. 16, at H.B.M.'s Consulate General, Alexandria, and afterwards quietly at All Saints' Church, Ramleh, by the Rev. H. Valentine, Godwin E. P. Parmenter, Chaplain, R.N., elder son of the late Rev. E. C. and Mrs. Parmenter, of Deerhurst Vicarage, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and Bevington House, Belchamp, Otten, Essex, and Berenece, eldest daughter of Mr. J. F. and Mrs. Elsworth, of Bulkeley, Alexandria.

DEATH.

SINGLETON.—On Dec. 17, after a long illness, Charles Singleton, of 211, Brixton Road, and Duleek, Ireland, decorated Chevalier de Sauveteur and Member Diplôme D'Onore of the Accademia Bizantina, Constantinople, and at one time Vice-Consular Agent at Ziftah, Egypt.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL, Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Office and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1917.

THE ALLIES AND THE NEW YEAR.

From the review of the course of events in the Near East during the past year which appeared in these pages last week the paradox emerged that, however difficult it might be to contemplate the details of the retrospect with satisfaction or self-complacency, the net result provided ample ground for confidence. To this end it was necessary to bring the whole course of the war into perspective, and not to be misled by over-emphasis of the developments in one theatre only. If we go farther and try to envisage the war as it appears to the two groups of belligerents, other reasons will be found for striking a confident note at this juncture. Two notable documents are now before the world, and no less significant than the actual language in which they are couched is the setting in which they were presented. The German offer to enter into peace negotiations was delivered with a flourish of trumpets and much stage manipulation. Public opinion in the countries of the Central Alliance had been raised on the tiptoe of expectation; vague references to coming events of great importance, and still greater desirability, had been carefully disseminated. There can be no question that peace is needed in Germany; the public voice has been raised far too unanimously to admit of any doubt on this point, and the Government has shown much ingenuity in encouraging the idea that peace is imminent. It may be that Germany's rulers really believed that they could achieve peace for the asking, or they may simply be content to live from hand to mouth, humouring the public bent in the hope of keeping the people quiet, and leaving the future, as far as popular exasperation may be concerned, to take care of itself. A third possibility is that they count on the Allies' refusal to discuss peace to supply the required stimulus to the German nation in order that it may steel itself to yet greater sacrifices. Now comes the reply of the Allies. However much the German back may ultimately be stiffened by it, the first feeling of those whose hearts and minds have been so set on peace, and who have been led to believe that peace was within reach, must be one of bitter disappointment, combined, possibly, with indignation against those who have misled them. If accounts of economic conditions in Germany be correct, the second feeling may well be one of despair. Discipline can be relied upon to prevent such feelings from exercising immediate influence on the enemy's powers of resistance: but of themselves they form a poor basis for enhanced military effort.

The keynote of the Allies' reply is given in a single sentence: "Fully conscious of the gravity of this moment, but equally conscious of its requirements, the Allied Governments, closely united to one another, and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere." For the rest, it was necessary to bring home to the Central Powers some conception of the abhorrence which their conduct of the war has roused among the Allies, and therefore the reply is a lengthy one. No one reading its measured terms, and appreciating how literally true it is that the Allied Governments and their peoples are in perfect sympathy in this determination to continue the struggle until they can exact retribution, reparation, and guarantees, can fail to contrast the feelings that these two documents will evoke in the belligerent

groups. On the one hand there was a public clamouring for peace, and being cajoled into the belief that it was coming; in the other group public opinion, as far as it required anything at the hands of the respective Governments, wanted only fresh assurances that the war was to be prosecuted with enhanced vigour. Nor is its confidence altogether devoid of material foundations. "The enemy's power has not yet been broken," writes the British Commander-in-Chief in France, "nor is it yet possible to form an estimate of the time the war may last before the objects for which the Allies are fighting have been attained. But the Somme battle has placed beyond doubt the ability of the Allies to gain those objects." In spite of the enemy's successes, the feeling is widespread, extending even to neutral States, that the future is with the Allies. The same feeling may even have succeeded in permeating into the enemy countries. From the "war map" Germany may derive what consolation she likes; she can draw none from the spirit of the peoples opposed to her. Even Roumania, who might conceivably have extracted favourable conditions of peace, if she had chosen to purchase respite from German conquests at the price of material indemnity, is at one in her resolve to fight on. Belgium, Serbia, and Montenegro no less have been proof against all efforts of seduction, and when these sorely stricken countries stand fast, there can be no question of the "will to win" of the greater Powers showing signs of weakening.

The Central Powers are not alone in attributing the Allies' resistance to mere obstinacy. President Wilson in the Note which he addressed to the belligerents discovered no point of difference in the objects for which the two groups were fighting, and as one group had already offered to negotiate, he invited the inference that in his opinion the Allies were perversely prolonging the struggle without sufficient cause. To those to whom moral considerations make no appeal, who can either perpetrate or look on unmoved at the perpetration of such outrages as have sullied the arms of the Central Alliance in Belgium and Armenia and on the high seas, the attitude of the Allies may well be incomprehensible. Others will have no difficulty in realizing that the spirit which actuates the countries of the Grand Alliance rises superior to thoughts of material aggrandisement. In the first place there is the firm conviction that the world under German-cum-Turkish domination is unthinkable. This thought alone would suffice to make them continue the struggle to the bitter end. But out of the stress of a fierce conflict has come the perception of greater potentialities in store than merely the curbing of the German lust of power. Freedom for the small nations is the first corollary, and both Serbia and Roumania know that the goal for which they are striving is worth all the suffering imposed upon them now. To the latter, indeed, apart from the delivery of kinsfolk under the Austro-Hungarian yoke, there is opened up the prospect of her own domestic anomalies being removed, of greater political and social freedom for all. The Great Powers, too, are realizing how constructive war's destruction may prove. As a result of the struggle the British Empire finds itself welded together as it had hardly dared before to imagine possible, and during the progress of the war it takes the first practical step towards organic unity, from which for one reason or another it had previously recoiled. For great-hearted Russia visions of a new era after the war are beginning to loom—visions, in themselves well worth fighting for, of the country freed from the benumbing influences that kept it shackled to the prison-wall of reaction. Every country in the Grand Alliance feels uplifted by its association in a cause at once worthy and ennobling, in which each is discovering some moral purpose that it can make more particularly its own. To such an inspiration Germany can only oppose false sentiments about her own freedom from aggression—words that win less credence each time they are uttered. Little wonder, therefore, that as the war drags on her people show signs of losing heart, while the Allies face the New Year in the confidence of a fresh accession of strength.

THE BALKANS.

By H. M. WALLIS.

I.—BEFORE THE FIRST SNOW-FALL.

An officer I know tells me that he landed at Suvla Bay in the last week of August, 1915, in such intolerable heat that he left his "British Warm" down on the beach and never saw it again. In the last week of the following November fell the Great Storm which nobody had anticipated, and for which no preparations had been made. Trenches filled, and men were drowned in them, whilst others, luckier, lay under the pitiless downpour in bottomless mud behind the weak shelter of the paradoss. Nobody had told our engineers that it ever rained in Jovès, so the trenches were made without drainage. As for the coming winter, were we not in the South—the land of the olive and myrtle? So men who had suffered from the heat now shivered in shorts and a flannel shirt until a night's frost did for them. Sentries fell back into the wet trenches dead, tumbling stiffly as a tree falls, frozen. One regiment near him lost fifty men in one night from cold. His legs to the knees were insensible to the remarks of a pin, it was a bad case of trench feet, but, more fortunate than many, he recovered from dysentery and frost-bite at Cairo.

For a travelling people it is surprising how little we English know of other people's climates. That of the Mediterranean seaboard, for instance, which is pretty much alike from Tunis to Salonika. Thus, the present writer has keen recollections of the pinching cold of a winter's morning along the Nile, and has been laid up by sudden chills taken before breakfast at Biskra and Algiers. At Nice he has seen indiarubber trees snapped by the weight of snow, and date-palms bent nearly double. The mistral came through the gap above Le Cannet like a sword, and all the country between the Alpes Maritimes and the actual coast range was reminiscent of the Dovrefjeld. Similarly, in North Africa one has found the train-service stopped for a week, all telegraph poles down, and fourteen natives and many mules dead in snowdrifts in the Aurès.

But the tourist is always assured that it is exceptional, never was like it before, and never will be again. This is what one heard told of the blizzard which cost us so dearly in the Crimea. These southern cold snaps are capricious, and soon over, but while they are on may ruin an ill-found army.

What, then, is the climate of Central Macedonia? As very few Englishmen have wintered there, may it please you to listen to the experiences of one who has.

The summers, which I have never seen, I believe are hot and long. Must be so, for rice and cotton ripen, and maize is a staple. The autumn last on into December, and are pleasant to live in; butterflies are on the wing; I recognised the Queen of Spain Fritillary and some kind of Tailed Blue. One could walk all day with enjoyment, the weather seemed set fair. Tortoises were burying themselves for the winter, and certain signs of cold farther north were readable to such as have the eye. A little cock merlin sitting upon a clod showed a migrant. The stork and swallow had gone and the grey crow had come. So had the northern bullfinch and certain tits, siskin and other birds which move South before the terrible cold of the central European winter. But crocus was out among the hills, the little pale puce thing, not the golden yellow; that we saw in the following spring.

Then, in one night, all changed. A brisk stinging sleet fell, driving before a north-east gale. The ground turned to stone, and all pools and standing water to cat ice. The larger rivers, such as the Maritza, paid

no heed to it. I doubt if they ever freeze. The shores of the Black Sea were frequented by more and more wild geese (white fronted), also merganser and three species of grebe. Sleeping in an unwarmed railway carriage was no longer possible.

January was far from gay. Snowfalls were followed by thaws, and the depth and slipperiness of the mud was a revelation. Then one realised what rail-communications mean to an army. In beastly weather, over cut-up tracks, it is hard to move guns, and almost impossible to keep an army fed. The wiry and docile little oxen of the Balkans do their best, but their best is never very good, and over broken-up roads is reduced to the half of the normal.

Impatiently the people of the country awaited the coming of their beloved winter. This was detestable either in town or country. In the streets rubber over-shoes were necessary, and all windows were double sashed, as in Russia. In the country you never knew for three miles on end what to be at. Here would be a stretch of snow-covered road impassable for wheels, there a mile or two from which the snow had drifted off to the fields, leaving a gritty surface impossible for sledge-runners.

Fall succeeded fall, and thaw followed, and military work came to a stand: and all other work out of doors. No wood could be hauled over such rotten surfaces.

With the coming of the real winter, its conditions, and the way they were faced, I hope to deal in a subsequent article.

THE VENIZELIST MOVEMENT: WORLD-WIDE SUPPORT.

Reuter's Agency learns that, although barely two months have passed since the formation of the Government of National Defence at Salonika, already a very large majority of the Greek people have pronounced categorically in favour of the definitely anti-German policy of M. Venizelos and against the treacherous German schemes of King Constantine.

Up to the end of the year the Provisional Government has received the unanimous confidence of the whole prefectorial district of Macedonia; of the Islands of Chios, Crete, Lesbos, Samos, Syra, Naxos, Andros, Keos, Kythnos, Imbros, Psara, Lemnos, Tenedos, and Santorin.

Secondly, of the Greek communities abroad the following, after full representative meetings, have officially notified the Provisional Government of their unanimous support: Paris, Marseilles, London, Liverpool, Manchester, Cardiff, Petrograd, Moscow, all the communities in Egypt and Cyprus; the colonies of Tunis and Sfax, Mequinez (Morocco), the Canary Islands, Antananarivo, Aden, Adis Abeba, Natal, Melbourne, Montreal, and New York.

Thirdly, the large Greek populations in Turkey and Bulgaria are notoriously devoted to the policy of M. Venizelos and are not likely to have much sympathy for a King who surrendered Macedonia to the Bulgarians and is prepared to give the Kaiser a free hand in Asia Minor. These "unredeemed" populations were represented by properly elected delegates at the Congress of Hellenic Communities which met in Paris a year ago, and was the first representative body of Greeks to express its want of confidence in King Constantine.

As for the population of Old Greece, it should be noted that it has sent to Salonika a continuous stream of volunteers to join the Army of National Defence. While at the elections of June, 1915—the last elections constitutionally held and the first elections at which the issue between M. Venizelos and the Royalist party was clearly defined—the Venizelist party secured no less than 120 out of a total of 180 seats. Moreover, the reign of terror organised throughout the provinces since the events of December 1 is in itself sufficient proof that King Constantine and the Germanised oligarchy at Athens are only too well aware that their policy is not supported by the country.

All these facts make it quite clear that the report that King Constantine has approximately half the country at his back is very far from the truth. Actually the immense majority of the Greek people is definitely favourable to the National Movement and to the cause of the Protecting Powers.

Members of the Hellenic colony at Marseilles have adopted a resolution declaring King Constantine unworthy to be the head of the Greek nation and requesting the protecting Powers to recognize the Venizelos Government.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
—
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A long time ago I referred to a newspaper wrapper addressed by a German firm in Constantinople to a firm in Salonika, which town was, according to the direction, in Bulgaria. I wonder whether that note ever found its way to Frankfort. Almost am I inclined to suspect that it did, and that it roused the wrath of a certain "Prof. F.K." At any rate, the *Frankfurter Zeitung* has received and published (on December 9) a communication which certainly looks like an attempt to go one better. If such it be, it is a rather belated effort; but the Teuton is a slow thinker, is he not?

The Frankfort journal heads its paragraph "Asquith und Bukarest," and allows its correspondent to tell his story, and to comment upon it in the most ponderous style of Teutonic professorial wit. But, I observe, it does not vouch for his trustworthiness. The Professor leads off with the observation that "Bukarest" and "Asquith" fell on the same day, and the reflection that the two names will be handed down to posterity together. He then proceeds to tell, in sesquipedalian words, how one of the best-known leaders of the German colony in Bucharest had in the spring of 1914 addressed a letter to Mr. Asquith, and how he, in due course, received a reply. The envelope, says the Professor, bore the following address:—

DR. N. N.

BUCAREST.
TURKEY.

THE PRIME MINISTER.

Of course, he is horrified by such a display of ignorance on the part of the "First Minister" of England; and he declares that if he had not actually been allowed to hold the envelope in his own professorial hand he would "this Anachronism hardly possible have conceived"—the "doubting Thomas"! Mr. Asquith's secretary then comes in for an awful wiggling. He had apparently his geography before the Berlin Congress learned, and a decidedly Turcophile pen had used—perhaps one of those old-world goose quills which are so popular in England! Possibly the war has improved the knowledge of the Balkans of the Secretary—and also of his Master. But our (the Germans') Turkish brothers will doubtless rejoice greatly when, in the house of our (the Germans' again) countryman they come across this relic of the fallen Prime Minister. It is all very, very pretty; and it may all be true, of course. But, in view of his own frankly expressed opinion, "Prof. F. K." will pardon me if I feel slightly sceptical about his story.

Now, my "Salonika-Bulgaria" wrapper is still in my own keeping, with the Stamboul postmark and the Turkish stamp intact. And as it was despatched on a German-edited, German-managed, German-financed paper, it seems to show that ignorance of Balkanic geography is not confined strictly to the secretaries of British Prime Ministers; that even Teutonic organisers sometimes nod!

The *Basrah Times* celebrated the second anniversary of its birth on November 29—having made its first appearance, as it reminds its readers, within a week of the British occupation of the port—and it marked the occasion in a manner which shows extraordinary ingenuity on the part of the editor and his staff. This was nothing less than the provision of a "rectilinear diagram of the Roumanian situation," which was "offered with apologies for inaccuracies inseparable from rectangular representation with only the normal resources of a printing press," and the hope that it might "be of interest to the mapless." The apologies, it seems to me, are quite uncalled for, and the hope is bound to be realised. I have examined the diagram carefully, and I am full of admiration for the skill with which it has been set up. To draw such a thing would probably take only a few minutes; but to set it in type must have been a heart-breaking piece of work, surely!

I only wish I could reproduce the map here; but the printers of THE NEAR EAST would undoubtedly desire my blood if I asked to have it set by hand. Besides, the B.T. might sue me for infringement of copyright. It may, however, give you an idea of the ingenuity and patience displayed in the work, if I say that the principal towns are indicated (apparently) by small "o"s; the mountains and rivers by various "rules," as the printers call them—that is, lines of varying thickness; and the passes by square brackets. It sounds simple, doesn't it? But it is not nearly so simple as it sounds, I can assure you. The crown-

ing glory of the "map" is that it really does give quite a good idea of the field covered, in which respect it will bear comparison with other much more ambitious efforts.

I do not remember whether I have ever referred in these notes to the "House of Friendship," which is to be erected in Constantinople for the German-Turkish Association. At all events, such a building is to be added to the rapidly accumulating evidence of Germany's grip on Turkey, and the Kaiser has, of course, shown keen interest in the project. Indeed—according to *Der Tag* of December 2—he has undertaken to provide the funds for the erection of the building in honour of his birthday. A short time ago, in connection with the visit of a Committee of the Association to Berlin, Ismail Jenani Bey, Grand Master of Ceremonies to the Sultan of Turkey, sent to the Kaiser a telegram of homage. Hajji Wilhelm naturally replied in his very best telegraphic style. He was, he said, delighted to learn of the completion of the competition between German architects for the honour of designing the building; and he offered to his Excellency and his co-workers on the Committee his Imperial congratulations on the success that had attended their efforts to press forward with this highly-significant piece of evidence of the German-Turkish brotherhood in arms and joint *kultur*-work. So now we have it on the Imperial one's authority that the Turks really are the Germans' co-workers in the cause of *Kultur*. The Constantinople Commission is so pleased with the recognition of this fact that (*Der Tag* learns) it has resolved to push on its preparations, so that the foundation stone of the House of Friendship may be laid on the Kaiser's birthday, January 27.

CORSAIR.

"MODERN GREECE."

In a short article with the above title, *Irish Life* (Dec. 22) mentions an agitation in Germany, which, as it well says, should set at rest any doubts, if such ever existed, that the Germans are totally lacking in humour. The agitation is directed against "no less a person than Demosthenes, and it is demanded, with bitter denunciation, that the reading of Demosthenes should be forbidden in any German school or University. The amusing argument used is that the thunders of Demosthenes against Philip, the military tyrant of Macedon, can be applied, *nomine mutando*, against Wilhelm, the military tyrant of Prussia."

On this our contemporary comments:—

It is no doubt quite true, but no one but a German would meet the case by the outcry, "Demosthenes must be suppressed." Demosthenes will survive the latest absurdity of German pedantry; but, alas! the fierce and free democracy which he "wielded at will" seems gone never to return. It is not easy to blame those in the free countries who try to find excuses and who tolerate much from Greece. It is not easy to forget what civilisation owes to Greece. But the Greeks, at least of the main land, are no longer the Greeks of Pericles or Epaminondas. Centuries of slavery and a large admixture of barbarian blood have left them only with a double portion of the shifty cunning of the slave as their heritage from the intellect of the past. In the Isles, it is true, they have preserved a purer blood. And Crete and the Cyclades and Sporades are showing it by taking their stand, as their ancestors would have done, with Venice and the cause of Freedom.

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815

**COMPLETE SERVICE
OUTFITTERS**
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT
FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.

Illustrated Catalogue's on request

**ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms. Mufti.
Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits.
Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements.
Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits.**

**4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE,
LONDON, W.**
Phone, Mayfair 4071

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Recognition of M. Venizelos.

In a leading article ("Another Note to King Constantine") *The Times* (January 2) remarks:—

The appointment of Lord Granville as the representative of King George to the Provisional Government at Salonika, with the title of a "diplomatic agent," shows that they utterly repudiate the "Royalist" contention as to the quality of the conduct of M. Venizelos. The erudite mediaeval student, Professor Lambros, and the pro-German camarilla at Court, denounce as a traitor the statesman who saved Greece and the dynasty, and who framed and carried the Constitution they daily violate; but the protecting Powers recognise in him the faithful servant of the Crown, freely chosen and re-chosen by the Greek people to conduct their affairs in accordance with the fundamental principles of all responsible government. M. Gennadius, long the Greek Minister here, will henceforth represent the Provisional Government in London, so that there will be a regular interchange of views between it and the British Government through authorised channels.

"A Promise of Grace."

The *Morning Post* on Tuesday published a leading article, "The Recognition of Venizelos." Referring to the demands contained in the latest Note of the Allies to Greece, it remarks that "to read them helps us to realise that a new spirit has come over the negotiations since the humiliating and disgraceful events of the 1st and 2nd December":—

Viscount Grey and his colleagues have . . . given place to better men, and the result is already seen in the more vigorous handling of the Greek question. How far the new policy will succeed must depend largely on the forces at the disposal of the Allies and the ability of their local representatives. On neither point would it be wise to dilate in the Press at the present moment.

The article concludes as follows:—

It is too late now to say that King Constantine was treated at the beginning with a folly which almost forced upon him his subsequent course of action. These questions of responsibility are obscure and remote. The practical question is that we must support our friends and weaken our enemies in Greece: however they may have become our enemies does not much matter. We must safeguard our position and the position of our troops. As we pointed out at the time, it was radically unsound to throw forward an Army through a country uncertain, unsecured, and possibly hostile. First to send an army into the interior and then to subjugate the base is an inversion of sound strategy, which was almost bound to have disastrous consequences. These consequences it is the design of the new policy to remove or avert. The task is still difficult; but there are signs that adequate means are to be used and that a true conception of the problem at last underlies the policy of the Allies. We cannot yet call this a crowning mercy; but we may at least describe it as a promise of grace.

The Agrarian Problem in Roumania.

In a leading article, "Reform in Roumania," the *Manchester Guardian* (Dec. 30) expresses the hope that Roumania may get "some compensation for her military disasters in a serious attempt to reform the defects of her political and social system." The writer refers to King Ferdinand's Speech from the Throne on December 22, and its allusion to agrarian and electoral reforms. He then adds:—

The bulk of the population of Roumania are peasants, and the Roumanian Constitution practically excludes them from any political power. No man may vote for the Senate unless he has an income from property of at least £32 a year; and things are so managed that the peasants' vote for the Chamber of Deputies counts for nothing. In practice the landlords control the political machine. The economic position of the Roumanian peasant also leaves much to be desired. Serbia and Bulgaria are peasant proprietor States; Roumania is a country of great landowners. Serfdom lasted in Roumania down to 1864, three years after it was abolished even in Russia. . . . Agrarian discontent runs very deep in Roumania, and in 1907 there was a peasants' rising. Since then some improvement has been made, and in 1914 M. Bratianu, the present Premier, promised political and agrarian reforms. The execution of them was delayed owing to the war, and it is M. Bratianu's pledge which the King reaffirms. It will be noticed, however, that the reforms are again postponed till after the war. The reasons for this course are obvious, but there are weighty arguments on the other side. . . . And this war has taught us all that good intentions are not enough. Time is of the essence of the contract.

"Nationalities"—and Civilisation.

In a vigorous article entitled "The Right of Nationalities," the *Westminster Gazette* takes up a point raised in the "wireless" sent by the German Government to the German Embassy in Washington apropos of the Allies' reply to the German "Peace Note." One paragraph in this "wireless," says the *West-*

minster Gazette, "enables us to anticipate one line of argument which will be adopted by the Central Powers. 'It may be pointed out,' they say, 'as especially remarkable that the Note mentions the right of nationalities, in spite of the fact that one of the avowed purposes of the Entente is the conquest of Constantinople and the Straits.'" To which the *W.G.* replies:—

It is quite true, and let us have no hawing about it. We do not push the doctrine of nationality so far as to make it a cloak for the corrupt and blood-stained tyranny of the Turk. There is a limit to what the civilised world can stand from a race or nation which has perpetually abused its sovereignty to inflict massacre on its own citizens and disturb the peace of its neighbours. Any crystallisation of the *status quo* which gave Europe in general no remedy against such a régime as that of the Turks would be a calamity to the world.

At the time of the Turkish Revolution, the article goes on to say, we were ready to give the Young Turks a chance to set their house in order:—

Once more, if Germany had thrown her influence on to the side of Turkish reform, instead of using the situation to promote conflict between the Balkan States and her European neighbours, the Turkish Empire might have been rehabilitated. But the history of the subsequent years, culminating in the cold-blooded massacres of Armenians during the present war, has proved the Turk to be incurable and incorrigible. The Americans have full information about what has happened in Armenia since the beginning of this war, and if they need more they have only to ask their own missionaries and emissaries in Turkey and the Near East. The condonation of these crimes by the Central Powers is one of the blackest incidents of the war, and it shows a rare assurance on their part that they should put the claim of the Turk on the same level as that of the little nationalities which they have themselves violated and destroyed. Regard for nationality requires us not to confirm the Turkish tyranny but to release from it the races that are in its grasp, and we can find no better guarantee for the accomplishment of this purpose than the control by Russia of Constantinople and the Straits.

Turning to the case of Greece, the *Westminster Gazette* observes that "we need not feel the slightest shame" in regard to the measures which we are compelled to take to clear up the situation in that country:—

In these measures no question arises about the future status or independence of the Greek nation. We would gladly, as we have again and again assured the Greek Government, see its boundaries enlarged, and we have gone to the utmost limits of forbearance rather than seem to exert pressure to force it into the war on our side. The Greek Government has still the fullest liberty to stand out; the only liberty we seek to restrain is that of plotting with the enemy against us and taking secret steps to imperil our force at Salonika.

The article concludes:—

Neither the case of Turkey nor the case of Greece, then, prevents us from saying with a clear conscience that we regard the guarding of nationalities as one of the main purposes of this war. This does not mean that we hold nationalities, big or small, to possess an inherent right of oppressing their subjects or disturbing the peace of their neighbours. There can be no satisfactory reconstruction of Europe which does not in some way provide us a remedy against the abuse of their position, big or small, and even in extreme cases enable us to make an end of such a tyranny as the Turk has maintained in his Empire. We notice that Maximilian Harden is advising his countrymen to turn their thoughts to these larger questions, in default of an immediate means of ending the war. He could hardly give better advice, if it is meant sincerely. We are much more likely to get a lasting peace, when the time comes, if men's minds are made up about the essentials of an orderly civilisation in Europe than if we regard the problem as merely one of territorial readjustments.

Map-Drafting in the Near East.

The *Spectator*, in an article entitled "The Allied Terms," urges that "the oppressed South Slavs, not only of Serbia, but of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Croatia, and the other provinces peopled by the Southern Slavs, must be erected into a Jugo-Slav kingdom. Unless such an independent nation is founded, there can be no security for peace. In the same way, and for the same reasons, Bohemia must become an independent State, while the Polish provinces of Austria must be added to the new sub-kingdom of Poland. Next, the Roumanians of Transylvania must be allowed to join their fellow Roumanians in the Roumanian Kingdom." The writer reminds us however—and the reminder is not uncalled for—that, though the German and the Magyar must not be allowed to oppress the Slav any longer, "we must resolutely refuse the temptation to reverse the process and let those nationalities be oppressed in turn." As to Turkey, she

"must be treated as drastically as Austria in order to attain security":—

The world must no longer be at the mercy of the Ottoman clan entrenched in Europe. As long as that band of select barbarians holds Constantinople and the entrances to the Black Sea, there can be no security for peace. Therefore Constantinople and the Straits must be given to the Power most deeply interested in the Black Sea—Russia—free passage in time of peace being guaranteed by the new and Christian Emperor of Byzantium. The process of freeing nationalities from oppression must be applied organically to the Turkish Empire. The Armenians, or what remains of the race whose agonised calls for help and mercy have been heard even through the din of the present war, will probably have to be placed under the tutelage of Russia. They could not stand alone among the Kurds. The Arabs must be freed from Ottoman control and left to their natural function of guarding the Holy Places of the Moslem faith; while care must be taken that Syria, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia shall obtain under external protection that tranquillity which they deserve, but which has never been theirs since the appearance of the Ottoman Turk among them. But to say that the Empire of the Horde must pass away is not to say that no Moslem State except Arabia is to remain to mark where Turkey once stood. In carrying out their policy of security in regard to Turkey the Allies will not only be willing but anxious to create such a State or States, where and when it shall prove possible. The Allies want not to injure but to strengthen and improve all the best elements in the Moslem world.

Germany's Disillusioning.

Writing in the *Pall Mall Gazette* (Dec. 28) Mr. H. C. Bywater, who has just returned from a two months' visit to the United States, describes the change that has come over the feeling in that country in regard to the war. "Early last summer," he says, "on the occasion of a previous visit, it was noticeable that most thoughtful Americans considered the war to be rapidly approaching the stage when a deadlock would become inevitable. In other words, they believed the struggle would end in a draw. To-day it is rare to find a thoughtful American who doubts that the Allies will achieve a sweeping victory." And he adds:—

This change of view is the more striking in that the past six months have witnessed a spectacular Teuton triumph in the Balkans, besides a recrudescence of the submarine war on commerce which is admittedly of a more serious character than the earlier phases of U-boat piracy. Nevertheless, American confidence in the ultimate victory of the Allies rises steadily higher and higher, possibly because there are certain facts, the significance of which can be seen in truer perspective three thousand miles away than here at home.

This point is enforced by an illustration which bears upon the situation in the Near East. Mr. Bywater writes:—

As early as December 8 private advices were received in New York from Berlin to the effect that the bulk of the wheat in Roumania had been destroyed or rendered unfit for use before the invading armies entered the country. This is a positive disaster for the Germans, who had confidently reckoned on securing a large haul of cereals from their latest victim, while the German papers had been pointing out that the real value of the operations in Roumania lay in the immense deposits of corn and oil which would be sufficient to tide over the German shortage in these commodities for months to come.

Taking all things together, all the informants agree that the present situation in Germany is "incomparably worse than the German Press admits, and that during the first three months, for the first time during the war, the food problem has become really acute."

Turk, German, and Briton.

Writing on the "Unification of Turkey," in *Land and Water* (Dec. 21), Sir William Ramsay expresses the opinion that the strength of the Turkish Empire available at the present moment is distinctly greater than it was at the beginning of the war:—

The two greatest weaknesses in the nation, as distinct from the Government, were the low standard of education, making it difficult to turn the peasantry into soldiers adequate to the performance of the duties of modern war, and the many lines of cleavage between the great variety of Moslem races which people the country.

German influence has done much to eradicate these weaknesses, and the war has helped the process greatly. Sir William does not share the exaggerated opinion of the Turk's honesty that many travellers hold.

But take one thing with another the Turks who were educated for a few years in industrial occupations constituted a class of men who possessed the dignity and aristocratic tone which Islam seems usually to carry with it, and combined this with a quite fair amount of usefulness and an extraordinary amount of faithfulness in obeying instructions. Similar results were produced by training in the Army under European officers. This I had noticed both in old men who had come in contact with British officers, and in young men who had been drilled by German-trained Turks or by Germans. This process has been going on on a greatly increased scale for the last two years; and even in peace it used to produce very noteworthy effects. Moreover, the divisions and dislikes and jealousies which separate so many of the Moslem tribes and races in Anatolia from one another were not so deep-seated as to last through the experiences of these two years. Training and drill side by side in the army have undoubtedly done much to obliterate such feelings. . . . I do not doubt for a moment that an immensely larger area of recruiting has been available during the last two years than ever was attempted in the history of Turkey since the Turks were conquering their Empire, when every man was a soldier.

The writer goes on to contrast the German's love of work with the Briton's devotion to athletics, and the effect of these things upon the Turk:—

The Germans are not beloved; on the contrary, I have never heard any person speak with such bitterness of the Germans as do the Turks and the native population generally. But the Germans rule by fear, which is enhanced by real respect for their effectiveness and devotion to work. The contrast between the intense spirit of work with the zealous application to duty which characterises apparently all Germans who come to Turkey, on the one hand, and the devotion to amusements during a large part of the day—amusements indeed of quite healthy and athletic character—which characterises the British residents and officials, on the other hand, has been noticed very much by the Turks, and has produced a strong effect upon them.

As an illustration of the effects thus brought about, Sir William cites the case of a Pasha who was thinking of sending one of his sons to this country to be educated:—

This Pasha was called to Constantinople to occupy the highest official position in the Empire. After some experience there, he abandoned his intention of sending his son to be educated in England, and stated the reason quite plainly. He saw that all the Germans were working hard for certain big ends from morning to night, and that they were all co-ordinating their labour for certain well-defined purposes, while the English were occupying their time for the most part in lawn-tennis and shooting, and very few of the officials seemed to take any interest in the affairs, or the people, or the language of Turkey. He said that he did not want his son to grow up a good lawn-tennis player, but a hard worker, and he would therefore not send him to Britain for education.

Articles to Note.

"The Only Hope for Austria," by Countess Zanardi Landi, in the *Nineteenth Century* (January).

"Germany and the Entente Powers," by Dr. E. J. Dillon; and "Bucharest When the War Came," by the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B., and Jean V. Bates, in the *Fortnightly Review* (January).

"My Albanian Winter," by "Officier de Liaison"; and "From the Outposts," by Zeres, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (January).

"The Roumanian Operations," by Major Stuart Stephens, in the *English Review* (January).

"A Woman in the Serbian Army: Sergeant Flora Sandes," in *The Times* (Dec. 30).

"Count Czernin" (from the French of M. Také Jonescu), in the *New Europe* (December 28).

"Strategy and the Balkans," by Colonel Feyler, in *Land and Water* (December 28).

"The War in the East," in the *Nation* (December 30).

"Bulgaria: A Retrospect," by T. Miller Maguire, in the *United Service Magazine* (December).

MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF

**HIDES AND SKINS,
TANNING MATERIALS,
DYEWOODS.**

**KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.**

Established
over 50 Years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

What will the railway map of the Suez Canal zone be like when the war is over? For an idea of the colossal engineering works carried out by us in Egypt during the past year I commend my readers to Mr. Massey's article published last week. Even so, it only gives us an outline of what we have done. "Railways and roads," he writes, "were required equally for defence and attack. We have many of them from the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Suez. There are Decauville railways, lines of metre gauge, and a remarkable railway of standard gauge. Running over it to-day are London and South-Western Railway engines with loads as heavy as they have hauled between Southampton Docks and Nine Elms. Without cessation night and day, week in, week out, they move on a journey out and home of 200 miles."

In August, we read, Romani was a railroad, and since then "track-laying has progressed at an average rate of a kilometre a day." Again, pressure on the standard-gauge line has been extremely heavy, but now "as its mileage increases, a metre-gauge line relieves it," and carries all the supplies Romani and the district west of it require. Thus, Romani of the past, the unimportant village of Romani, seems to blossom forth as a junction of the future. Something after the nature of Clapham, I suppose. It is wonderful, and yet we know so little of the transformed Canal zone. Its desert stretches may be rice-fields ere long. Already a permanent trunk road links up Ismailia with Port Said on the western side of the Canal, enabling motorists to proceed without difficulty to Cairo. So much we are allowed to know to-day. But I will guarantee that the "bag of surprises" in store for us after the war will completely eclipse these momentary glances.

The article on Russo-Persian trade from the pen of M. Shaton, a Russian economist, which appeared in *The Times* Russian section on Saturday, is an instructive summary of commercial relations between the two countries. According to the authority in question, it is, in the first place, necessary "once and for all and quite categorically" to decree "that the region of Russia's export activity in Persia can be, and in fact is, only the northern portion of the country." This is a statement, coming as it does from a Russian source, with which I entirely agree. Then, again, in the same article, mention is made of the extraordinary increase of German and Austrian trade in northern Persia, particularly Azerbaijan, during the decade preceding the great war. The increase was one of over 300 per cent., and when some years ago Russia permitted the transit by mail of parcels from abroad to Persia it seems that the Teutons were the only people wise enough to take advantage of the new order, with results favourable to themselves. As a matter of fact, Berlin was decidedly keen on improving her trade connections with Persia, and fully realized more so than we have ever done, that it was a market worth working for, more particularly for what it would bring in future years. Therefore, in 1911, by virtue of the Potsdam Agreement, they ingeniously

obtained from Russia a pledge that she would build within two years a railway line from Khamikin to Hamadan. This, naturally, would only have favoured German interests, by bringing Hamadan and northern Persia within rail distance of Baghdad, without opening a corresponding market for Russian trade. The same old tricks, it will be seen, that have ever characterised German methods.

Passing from his review of the past to the future, M. Shaton thinks that Russian merchants will have to "wake up" if they wish to increase their trade with northern Persia. As for Persian exports to Russia, they are bound to increase if only for the following reason: "The production of raw cotton in Persia is developing very rapidly, and almost in its entirety (96 per cent.) is sent to Russia. The quantity of raw cotton imported by Russia from Persia constitutes only 7 to 8 per cent. of the total quantity imported; but if we take into consideration the growth of the tilled area and the circumstance that experiments with crops of American cotton have proved successful in Persia," it must be recognised that the import of Persian raw cotton into Russia "has a bright future." This will, of course, necessitate increased Russian exports to Persia.

Egypt is a prominent subject in all the annual reviews of the Lancashire cotton trade which I have seen. During 1916 numerous Near Eastern outlets for trade have continued to be adversely affected by the war, but from Egypt there has been a large and increasing demand for textile fabrics. From another reliable source I hear that merchants in Alexandria and Cairo have given to their agents in this country particular (and standing) instructions to secure cloths, as the demand in Egypt has been healthy, with an all-round favourable financial situation. Manchester friends tell me, too, that all kinds of goods made from Egyptian yarns are extremely popular, and, as the market reports indicate, have been advanced in price to an extraordinarily high level. As a matter of interest, following on Professor Todd's interesting articles on the subject, the review in the *Yorkshire Observer* of the year's operations in the Egyptian cotton market in Manchester, printed elsewhere in this issue, will attract attention.

Nothing appears to have been done in the matter of handling the Egyptian cotton crop which, before the war, was in the hands of the Huns. My readers will recall that I have discussed this matter on previous occasions, and expressed the fear that the business would fall into non-British control. It is difficult to understand what is at the bottom of the British unwillingness to grapple with this serious question; but I am informed that nothing has yet been done, and that the existing firms in Alexandria are unable to handle the business. What is the result? The crop is passing into the hands of small dealers, foreign as well as Egyptian, and, to quote another source (*The Times*), "it is not too much to say that the position is now very serious." I quite agree with the paper that "something must be done before next autumn to put the matter on a proper basis, though it seems evident that so long as such questions as these have to be handled from the Foreign

Office there is little hope of a speedy and satisfactory solution."

An old friend of the readers of *THE NEAR EAST*, Mr. Percy F. Martin, has come out in defence of that much-abused functionary, the British Consul. In the December issue of *The Times Trade Supplement*, Mr. Samuel Instone, whose right to deal with the subject is undeniable, in a very trenchant letter assumed that the failure of our Consular system arises wholly from the inefficiency of the officers employed. Mr. Martin makes a very spirited rejoinder to this: "If your correspondent" (Mr. Martin writes) "knows anything from practical experience he must assuredly admit that the undenied, and undeniable, 'inefficiency' of the Consular system arises almost entirely from the severe, and, in many instances, quite preposterous restrictions imposed upon British Consuls by Downing Street, and not from the fact that the Consuls are, as your correspondent alleges, 'wholly lacking the business training and experience.'"

Then, to show "how extravagant and ill-founded are Mr. Instone's strictures on the Consular body," is given a list of names that are certainly instances of greatness. Among these are Sir Claude Malet, Sir Lionel Carden, and "the greatest pro-Consul of the age, the present Earl of Cromer, at one time in his great career, Consul-General in Egypt." I could add other names to the list, but, at the same time, there is little doubt that some of our Consular officers abroad are not all that British interests demand that they should be. Curiously enough, in the same issue of the *Trade Supplement* a number of prominent British manufacturers and merchants give their views on the same subject, and while, generally speaking, they are agreed that all the fault does not lie on the shoulders of the personnel of the Service, which, by the way, Lord Joicey declares is "starved," there is more than a tendency towards the view that there is some individual responsibility for the present state of affairs.

For example, Mr. Basil E. Peto, M.P., Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, makes a somewhat serious charge. "With but few exceptions our Consuls," he writes, "whether aliens or of British nationality, have been hopelessly out of touch with ships and shipping, and as representatives of this country they have been useless. Captains of British merchant vessels frequently report that they fail to get the support and assistance abroad that they are undoubtedly entitled to, and are received in a manner both inconsiderate and unsympathetic, as if work in connection with British shipping were a troublesome and ungrateful task. This, no doubt, arises from the fact that these Consular positions are so frequently unpaid, and the Consuls depend for their remuneration on a business from which they can get fees. The daily hours of business are often absurdly short; frequently Consuls locate their offices in most inconvenient places at a considerable distance from the port itself, the office being, in fact, the Consul's residence." It will be seen that there is much to be said from more than one point of view.

COMMENTATOR.

Cotton and Textile Notes.

Lancashire Weekly Report—Egyptian Cotton Operations in 1916.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market has not shown much life this week, and at the time of writing buyers and sellers have scarcely got into their stride again after the recent holidays. The outlook is rather uncertain, and spinners and manufacturers derive their strength from the contracts on the books rather than from the amount of business being secured at the present time. There is a tendency at the moment for engagements to run down.

Wages questions continue to demand a good deal of attention. To-day (Wednesday) the arbitration court appointed by the Board of Trade, consisting of Mr. W. Mackenzie, K.C. (chairman), Sir T. Ratcliffe Ellis, and Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., have sat at the Manchester Town Hall to deal with the 'cardroom workers' dispute. A definite application has now been made by the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation for a rise in wages of 20 per cent. Six months' notice has been given, so no change in list rates can take place until the middle of February.

The movements in raw cotton futures have been rather irregular, and many authorities cannot account for the ups and downs which are taking place. The demand in piece goods for Egypt continues quieter. A sorting-up business has been done, but shippers are less disposed to place large lines for distant delivery. Certain kinds of sized shirtings were bought extensively a few weeks ago, and deliveries are now being made against contracts.

General advices from India are healthy but fresh buying has been rather limited. Only odd lots have been mentioned for China. The South American markets continue to give less support than a little time ago. The engagements of cloth manufacturers are getting rather more irregular. Most producers of fancies, however, have still extensive order lists.

A rather slow feeling has prevailed in American and Egyptian yarns. Now and again spinners are found who are not quite so independent as a month ago. The turn-over all round has been unimportant.

REVIEW OF 1916.

The Egyptian cotton market has passed through a very exciting time, with fluctuations and speculative dealings during the last few months of 1916 being very prominent. At the beginning of January fully good fair brown Egyptian cotton in Liverpool was at 10.35d. At the end of March the quotation was 10.74d., and by the end of June the price had advanced to 11.65d. Since then a striking upward movement has shown itself. On September 30 the rate was 14.10d., but by the end of October the price had advanced to 17.25d., and on December 8 the quotation was 20.80d.

The Egyptian crop for last season turned out to be much as was expected, and amounted to 4,726,518 cantars, against 6,463,726 cantars in the previous year. The prospects early this season for the new crop were bright, and there was some talk of an output of 7,500,000 cantars. The growth, however, has passed through a very unsatisfactory period, and it is not now expected that the output will reach 6,000,000 cantars. An increasing demand has been experienced for long staple cotton, and gambling in the article has been very pronounced. The Liverpool Cotton Association has passed regulations to restrict

dealings, but so far the new rules do not seem to have had any very great effect upon the situation, and at the time of writing wild fluctuations in prices continue to take place.

Averages Compared.

The following table gives the crops of American and Egyptian cotton, with average prices for the past ten seasons:—

Season.	AMERICAN.		EGYPTIAN.	
	Crop. Bales.	Average price. Middling. d.	Crop. Cantars.	Avg. price. F.G.F. brown. d.
1906-7	13,551,000	6.38	6,919,783	10 1/2
1907-8	11,582,000	6.19	7,224,669	8 13-16
1908-9	13,829,000	5.50	6,755,812	8 7-16
1909-10	10,651,000	7.86	4,986,715	15 1/2
1910-11	12,132,000	7.84	7,573,597	10 1/2
1911-12	16,138,000	6.09	7,424,000	9 9-16
1912-13	14,167,115	6.76	7,532,920	9.79
1913-14	15,610,000	7.27	7,684,172	9.45
1914-15	15,067,000	5.22	6,463,726	7.34
1915-16	12,953,000	7.51	4,726,518	10.42

Cotton and Yarn Prices.

The following is a list of cotton and yarn quotations for the past twelve months:—

1916.	F.G.F. Brown Egyptian Cotton.		Yarn 60's Twist.	
	d.	..	d.	..
January 7	10.65	..	19	..
February 4	11.30	..	20 1/2	..
March 3	11.70	..	20 1/2	..
April 7	10.41	..	20	..
May 5	11.30	..	20 1/2	..
June 2	11.53	..	20 1/2	..
July 7	11.70	..	21 1/2	..
August 4	11.85	..	22 1/2	..
September 1	13.60	..	25	..
October	15.05	..	27 1/2	..
November 3	18.25	..	31 1/2	..
December 8	20.80	..	38	..

Spinnings.

There were indications towards the close of 1915 of a steady improvement in the position of Egyptian spinnings, and the more satisfactory state of affairs has been maintained during the past year. A large and increasing demand has come through, whilst the curtailment of production has been greater in this section than in the American department. Producers of fine twofolds have done particularly well. Recently some falling off in business has shown itself, owing to the extraordinary position of the Egyptian cotton market, but numerous producers have very extensive engagements and are not at all anxious for fresh orders. Big profits have been made by some firms, and it is of interest to note that the Fine Spinners' Combine has increased its interim dividend on the ordinary shares.

STORING COTTON IN EGYPT.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt has issued a proclamation in accordance with which measures will be taken to prevent the accumulation of cotton in Egypt, in view of the fact that it might eventually be shipped for the account of persons having enemy interests. By this proclamation, the storage of cotton in the name or at the disposal of persons other than persons resident in Egypt, is prohibited except under licence. Any person causing cotton to be stored in the name of a non-resident must declare the same within three days to the licensing officer.

EXPORT OF SUDAN COTTON SEED.

By a proclamation published in the Sudan Government Gazette, His Excellency the Governor-General prohibits the export of cotton seed from the Sudan, except to Egypt or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, except with the permission of an officer appointed in that behalf.

OIL IN ALGERIA.

Expert Report on Constantine Field.

The directors of the Constantine Oilfields, Ltd., announce that arrangements have been concluded with an influential financial group to provide the necessary funds required to develop five plots of land situate at Tliouanet, in the Province of Oran, Algeria, of which the company secured a lease in June, 1914. The directors state that it has been arranged that the Constantine Oilfields shall transfer the lease and the benefit of certain applications for licences relating to other land in the same district, which have been made on behalf of the company, in return for half-profits after there has been repaid to the persons providing the funds a sum equal to the amount for which they have made themselves responsible.

Prior to the conclusion of the above arrangements, the financial group referred to instructed Captain A. A. Carlier—a French oil engineer of repute—to make an independent report on the properties to them. This was entirely satisfactory. A copy of the report has been furnished to the directors, and the following are extracts therefrom:—

"Your leases are situated only about 800 metres from three oil-producing wells. . . .

"The total daily production of these wells is about 20 to 24 tons, sold on the spot at 215 fr. per ton. The Tliouanet district, upon which precisely your leases are situated, has of late attracted considerable attention from prospectors, capitalists, and even from the public bodies of the Algerian Government. On May 30 last His Excellency the Governor-General for Algeria paid a surprise visit to the three wells already mentioned in order to have the wells pumped out in his presence. It is reported officially that a good flow of oil came out for hours. Geologically speaking, your leases are absolutely in the same oil-bearing belt of country. I am perfectly satisfied to strike oil on your leases between 90 to 110 metres in depth, which level would correspond to the depth where oil has been met on your neighbour's leases.

"Summing up all the above considerations, I have full confidence in the undertaking under consideration. I can cheerfully recommend to you to go ahead during the coming wet season, as abundance of water available to inject in the boreholes will greatly facilitate prompt and efficacious operation."

The directors add that these arrangements have no relation to the bituminous deposits at St. Arnaud, for the development of which the Constantine Oilfields was originally formed. Operations at St. Arnaud were suspended at the outbreak of the war, but negotiations are now proceeding with the same financial group above referred to for the resumption of the exploitation of these deposits.

A "DANUBE CANAL" PROJECT.

An "American Scandinavian" has given to the Stockholm correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Co. an account of a recent journey in Germany. Germany, he says, is preparing to build a Rhine-Danube ship canal, which is an indispensable feature of the Berlin-Baghdad scheme, and will lead to German warships entering the Black Sea. A link is the Neckar ship canal, which is already sanctioned. Such plans have received fresh support from the successes in Roumania. In Berlin has been started a private syndicate, backed by banking interests, for prospecting for profitable engineering enterprises in Turkey and Asia.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 778.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 2095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

FREDG. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(An Anglo-Swiss Firm.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: OttFred.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

AN EGYPTIAN ROBBERY.**The Mystery of the Mail Bags.**

A Cairo correspondent, whose message has been delayed in transmission, writes as follows:—

The disappearance of a mailbag which included a registered letter containing £E5,000 in bank notes has been a nine days' wonder for the Egyptian public. Stated briefly, the facts are as follows. The night train for Alexandria left Cairo at 11.30 p.m. on November 14. On arrival at Tanta, thirteen mail bags for Tanta town and Mansura were removed from the postal van, where they had been in charge of three employees. A receipt for the full number of bags was given by the clerk from the Tanta Post Office, but when the mail for Mansura was transferred to the Damietta train, which left at 5.30 a.m. the following day, one bag for Mansura was missing. The robbery was immediately reported to the proper authorities, and five arrests have been made; but at the time of writing, neither the bag nor its contents have been recovered.

An interesting point is that, with insight almost prophetic, the postal authorities had very recently made strong representations to the leading banking institutions concerning the potentialities for crime envisaged by the practice, to which the banks are addicted, of forwarding heavy remittances in the shape of bank notes in ordinary registered letters by the night trains. The banks do not insure the contents of the letters with the Post Office, but with outside companies at very low rates. Thus, in a three-cornered arrangement of this kind the banks undeniably have the best of the bargain; for they stand to lose practically nothing. Moreover, the insurance companies, gambling mildly upon the enviable reputation for security achieved by the Egyptian postal service after long years of administrative effort, are able to give them the benefit of exceptionally low premiums for this class of risk. The insurance company risks the loss of the total sum despatched by the banks less the regulation indemnity of £2 per article payable by the Post Office, and less the amounts received in premiums during the years in which no claim has been made. The loss to the Post Office, however unimportant intrinsically, is incalculably greater than that of either of the other parties interested, as the repetition of a robbery of this kind might conceivably have the effect of shaking public confidence in the integrity of an important Government Department, a very serious affair. It is hoped, therefore, that means will be devised by which the postal administration will assume responsibility for the full remittances despatched by the banks on terms which will be acceptable to both, thus eliminating third parties from participation in the transaction.

EGYPTIAN WHEAT.

Reuten recently cabled to the Egyptian papers, stating that there was a desire in this country that wheat should be imported from Egypt and the Sudan. Much interest was aroused by the cable, and a representative of the *Egyptian Gazette* interviewed Mr. Gerald Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist to the Ministry of Agriculture, on the subject.

Mr. Dudgeon said:—"Although I am not in a position to state what action the Egyptian Government intends to take with reference to the export of wheat, it is extremely unlikely that any restrictions will be put upon the cultivation of cotton, for the reason that it does not appear that the wheat area in Egypt can be so increased as to permit of export."

It is reported from Constantinople that a large timber mill has been opened which will undertake the manufacture of furniture and certain agricultural implements. It will give employment to 1,200 workpeople, and is situated in Adabazar, Asia Minor. The Germans made quite a function of the opening of the mill, and proclaimed it as "a step forward in the industrial life of Turkey and a testimony to the industrial power of the country."

EGYPT'S FLOURISHING FINANCES.**"Bumper" Year Expected.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 12.

To judge by the statement of accounts for October, published last evening, Egypt is in for a bumper financial year, far in excess of expectations. During the month revenue amounted to £E2,880,356, as against £E2,242,730 in October, 1915, whilst expenditure was £E1,702,573, as against £E1,527,741. Thus on the month's working there is an excess of revenue of £E1,177,783, as compared with one of £E714,983 a year ago. The position for the seven months is, in these circumstances, most satisfactory.

The total revenue amounts to £E11,197,064, or £E1,810,311 more than at the end of the corresponding period of 1915, and the expenditure to £E9,819,567, or £E887,411 more than what it was on the 31st October last year. As a result there is a surplus of receipts over outgoings of no less than £E1,377,497, compared with one of only £E454,597 at the same date a year ago. It is interesting to note that the revenue collected during the seven months is 67 per cent. and the expenditure incurred 59 per cent. of the total estimated for the whole financial year, and that whilst the former is 4 per cent. above, the latter is 1 per cent. below the respective proportions at the same date last year.

Some of the Increases.

Compared with the figures at the end of October, 1915, Direct Taxes are up by £E363,081, Customs by £E551,060, Tobacco Dues by £E156,920, Legal Fees by £E25,338 (Native Court receipts are, however, down by £E28,087), Railway Receipts by £E676,445—equivalent to over 33 per cent. of last year's figure—Post Office by £E18,439, Investment of Funds by £E16,300, and Sale of Land by £E18,692. The only important decrease was, as might be expected, in Port Dues, which have fallen off by £E23,053, or 25 per cent. of last year's figure.

Extraordinary Receipts, it may be noted, are already in excess of the estimate for the whole year, as also are Assay Dues—this latter is an indication that the fellaheen are well-off, as the dues come entirely from the stamping of gold ornaments—whilst Rent of Land is within measurable distance of the budget figure. All the other items are well in advance of the proper proportion for the seven months.

Costly Irrigation.

The increase in expenditure during the month was mainly in irrigation, which took £E80,785, or £E7,269 more; Railways, which spent £E325,712, or £E150,234 more; and the War Office, which took £E87,883, or £E7,602 more. The other departments mostly had very minor increases.

SUDAN PRODUCE REPORT.

A recent report states that the first arrivals of the new gum crop on the market of El-Obeid have fetched a higher price than usual at the opening of the gum season. The opening price at El-Obeid was 143 piastres per kantar (which corresponds to 185 p.t. at Khartoum), while the opening price last year was 135 p.t. at El-Obeid. The senna market, after having dropped to 170 p.t. per kantar during the last month, has again commenced to rise, the price having now reached 320 p.t. per kantar. In view of the great interest that has been taken this year in the cultivation of senna, whereas in the past only the wild senna was depended upon, the rise of prices is rather phenomenal. The prices of dura are still high in spite of the appearance of the new crop on the market. Price per ardeb is now 112 p.t., while at the same time last year it was 62 p.t. White Simsim from Singa is being sold at 222 p.t. per ardeb. Last year's price was 130 p.t. Red Simsim is 215 p.t. in comparison with 150 p.t. last year.

TRADE NOTES.**Liquidation.**

Mr. W. H. Perkins, 19, Sharia Boulac, Cairo, has been appointed Receiver of the property and assets in Egypt of Otto Lehrenkrauss, Sharia Kasr el Nil, Cairo, with instructions to liquidate the same.

Sale of Enemy Property.

It is notified in the *Egyptian Journal Officiel* that offers will be received up to January 15, 1917, for the purchase of the undermentioned property of Antoine Lebau (in liquidation) at Alexandria, to be sold in one or two lots at purchaser's option:—(1) An Ice Factory situated at Ruelle Cumbo, between Nos. 108 and 110, Rue du Prince Abdel Moneim, comprising the building, machinery and plant and the land upon which it is erected. (2) A plot of land with two buildings erected thereon, occupied as dwellings and shops, situated at Nos. 102 and 104, Rue du Prince Abdel Moneim. Offers should be sent in writing to the Receiver, Mr. A. J. Lowe, 5, Rue Adib, together with a deposit in cash of ten per cent. of the amount offered.

EASTERN PERSIA.

The British Consul at Khorassan reports that there are promising openings for British trade in Eastern Persia, and that these have not been injured by the war, except that the parcel post from the United Kingdom is irregular. That from Germany and Austria-Hungary is entirely suspended. Had greater attention, he says, been paid to the Quetta-Nushki trade route, British trade would have suffered less than it has, for had this route been improved in proportion to its deserts it would have secured the whole of the carrying trade in British and Indian goods to Eastern Persia and in Indian goods (especially tea) to Russia. The extension from Nushki to the Persian boundary, for which material has been stored for a long time at the former place, would have shortened the journey by at least twenty days. The want of a trustworthy forwarding agency is still much felt.

ALGERIAN WOOL.

Not much change has taken place in the state of the Algerian wool market; the prices of wool remain firm without any rise, despite the sharp increase in the price of sheepskins. So far no fleeces are being offered at sales, but the offerings of waste are numerous, and 600 bales have been sold to Marseilles firms at fairly reasonable prices. A good deal of interest has been awakened here, as the General Government now proposes to open a wool-washing establishment at Maison Carée, an industrial centre situated on the Algiers-Oran Railway, close to the Harrach river, the waters of which are, it is reported, highly suitable for washing wool. All stocks will have to be sent to Maison Carée. The stocks of sheep in Algeria continue in splendid condition. Many stock owners have now decided not to shear their sheep, preferring to sell them in full wool rather than risk the fleeces being requisitioned.—*Textile Mercury*.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, E.C.4.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, January 4.

Currants.

The serious political situation and the strict blockade in Greece caused considerable consternation in the market there, whilst here the possibility of a shortage of supplies was fully anticipated. It is hoped now that a prompt acceptance of the Allies' recent demands by the Greek Government will soon relieve this unsatisfactory position. There has been only a moderate activity in the market this past week, with business done at late rates. Considerable interest is shown in some shipments of Australian currants, which are now due, and which will, undoubtedly, influence in some way the market.

Sultanas.

There has been only a small demand, with few transactions of little importance. It appears that the quality of the new Afghanistan sultanas, of recent arrivals, is somewhat disappointing.

Figs and Dates.

No business of importance was done, and the prices remain unchanged for Spanish figs at 50s. to 55s., and Greek afloat at 57s. to 59s., whilst Egyptian dates are quoted at 33s. to 36s., and Persian at 32s. to 33s.

Seeds.

Linseed has been inactive this week, London-Calcutta spot and afloat quoted at 103s.;

Jan.-Feb. 104s. Bombay ordinary Jan.-Feb. 106s., with little doing. Rapeseed is quiet. Toria-Hull Jan.-Feb. offered at 92s., and Ferozepore Dec.-Jan. 90s. Cottonseed has been rather dull. Egyptian to London, Sakelarides quality, loading, £19 7s. 6d. per ton. Lentils are in better demand at 38s. per 100 lbs. Mustard seed 28s. to 36s. per cwt.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been dull, with very little doing for spot pipes at £50 10s., and barrels ditto at £51 10s. landed terms. Rape oil is very firm at closing; ordinary brown naked spot £54. English refined barrels, £57 to £59. Cotton oil is quiet; crude spot pipes is quoted at £52 10s., refined pale remains nominal, and barrels sweet at £59 to £60, as to make. Olive oil is in good demand at late rates.

Oil Cakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Egyptians are in moderate demand, with business done at £16 to £16 10s. per ton ex quay, whilst quotations for arrivals are £15 17s. 6d. per ton ex ship. English made cotton cakes are unchanged at £16 2s. 6d. to £16 7s. 6d. per ton ex mill. Linseed cakes meet with only a very small demand, which may well be attributed to the high prices asked. Best London made are quoted at £19 to £19 10s. per ton, whilst prime American in bags is offered at £18 5s. to £18 10s. ex warehouse.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP.

The production of wheat for the current season is estimated at 79,682,000 cwts. in Australia, 41,461,000 cwts. in Argentina, 114,977,000 cwts. in France, and 342,805,000 cwts. in the United States (winter and spring together). The French barley crop is estimated at 16,888,000 cwts. Oats are expected to produce 9,603,000 cwts. in Argentina, 81,256,000 in France, and 357,716,000 cwts. in the United States. The yield of rye in France is put at 17,945,000 cwts., and in the United States at 23,692,000 cwts. The production of maize in the United States is estimated at 1,291,623,000 cwts. The total production of wheat in Canada, United States, British India, European Russia, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Roumania, Switzerland, Japan, Egypt, and Tunis is given at 1,327,523,000 cwts., and of rye in Canada, United States, European Russia, France, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, and the Netherlands at 494,473,000 cwts. The total production of barley in the same countries as for wheat, with the omission of India, is estimated at 439,485,000 cwts., and of oats in the same countries as barley, with the exception of Egypt, at 902,313,000 cwts., while the production of maize in Canada, United States, European Russia, Italy, Switzerland, and Japan is given at 1,372,248,000 cwts.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.**Judgment for Damages against the Crown.**

His Honour Judge Grain has given judgment in the Alexandria Prize Court in the case in which the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, The Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., The Eastern Pacific Trading Co., Ltd., The Pacific Trading Co., Ltd., and Messrs. Boustead and Co. sued Captain F. D. Gilpin Brown, R.N. (H.M.S. "Black Prince"), Lieutenant E. H. Grogan, R.N., and H.M. Procurator in Egypt and General Officer Commanding the Troops in Egypt, for £31,400 for damage done to copra by a fire, which took place at the Custom House at Alexandria, where the copra had been stored, after being discharged from the steamship Sudmark.

The action was brought against Captain Gilpin Brown as captor of the Sudmark, Lieutenant Grogan, who at the time was acting as detaining officer on behalf of the Crown, as agent of the captor, and also as having had the custody of the Sudmark, and the General Officer Commanding as being partly responsible for the discharging of the ship.

Grounds of Action.

The grounds of action were alleged to be:—That the vessel was improperly discharged before handing over to the Prize Court.

Failure to insure after discharge.

Failure of due care in discharging, storage, and supervision of cargo; in particular.

(a) Allowed the said cargo or parts thereof to become wetted by the rain on the quays.

(b) Cargo stored into the bags in contact with iron sides of sheds.

(c) Failed to provide proper ventilation.

(d) Failed to exercise due or any supervision to guard against incendiarism or other possible causes of fire.

In giving judgment, his Honour said, after reciting the history of the case, the questions which he had to consider were whether the defendants were liable by reason of:—

(a) The goods being discharged from the ship before handing over to the Marshal of the Prize Court or his substitutes.

(b) Failure to insure after the goods had been landed.

(c) Failure to take sufficient care in unloading and storing the goods.

"The plaintiffs have practically admitted that they have not made out their case as regards the failure to take sufficient care in unloading and storage (the judge proceeded), and I find on the evidence before me that every care that was possible was taken, in both the discharging and storage. The questions which remain are whether the defendants have rendered themselves liable for the damage which has occurred, by discharging this cargo before the ships had been handed over to the Marshal of the Prize Court, and without any order from a Prize Court; and the question of insurance."

The Finding.

His Honour then discussed certain decisions bearing upon the case and the points at issue. Proceeding he said:—"It is suggested by the defendants in their pleadings that there was reasonable cause for this discharging of the 'Sudmark.' On the grounds that 'the military desired to requisition the barley in the ship and that immediate discharge was necessary in order to comply.' Lieutenant Grogan states the same thing in his affidavit and also states that the master of the Sudmark was pressing him to unload as the cargo was perishable. He also states that the 'Customs had forbidden the export of certain goods and it was desirable to discharge the cargo . . . in order to ascertain if any such articles were on board.' I must admit that I do not follow the last reason, because there was no question of exporting any of the cargo of the Sudmark and as regards this particular cargo there appears to be no reason why the cargo should not have remained on the ship indefinitely. The desire of the military to requisition was not a good reason or any reason at all to unload."

"The suggestion of unloading did not in any way come from the military, in fact the military were in no hurry at all, because they do not appear to have taken over the goods

till on or about October 6, 1914. The master of the Sudmark certainly does say in his correspondence that the cargo is liable to deterioration, and asks that it may be discharged and sold, but does not go so far as to say it is perishable on account of liability to take fire, or that there is any danger to the ship and the rest of the cargo, by allowing the copra to remain on board.

"On these facts I feel bound to come to the conclusion that there was no reasonable cause for the unloading of this ship, but that the detaining officer, without any improper motives and through honest mistake, discharged the ship contrary to the law as stated in sec. 16 of the Naval Prize Act 1864. I am also of opinion that the damage is not too remote. Having come to this conclusion there is no need to go into the question of insurance. On this finding I must give judgment in favour of the plaintiffs for the damages claimed and costs against the defendants Captain F. D. Gilpin Brown, R.N., and Lieutenant E. H. Grogan, R.N., as representing the captors. As regards H.M. Procurator he was in no way responsible for what occurred and was not even in existence at the time, therefore I cannot hold him in any way liable; and as regards the General Officer Commanding the Troops in Egypt I am of opinion that he has in no way made himself liable for what occurred, as he has nothing to do with the discharging beyond asking what procedure he should adopt in order to obtain certain goods."

BALKAN NOTES.**Serbian River Craft Stolen by Austrians.**

The Hungarian paper, *Magyar Hirlap*, of November 10, reports the following incident:—"We learn from Novi Sad that a Serbian river steamer and Serbian lighters have been towed past. The steamer is named the *Macva* and used to ply as a passenger vessel between Belgrade and Radujevac, and the lighters at one time carried Serbian corn. In the beginning they were sunk by our artillery. They have now been refloated, and another Serbian steamer, the *Beograd*, is towing them into the docks at Budapest, where they will undergo repairs, be repainted, and where their last connection with the Serbs will cease." The boats referred to are not State property, but private property. They belong to the "Srpsko Brodarsko Drustvo" (Serbian Ship Co.).

Bucharest: "Business as Usual."

The Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, whose regular despatches are a source of wonder to us all, describes the entry of the Germans into the Roumanian capital. As will be seen, the attitude of the traders there is "business as usual."

In an hour (he writes) after the entry of the troops, placards, ready printed in the Roumanian and German languages, warning the inhabitants against the commission of hostile acts or excesses, were posted on the walls of the city, and an hour later others were exhibited which called on the people to deliver up all arms and ammunition. Another strange feature of the entry of the Austrians, Germans, and Bulgarians into Bucharest, according to Field-Marshal Mackensen, was that when the forces passed through the streets the people crowded the pavements and looked on with as much equanimity as if they had been at a cinema show. They were silent and interested, but showed no fear or alarm, and all of them, women and children as well as men, tried to be of service to the troops, handing them water and bread when requested to do so. Very few shops were closed, and many of the shopkeepers did quite a good trade, selling to the soldiers articles they badly needed, and accepting Austrian German, and even Bulgarian money as if they had been in the habit of doing so all their lives.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Gr. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Kaid of the village of Maatkas, in Tiziuz (Algeria), is visiting the French war factories, where over 20,000 Mussulmans are employed. He brought to M. Poincaré from the Kabyles a tribute of their devotion to France and their pledge to contribute in every way to the defence of French soil.

An American Consular report states that a notable feature of the 1915 shipping returns of Egypt was the appearance for the first time of the American flag on merchant vessels. Fourteen American steamers, of a net registered tonnage of 40,042 tons, entered Alexandria in 1915. The Coastwise Transportation Company, of Boston, owned most of these, though they were chartered to the Consolidation Coal Company, which is running a regular service between the States and Egypt.

The engineers of the famous Roumanian oil wells (says *The Times*) told Mme. Louisa Taylor, who for some years was engaged in educational work at Craiova, in Roumania, and has just reached England after an adventurous journey lasting over a month, that they had so dealt with them that the enemy would not be able to use them for two years. She was also told that the Germans got 300,000 wagonloads of grain and hundreds of thousands of cattle.

The British Consul-General at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.) reports that the Resident-General of the French Zone of Morocco has issued an Order appointing a Commission to study the question of colonisation and to suggest the best means of encouraging the settlement of colonists who will develop the agricultural riches of that region. It appears from the local press that steps are being taken by the Director-General of Agriculture for the grant of Maghzen (i.e. State) land in small lots for the purpose of market gardening and in larger tracts for general agricultural purposes. An agricultural irrigation service has been formed for the purpose of scheduling the hydraulic resources of the country and at the same time of aiding colonists with technical advice on the irrigation of their lands.

LIGHT RAILWAY PROBLEMS.

People in Egypt who have been interested in the development of light railways will recall how great was the dependence placed upon German firms for stock and all kinds of material. Decauville, one of the foremost of these, has been compulsorily wound up, recently, as an enemy firm, and in connection therewith Mr. H. Hamel Smith, editor of *Tropical Life*, writes to the *Engineer* as follows:—

"It has always been a matter of wonder and regret to me during my thirty years' work in connection with the development of the Tropics, especially within the Empire, that no firm in England or within the United Kingdom has specialised in the fitting up of portable railway as Koppel in Germany and Decauville have done. Other Continental firms have also made fair progress with this far-reaching and remunerative industry, but I have yet to learn of an English firm that has even shown a reasonable amount of interest in this branch of the iron, steel, and railroad industries. And yet there has been a big demand for so convenient a method for transporting goods and produce on estates and across country to feed the heavier railways, as anyone will agree who has visited tropical estates, and there should be, and will be, a much greater demand for light railways in the future. Knowing this, I call attention to this opening for increased British trade after the war, especially as those who start with the lightest of portable lines can, if they wish, soon secure large contracts for a much heavier class of work covering a wide-spread area."

As a matter of fact, Mr. Smith is needlessly alarmed, for a new company (Light Railways, Limited) has been formed to deal with the export of light railway materials, and its special object is to supplant the German in Eastern and Colonial centres.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Cargo Boat Equipment.

Mr. D. B. Morison has some interesting notes on "Cargo Boat Engines" in the *Morning Post*. He writes:—

"There is at the moment a national demand that the shortage in cargo-carrying vessels shall be overtaken in the quickest time possible. In the matter of engines the position is acute, as many hulls are at present hung up awaiting machinery. Emergency measures are, therefore, imperative to meet the immediate demands, and if those measures are such as will provide for the exceptional requirements of the future there will be a permanent gain for the industry as a whole. In 1913 about 125 cargo boats, each having a carrying capacity of from 3,000 to 9,000 tons, and a speed of from 9 to 11 knots, were built on the North-East Coast alone. The engines supplied by various firms were all of the triple and quadruple expansion reciprocating types, the material and workmanship being generally recognised as 'good.' The design, and, therefore, the efficiency, has been governed by tradition, sentiment, and a competitive desire, especially in dull times, to please everybody. It may be taken for granted that steam turbines are destined to play an important part in marine engine development in the future, but at present, and for many years, there will be a considerable demand for multiple expansion reciprocating engines using the least possible quantity of coal. Let us, therefore, review the position from the standpoint of reciprocating engines only, and the effect of standardisation on output, cost, and efficiency.

Special Machinery.

"Those who have during the war been

engaged on the manufacture of machinery for special purposes—i.e., machinery which they have not hitherto made—realise that the marvellous response by engineers to the demands of the Government has been rendered possible by standardisation of design and manufacture in bulk. I would advise those who are sceptical as to the effect on output of manufacture in bulk to peruse the pages of the recently published 'Eclipse or Empire?' They will then realise to the full the steps that are absolutely imperative if we are to maintain our industrial position in the future. Reduced cost is the corollary of increased production by standardisation, and needs no comment. With regard to efficiency, I would refer again to the proposition of the cargo boat engines. Suppose these 125 sets of engines were manufactured by, say, a dozen firms. If the designs of the various firms are critically examined, features of excellence or the reverse will undoubtedly be found in each, and if the aggregation of good features be embodied in one standard design the efficiency of the product will be increased, and less coal will be required to carry a given cargo. Such standardisation must not, however, be accepted as final, or the ultimate effect will be ruin, as it is an axiom that progressive manufacturers demand intelligent progressive standardisation by a combination of broad-minded manufacturers. In the matter of efficiency and minimum coal consumption obviously the first essential is combination by effective collective effort in design. In the matter of rapidity of output and minimum cost of production the combination should be on lines that would enable specific details to be manufactured in bulk at a cost quite impossible by the methods now prevailing. Suppose, for example, any one firm of builders were called upon to manufacture, say, engine fittings and the like for several other firms. They could not respond at any-

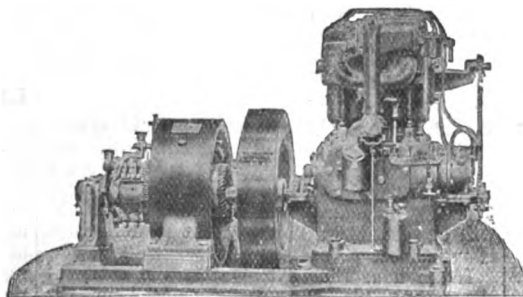
thing like a cost of production now possible without creating a new department having a new outfit—lock, stock, and barrel. Such a development must perforce come ultimately, so why not 'do it now,' meet the emergency, and secure the benefits?

"Mind Dimensions."

"Without reflecting in any way on the average 'mind dimensions' of an average builder of cargo boat engines, it is certain that any proposal for collecting the above-mentioned good features would have been impossible before the war without the aid of, say, an Act of Parliament. But, taking advantage, apparently, of the possible broadening effects of the war, the council of the North-East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders have with commendable courage and confident anticipation tackled the problem in the following interesting manner:—The council have called upon a committee of members to draft in the rough a guidance specification for the manufacture of reciprocating engines for cargo boats. This draft will be revised by the council and submitted to, and discussed by, the members in general meeting. The members will, therefore, collaborate in the production of the specification, and as the membership includes all the builders on the coast, together with a large number of highly experienced superintendents and consultants, all of whom will unquestionably give of their best, the ultimate specification may be accepted in advance as representing the highest state of the art now available. Each issue of the specification will hold good for one year only, and at the end of each year the members in general meeting will be invited to collaborate in bringing it up to date. Engine builders and shipowners will, therefore, be able continuously to avail themselves of the collective experience of this highly progressive body of engineers.

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, OIL AND GAS ENGINES. ENGLAND.

**Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.**



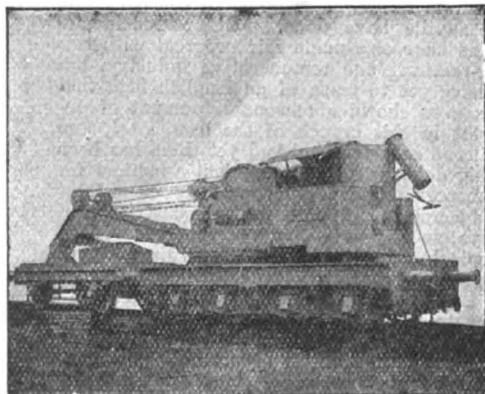
**Suitable for
driving:—
Dynamos, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.**

**Foreign Branches and
Agents:**

INDIA.
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dileir Zade Han,
Stamboul, Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.,
Cairo.



30 Ton Steam Breakdown Crane.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

— ALSO —
HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS AND OTHER
RAILWAY PLANT

(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers).

SUCH AS

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes, Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements.
Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "SLUICE, LONDON."

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Thursday.

Although business is still very restricted, there has been some revival in activity this week, and the tone of the market has been quite good.

Agricultural Banks, which had fallen to about 5, have since been done at 5 1-16 and 5 1/2 for a few hundred shares, and look a hard market at the close. The encashments are understood to be very satisfactory, and an increased dividend is confidently anticipated.

National Banks have changed hands in a small way round 13 1/2 to 13 3/4, Alexandria Waters are wanted at about 12, but there are no sellers. Beheras are a quarter up at £7 on some inquiries to average by holders at much higher prices. It is rumoured that the company has recently effected some substantial sales of land at satisfactory prices.

Delta Light Railways are wanted at about 5 1/2. Salts have changed hands in a small way at about 21s. ex. div. Khedivial Mails have been in renewed demand, several hundreds changing hands at 30s. 6d. cum. div., and since then a few hundred more have been done at the higher price of 28s. 6d. ex. div. In Union Foncières a few hundred shares were done yesterday at 1 3-16.

In Greek stocks there have been again no transactions, and prices, where altered, have been nominally lowered to the extent of the dividends deducted. There is no pressure to sell, but, on the other hand, there is practically no demand in view of the continuation of the blockade.

Oil shares began and ended in a dull market, an exception being the firmness of North Caucasian, which closed on Wednesday night at 25s. 6d. Roumanians eased to 8s. 10 1/2d.

THE MONEY MARKET.

LONDON, Thursday.

No great change has occurred in the money market since we wrote last. Money has been in ample supply, at rates which have fluctuated over a restricted range of value, and at the close was to be obtained at a general rate of 4 1/2 per cent.

On Wednesday night the bank rate stood at 6 per cent., as compared with 5 per cent. a year ago. Banker's deposit rates were 4 per cent., the deposit rates at the discount houses were 4 1/2 per cent. at call, and 4 3/4 per cent. at notice.

Exchange on Cairo on January 2 was 97 7-16 p., and was unchanged on Wednesday.

There was no alteration in the cash price of bar silver, which was again fixed at 36 1/2d. per ounce. The market was steady with less business.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

The National Bank of Egypt announces that Coupon No. 25 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt 4 per cent. Cumulative preferred Shares, due January 1, will be paid at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.)

The National Bank of Egypt announces that Coupon No. 30 of the City of Alexandria 4 per cent. Loan, due January 1, will be paid at 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

The dividend declared by the Alexandria and Ramleh Railway Co., Ltd., of 6s. per share, was payable on December 30, 1916, and each succeeding day at the company's offices, 17, Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria.

Meetings, Etc.

The ordinary general meeting of the Credit Foncier Egyptien will be held at Cairo on January 22.

Oil Outputs.

The following outputs of oil companies are reported:—

Spies, 3,470 tons; Ural Caspian, 2,659 tons; Baku Russian, 79,100 poods; British Maikop, 37 and 24 tons; European, 84,000 poods; Russian Petroleum, 55,500 poods.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended December 10, 1916.

	1915.	1916.
Nov. 30-Dec. 10	6,868	*18,447
April 1-Dec. 10	117,823	156,563

*Increased by the sum of £E.11,792, being receipts or hire of rolling stock and material to Nov. 30, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price.	Price Dec. 29, 1915.	Present Price.
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	71 1/2	70
Do. 4 1/2 % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	47
Do. 4 1/2 % do. Bonds, 1909	80	46 1/2	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5% Bonds	96	67 1/2	67 1/2
Egypt Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93 1/2	68 1/2	68
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	78 1/2	78 1/2
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	67	66 1/2
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82 1/2	53	61
Do. 4 1/2 % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1896 (24%)	80 1/2	67	67
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	54	50 1/2
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	53	49 1/2
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	49	48 1/2
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	39 1/2
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	48 1/2	48
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	49 1/2
Do. 4 % Rents, 1902	77	63	69 1/2
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	72
Do. 5 % Current	—	—	89
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	75	74 1/2
Roumanian 4 1/2 % Gd. Ln. 1913, 80s.	—	—	—
460p.	92	67 1/2	67 1/2
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	75 1/2	75
Do. 4 %, 1891	94 1/2	74	74 1/2
Do. 3 1/2 % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	65 1/2	65 1/2
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82 1/2	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	50	50
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38 1/2	38 1/2

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Do. 3 1/2 % Bonds Red.	80	67 1/2	67 1/2
Do. 3 1/2 % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69 1/2	69 1/2
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11 1/2	11 1/2
Bank of Abyssinia	—	—	—
Bank of Athens	2 1/2	3	2 1/2
Bank of Roumania	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6 1/2	6 1/2
Ionian Bank, Limited	3 1/2	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
National Bank of Egypt	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5 1/2 % C.P.	8	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. do. Warrants to Bearers	8 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	98	78 1/2	78 1/2
Ottoman of Anatolia 4 1/2 % Debs., Ser. I.	89 1/2	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88 1/2	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	12 1/2	12 1/2
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	54 1/2	53
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	57 1/2	57 1/2
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 %	80	54 1/2	54 1/2
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4 1/2 %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/2	17/6	17/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	89 1/2	89 1/2
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2 1/2	—	2 1/2
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	—	—
Do. do. Def.	8 1/2	6 1/2	7 1/2
Bahra Co.	4 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Do. Pref.	2 1/2	—	2 1/2
Daira Sanieh	—	7/8	—
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9 1/2	9 1/2	8 10/16
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	85 1/2	85
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tat.	5 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Do. and Foreign Trust	1 1/2	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	97	97
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	98	7 1/2	7 1/2
Do. 4 1/2 % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	75	74
New Egyptian Co.	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Sidi Salem Co.	10	10 1/2	10 1/2
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 1/2	—	—
United Egyptian Lands	1 1/2	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12 1/2	11 1/2	12
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1 1/2	—	—
Do. 4 1/2 % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	25/-	24/-
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/2	92 1/2	93
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99 1/2	23 1/2	21 1/2
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	96	97	97
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	30 1/2	28 1/2
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	—	—
Do. do. Pref.	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Do. do. 4 1/2 % 1st Mt.	90	94 1/2	94 1/2
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7.500)	179 1/2	144	144
Upper Egypt Hotels	2 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	Price on Dec. 28.	Jan. 4.
Anglo-Persian	12/6	12/6
European Oilfields	20/-	20 7/8
Roumanian	3/0 1/2	3/0 1/2
	10/-	8 10/16

PARIS BOURSE.

	Dec. 28.	Jan. 4.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	420	433
Canal de Suez	—	4450
Credit Foncier Egyptien	657	664
Turkish Unified 4 1/2 %	59.90	59.90
Egyptian Unified 4 %	88	89
Serbian, 1895	—	59.50

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON DECEMBER 18.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.	
National Bank of Egypt	13 1/2 to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 106
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	12 1/2 ex cpn.
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 6 1/2
priv.	L.E. 3 1/2
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Fr. 126
Bons de Panama	Fr. —
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Fr. 68
Privilegiée	Fr. 95
Cheikh Fadl	Fr. 72 1/2 ex cpn.
Urbaines et Rurales	Fr. 2 1/2
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	Fr. —
Building Lands of Egypt	Fr. —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 1
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4 1/2
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4 1/2
Unifiée	L.E. 80 1/2
Privilegiée	Fr. 69 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt	Fr. 4 1/2 ex cpn.
Fondateur	Fr. —
Pressage et dépôts	Fr. 32
Nungovich Hotels	Fr. 2 1/2
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	Fr. 5 1/2
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	Fr. 5 1/2
Ord.	Fr. 33 1/2
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	Fr. 4 1/2
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Fr. 5 1/2
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 104
Jouissance	Fr. 156
Egyptian Markets	Fr. —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 270
Div.	Fr. 210
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Fr. —
Egyptian Salt and Soda	Fr. 24 1/2
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 590
1886 Oblig.	Fr. 327
1903	Fr. 250 1/2
1911	Fr. 260
Delta Lands	Fr. —
Port Said Salt	Fr. 36 1/2 ex cpn.
Cotton Ginners	Fr. —
New Egyptian Co.	Fr. 8 1/2
United Lands	P.T. —
Levant S.S. Co.	Fr. 32 1/2
Fond	Fr. 175

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has issued the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to October 31, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to November 13, 1916):—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross Receipts, Oct., 1916	3,394,264	2,019,000
Do. do. do. 1915	2,907,481	2,224,000
Estimated Receipts for 10 months (Law of Control)	24,083,333	8,916,666
Actual do. do. 1916	30,015,870	23,175,000
Do. do. do. 1915	30,166,449	20,215,887
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months	1916 + 5,932,537	+14,258,333
	1915 + 6,083,116	+11,299,220

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

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.	1916.
	Week ended Dec. 23.	Week ended Dec. 21.
Cattle markets	845	1,171
General markets	363	414
Cattle markets closed	1	1
Receipts (£)	1,208	1,586
Total from commencement of year (£)	50,511	54,889

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Pack, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Fittings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc. Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 297.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	241
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Cairo	243
Alexandria	244
Cyprus	244
Urumia	246
SPECIAL ARTICLES—	
Syria and the Lebanon ..	245
Archæological Notes ..	247
The Central Balkans—II. Mid-winter (H. M. Wallis) ..	253

	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Allies and Greece ..	252
TANGIER TO TEHERAN	248
NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—	
Race Suppression	249
PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	250
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
A Plea for Serbians and Armenians. (Rev.) S. W. Gentle-Cackett	247
" The Encyclopædia of Islam " ..	247
THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST ..	255

	PAGE
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	257
Wheat Production in Egypt ..	258
Cyprus Notes	259
Trade Notes	259
Engineering Notes	260
Restricted Trade	261
Reef Gold in Turkestan ..	261
Company Meeting	262
Company Notes	263
Produce Report	264
On 'Change	264
Stock and Share List ..	264

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The enemy continues to advance in Roumania. All Wallachia has now been lost, and it seems problematical whether the Sereth River will serve to protect Moldavia from a similar fate. Galatz, at one end of the new Russo-Roumanian line, is already exposed to gunfire from the right bank of the Dobruja, and part of the Sereth position, which followed a tributary, the Putna, in a north-westerly direction towards Oitoz Pass, has been abandoned. The Germans are credited with the ambition to invade Bessarabia, in the hope of conducting the Bulgarians as far as Odessa, so that the world may see what rewards they have to offer to those who follow their standards. It is a grandiose scheme, but it would be rash to conclude that the enemy has not still sufficient reserves to make the attempt. Whether it can succeed at this stage of the war is another matter. Political considerations compel Germany to press forward wherever there is a chance of being able to record a victory, however Pyrrhic in its relation to the war as a whole. For all practical purposes, the Russian line now stretches from Riga to Reni and the mouths of the Danube, and the Germans have found the point of least resistance. They can, therefore, be relied upon to make the most of their present advantage, and may think it worth while to concentrate all their reserve strength at the southern end of the eastern line.

It is hard to believe that the enemy will continue to find the execution of this plan as easy as he has found the first part. He has been fortunate in having the advance in Roumania synchronize with a period of inaction on every other front, due to weather conditions. This state of affairs will pass before very long, and he will no longer be able to devote his main efforts and his surplus resources to a single theatre. By resuming the offensive in the region of Riga the Russians are showing that they have not entirely lost the initiative; but the Allies will not allow their expectations to be raised until a simultaneous offensive can be launched on all fronts. It is of the best possible augury that the Roumanians have so completely identified themselves with the Allied cause that they can bear their present misfortunes with comparative equanimity, without in any way losing their confidence in the ultimate triumph of the Allied arms. The withdrawal of the greater part of the Roumanian army for reorganization shows that long-sighted views prevail. Now that so much of Roumanian territory is in the enemy's hands, it matters little

whether another sixteenth or eighth is also lost, provided he does not take with it the stores of grain and oil which were the main objective in this campaign. It is of more importance that the Roumanian army should be in a position to play a decisive part when the Allies' chief effort is being made, and when it is essential that the Germans, by being driven out of the conquered lands, should be deprived of the fruits of the industry of the inhabitants during their occupation.

Three Notes have been necessary to bring home to the Greek Government that the Allies are in earnest in requiring reparation for the outrage of December 1 and adequate guarantees for Greece's good behaviour in the future. The first Note was presented on December 14, and demanded the removal of all Greek forces from Thessaly and the stoppage of the movement of troops and war material to the north. A time limit of twenty-four hours was fixed within which Greece had to notify her acceptance of the Allies' demands in full; failure to comply with the demands was to be regarded as a hostile act. The Greek Government gave the required assurances, and a beginning was made with the transfer of troops from Thessaly. On December 31 a second Note followed, setting forth a series of demands dealing with the military guarantees required by the Allies and the acts of reparation to be made for the attack on the Allies' landing detachments on December 1. To this Note no time limit was fixed, and it was not until January 6 that the Greek Government took any action in the matter. A memorandum on that day was handed to the Allied Ministers, which merely embodied a number of objections to the Allied demands, and pointed out the necessity for greater protection of Old Greece against the Government of National Defence at Salonika. In the meantime, however, a railway bridge in Thessaly had been blown up in order to hinder the transfer of the army, and there was some reason to suspect that, if any troops were being sent to the Peloponnese, a substantial proportion of them were finding their way back again to Attica.

The attitude of the Greek Government, the action of the Reservists, who appear to dictate its policy, and the provocative language of the Greek Press clearly showed that official Greece was entirely committed to the Germans, and was only waiting for an opportunity to throw in her lot with the Central Alliance. In view of the events of December 1 it was evident that the Greek army was not impressed by the military strength, actual or potential, of the Allies, and might at any

moment start hostilities. The Allied Conference at Rome had enabled the Entente Powers and Italy to come to a closer understanding with regard to Greece. Accordingly, no time was lost in presenting a fresh Note to the Greek Government, which did little more than repair the omission in the second Note by fixing a time limit of forty-eight hours within which it was required to notify its compliance, without reservation, with the previous demands of the Allies. At the moment of writing the nature of the Greek reply has not been made public; but it is announced that the Allies' terms have been accepted in principle. As the Central Powers are not in sufficient strength in Macedonia to break through the Allied line, and the Greek army is not in a state to carry on hostilities for any length of time unsupported, it was to be expected that the Greek Government would once more express its readiness to comply with the Allies' demands.

The situation requires that immediate and complete effect should be given to all the measures required by the Allies as guarantees for Greece's satisfactory behaviour. For this reason, as the episodes that have followed the acceptance of the first Note show, it will not be enough, in the event of the Greek Government giving the necessary assurances, to leave the carrying out of the various stipulations merely to Greek officials, whether military or civil. The presence of a number of Allied officials in various parts of the country will be required, as well as at Athens, where they will be in control of the public services. It is to be hoped that no qualms of sentiment will allow the Allies' determination to deal once and for all time with the Greek nuisance to be weakened. If firmness is shown now and continued until Greece has been rendered absolutely incapable of mischief in any shape or form, then the outward show of force can be relaxed all the sooner. But for the next few weeks it seems essential that the Allies should abandon the fiction of Greece being a friendly country, and should deal with her, within the limits indicated by the successive Notes, as an enemy.

When the immediate menace of the Greek situation has been removed, we hope the Allied Governments will publish a record of the events leading up to the attack on Admiral du Fournet's forces. The nature of the communications that passed between King Constantine and the numerous representatives of the Allies who have visited him, including Lord Kitchener, General Pau, General Castelnau, and M. Denys Cochin, should be disclosed, in order that it may be seen whether there was the least ground for supposing that the King was sincere in his profession of neutrality. Finally, there should be a full report of the outrages committed during the early days of December, whether on Allied subjects or on Venizelists. It must not be overlooked that Germany will seek to make capital in neutral countries out of the events in Greece. An official statement by the Allies will have served a useful purpose, if it only prevents President Wilson from embodying in his next Note a friendly comparison between the action of the Allies in Greece and that of the Germans in Belgium.

Reports from several fronts tell of enforced inaction as the result of mud and bad weather. The former is the greater deterrent, for it continues when weather conditions admit of flying. From the Macedonian front little has been reported for some time in regard to operations on land. But in the air there has been a further raid on Turkey's lines of communication, this time on the railway bridge over the Maritza River at Kuleli Burgas. This bridge was first attacked on December 14, when a great weight of bombs was dropped, and, according to the official statement, extensive damage was believed to have been done. On January 4 it seems to have been possible to gauge the results of the raid more accurately. One span of the bridge is reported to have been completely wrecked by the bombs of a squadron of British naval aeroplanes. Success breeds success, and with improving weather conditions air raids should become more frequent and more effective.

The Grand Shereef of Mecca is now known by a more ordinary title, but his visit to the Allied squadron at Jeddah will have lost none of its picturesqueness because he had to be welcomed as King of the Hejaz. On the French cruiser the commander struck the right note in greeting him as the greatest of Arab princes, for it is in that capacity, which reflects his personal attainments as much as his prominent position in the Moslem world, that we may expect him to make good. Events are apt to develop slowly in Arabia; but so far there has been nothing to show that the movement for Arab independence is not progressing satisfactorily. The cessation of Turkish reports regarding events in the Hejaz is a sign that the authorities at Constantinople find their pre-occupations elsewhere more pressing, and are content to let the people have an opportunity of forgetting the blow dealt by the Arabs to Ottoman prestige.

The lessons of *Kultur* are being well learned in the vassal States of the Central Alliance. It is quite in the Hohenzollern vein that the Sultan of Turkey issues a proclamation to the army, which, it must be remembered, includes the troops who have executed the Government's orders in Armenia. The soldiers are informed, and will be doubtless gratified to learn, that it was "with a humanitarian object" that proposals had been made with a view to opening peace negotiations. As the enemy States rejected the offer, Turkey is constrained to leave to them "the moral and material responsibility for fresh bloodshed and the ruin of homes"—a reference is here intended, it may be, to Armenia. For the rest, the proclamation is advisedly in general terms. The soldiers are heartened by being informed that they have "brilliantly enhanced the venerated name of Ottomanism." As Arabia must be left out of the picture, we are left to infer that the milieu of the enhanced veneration is Bulgaria and, perhaps, Athens.

It is too early to gauge the real significance of the Ministerial changes that have taken place in Austria-Hungary; but it is difficult to believe that they have anything to do with window-dressing for the benefit of the Entente Powers. Magyar opinion is under no illusions in regard to the appointment of Count Czernin as Foreign Minister. It is recalled that not many years ago he published his views on certain political questions in pamphlet form. Among other things, he declared that the national character of the Hungarian State was a fiction, that Hungarian rule merely signified the tyrannical oppression of non-Magyar peoples. It was the government of a minority, and ought to be replaced by an effective equality finding expression in universal suffrage and a special grouping of the different nationalities. Count Czernin was even prepared to see his views translated into practice by absolutist means, as there was little chance of their being realized by constitutional methods. The Magyars took exception to his appointment to Bucharest, particularly as he was bound to be sympathetic towards the grievances of the Transylvanian Roumans. They like him still less as Foreign Minister at this stage. The resignation of Dr. Sylvester, the President of the Reichsrath, who was a strong advocate of the "Central Europe" idea, which entailed the complete economic subjection of Austria-Hungary to Germany, points to a distinct rift in the Austro-German lute. No doubt when the psychological moment comes an attempt will be made to turn these events to good use in any dealings with the Allies; but there can be little to fear in any such palpable machinations.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, a 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 21.

The Sultan's Accession Anniversary.

Tuesday was the second anniversary of the accession of Sultan Hussein I., and the day was, as usual, celebrated as a Government holiday. Salutes were fired by the various batteries, and the public buildings were all decorated. Owing to the absence of his Highness in Upper Egypt, no receptions of any description were held at Abdin, where, however, a very large number of officials and notables signed in the book. In the evening the Prime Minister, Hussein Rushdi Pasha—on whom, by the way, the Sultan has bestowed the Grand Cordon of the Mohammed Ali Order in recognition of his eminent services to him and his people—gave an official banquet at the Continental Hotel, his guests including T.H. Princes Ahmed Fuad, Kamel-ed-Dine, Aly Haidar, and Omar Toussoun, Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, General Sir Archibald Murray, the British Advisers, the Under-Secretaries of State, and the higher Government and other officials. The wives of the European officials were also included in the list of guests.

H.H. the Sultan spent his accession day quietly at Assuan, where he was the recipient of innumerable congratulatory telegrams. Hussein I.'s second year of reign has been even more satisfactory for himself and his country than the opening one. Politically the country has remained completely at rest; the attempts on his life which marked 1915 have not been repeated this year; he has entirely won over the small element which looked upon him with suspicious eyes because of his nomination to the Sultanate created by the British Government; and he is perhaps to-day more generally popular with his people than he was as plain Prince Hussein Kamel Pasha, uncle of the then reigning Khedive. The prosperity which began to make itself felt after the first shock of the war had worn off has continued unabated during the past twelvemonth, and, not only are the State finances more flourishing than they were prior to the outbreak of hostilities, but the people, having received record prices for their cotton and other crops, are unusually well off, and are in consequence inordinately contented with their lot and with the new régime, which has, in their eyes, been responsible to a great extent for this improvement in their material condition. Finally, the operations on the various frontiers have been uniformly successful; the territory occupied since November, 1914, by hostile bodies has been systematically cleared, and the three Crescents and Stars will soon float over all the area recognized as belonging to the Egyptian Sultanate, whilst in the Sudan the year has been marked by the reconquest and the inclusion within the Condominium of Darfur, the last of the original Sudan provinces to remain outside the fold. Under these circumstances Sultan Hussein has every reason to feel satisfied at the result of his two years' reign and at the auspices under which he enters upon the third, and he may rest assured that the congratulations which his people showered upon him on this occasion were sincere, for they realise that he has been no inconsiderable factor in bringing about the peace and—since peace ever spells prosperity—also the prosperity amid which they are now living.

The Greek Colony.

The Congress of the Greek Communities of Egypt and the Sudan held a second meeting in Alexandria last Sunday. The meeting, which was fully representative, passed unanimous resolutions declaring that King Constantine had forfeited the throne, and consigning him to the execration of Hellenism, disavowing his authority and that of his representatives in Egypt, begging the National Government at Salonika—whom it alone recognised as representing Greece—to take immediate steps to protect Hellenic interests in Egypt, and appealing to the Powers to recognize that Government, and especially to Great Britain to recognize its representatives here and

elsewhere. Copies of the resolutions were sent to Salonika and to the Protecting Powers.

War Economy in Egypt.

The question of war economy, which has been raised and is being so energetically pursued at home with regard to the importation of luxuries and the consumption of foodstuffs and other necessities of life, as well as the local substitutes that may be used for articles of foreign origin, is just as important—perhaps even more so—to us in Egypt, where we import so largely for our daily needs. It would, indeed, be well if one and all out here, Egyptians as well as Europeans, took the matter seriously to heart and rigidly overhauled their personal and domestic requirements to see in what manner they could reduce their purchases of "foreign" articles. There are certain imported commodities which are usually in great demand, but which could be easily replaced by articles of local manufacture or production; there are many articles for which, it is true, no local substitutes can be found, but of which we all could undoubtedly use less if we tried; there are, again, articles with which at a pinch we could dispense. I am quite aware that what are luxuries in Europe are very often necessities in the East, and that in this respect we Europeans cannot be put on the same footing as the people at home, but nevertheless many feel that a good deal more could be done in the matter of economy, whilst there are unfortunately indications that the opulent situation of the Egyptian masses and of the commercial element is tending to an extravagant demand for foreign wares and products which the present state of affairs far from justifies. Egypt has derived, and is still deriving, great material benefits from the war—on every side one sees unmistakable signs of this—and it certainly has not felt its adverse effects excepting in the matter of the general rise in the cost of living—even then only in a measure that does not approach what other countries and other nations are feeling. It is surely, in these circumstances, the least that can be asked of the inhabitants that, even though, thanks to the fortunate chance of this country's geographical situation, many of them may have been put in a position to afford the high prices entailed by the rise in the cost of production and the scarcity of freight, they should do all they can to assist the Powers who are fighting for their cause by reducing to the very minimum their demands for articles of foreign manufacture or production. The economy made by each individual might not be great, but taken in the aggregate it is bound to tell, and if all joined forces and persevered in their self-denial, the result would be that not only would they themselves very probably be in pocket at the end of the year or have made some economy to meet the great rise in price of many of their absolute necessities, but they would also have combined to reduce the call made for shipping to this country, which could be more usefully used for the transport of more essential articles and of



Incorporated
A.D.
1720.

Head Office
ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON, E.C.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued to cover loss incidental to	FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUARANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK, — THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —	at least possible premiums.
--	--	------------------------------------

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. N. L. Bell, Manager
 EGYPT—CAIRO: Edward Stokes, Gen. Mng. Egyptian Branch.
 Count Michel A. de Zepher, Cairo Manager.
 ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABRIELI STORAGE COMPLY.
 CYPRUS: NAJEM HOURY.

munitions of war or the raw materials required for them. To all who have studied the statistics there appears no doubt that, given the continuation of submarine warfare on both neutral and Allied shipping on its present scale, the time is fast approaching when it will become necessary to limit to absolute necessities the space available for shipments to the various dependencies; and if the dwellers in Egypt do not reduce betimes their demands for foreign wares and products, it is quite conceivable that the Egyptian Government may be called upon to limit the import of each commodity to the quantity imported in, say, 1913, or even to part thereof, allowance, of course, being made for imports made for account of the Army, which would be substantiated by certificates issued by the military authorities. The two Commissions formed last autumn for the study of the agricultural and industrial situation in so far as foreign imports are concerned must by now have collected a considerable amount of data on the subject, and they could assist in this question by issuing circulars to the public emphasising the great necessity for the exercise of economy wherever imported articles are concerned, and pointing out available substitutes.

EGYPT'S FIRST POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(FROM OUR ALEXANDRIA CORRESPONDENT.)

I was recently shown a handsome copper medallion commemorative of Muzzi Bey, the first Postmaster-General of Egypt, to whom a replica in gold was presented by the postal staff on the occasion of his retirement in 1876. This specimen was unearthed in the vicinity of the harbour and sold to a postal employee, who generously consigned it to H.E. Borton Pasha for inclusion in the Postal Museum. Muzzi Bey, who held office from 1865-1876, was an Italian who had obtained a concession for working the postal service, which he eventually disposed of to the Egyptian Government, being thereupon nominated Postmaster-General. I am indebted to Commendatore Fux Bey, compatriot and youthful subordinate of Muzzi, now living in well-earned retirement in Ramleh, for the following anecdotes of his whilom chief.

Ismail Pasha, then Khedive of Egypt and father of our Sultan Hussein, having heard that Muzzi was recovering but slowly from a severe attack of jaundice, sent for him to the Palace and, struck by his altered appearance, suggested that he should take a holiday trip up the Nile, generously placing his own yacht at his disposal for the journey. Muzzi, not unmindful of his immediate subordinates, and with a lively sense of his own dignity, selected a small retinue from among them to bear him company and departed with great *éclat*. After a protracted joy-glide up and down the river he was again sent for by the Khedive, who was so pleased with the result of his experiment and with Muzzi's capacity for recuperation that he forthwith presented him with £E2,000 in order that the question of ways and means should not be accountable for a relapse!

Muzzi Bey was very jealous of the privileges of office, which comprised free travel over the entire railway system. The official responsible for the railways at that time viewed free travel with disfavour, and decided to cancel all passes, including that of the Postmaster-General. The day arrived when Muzzi had occasion to travel from Alexandria to Cairo, and, on being requested to produce his ticket, he explained that trifles such as railway tickets were not dreamt of in his philosophy; that, while he had not the remotest intention of paying for one on this occasion, he would inevitably journey up to Cairo by that particular train! The official was obdurate, whereupon the redoubtable Italian, stalking up to the postal van, ordered the travelling postal employee to produce his way-bill. Striking out the employee's name therefrom, he substituted his own and travelled up to Cairo in charge of the mails, leaving his subordinate behind on the platform.

Muzzi enjoyed a salary of £E2,000 a year, which was, of course, worth much more in those days than it would be at the present time. It was his custom, however, to warm both hands at the fire of life, and he spent money lavishly in the process. With unlimited credit at disposal for service purposes, unhampered by the exigencies of a budget, that unpicturesque product of modern postal administration, it may be accounted unto him for righteousness that when the time came for his retirement from Government service he returned to Italy as a poor man.

An interesting trait in his character was his passion for music, in the pursuit of which he recruited four musicians from his staff whereby to provide himself with chamber music for the beguilement of his leisure hours.

And it happened in Egypt but forty-odd years ago!

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, December 18.

Record of Excavations.

An interesting report has been published in English by the curator of the Cyprus Museum, Mr. Menelaos Markides, describing the excavations for antiquities carried out on the island in 1914 and 1915. These include operations at Lambousa, Lapethos, and Kyrenia, on the north coast; at Katydhata and Louroujina, at Evdhimon (Arsinoe), in the Limassol district; and Ktima (Papho). The ruins at Lambousa cover a considerable area, in which the remains of many public and other buildings can be traced. They are situated on the coast north of Karavas (Kyrenia district). Louroujina lies about 3 miles south-west of Dáli (Idalion), which was sacred to Aphrodite. It has yielded many objects to excavators before the British occupation, and has been a happy hunting ground for villagers in illicit diggings. Some of the excavations were due to the interest taken in the Cyprus Museum and its undertakings by Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams. They have yielded some good results, and have added considerably to the excellent collection now housed in the enlarged Cyprus Museum at Nicosia. Translations and notes regarding various inscriptions found on stones and marble relics are given, and the work has been very carefully carried out by Mr. Markides.

The Court of Administration.

A *Mejlis Idaré*, or Court of Administration, is still maintained in Cyprus. Each district has one of these councils, under the presidency of the Commissioner. These courts have been shorn of many of their duties and powers under British administration. They deal with the fixing of certain prices for tithes, etc., forage rates for mounted police, the issuing of certificates under which licences are obtained for the sale of intoxicating liquors, the issue of warrants for compulsory collection of taxes when overdue, and a variety of other matters. At Nicosia there is a Central Court, to which appeals are made either by the people or the Government. It consists of the High Commissioner, the Chief Kádi, the Mufti, the Greek Archbishop, the Chief Secretary, the Receiver-General, the Evkaf Agent, and four elected native members—two Mohammedan and two non-Mohammedan. These last-mentioned sit for two years. In the biennial elections the people choose four persons of the two communities respectively, and of these the High Commissioner appoints two out of each group. The election of native members of the Central Court has just taken place at Nicosia.

General Condition of Population.

There is still some hope that sufficient rain will come in time to save the agricultural situation. There is now urgent need of it in many parts. The native Press, which is often inclined to depict the state of the island in ultra-dismal colours, represents the agricultural classes as being in a state of great distress. The prosperity described in official reports is, it reports, only nominal, not real, the bulk of the people now paying five times what they did for necessary articles of food. The island revenue is maintained at a comparatively high level, because the Government tithe grain is sold at high prices; but this does not show a healthy or prosperous state, but the reverse. The only persons who benefit are certain merchants and some of the well-to-do farmers. The greater number are driven, as of old, into the clutches of grasping usurers. It is argued by some that Government should not only control prices, but should compel bakers to make bread of mixed wheat and barley meal. Municipalities might establish bakeries for making such bread, which is quite as nourishing as that made from wheaten flour alone, especially as many Cypriots use barley meal alone for their bread.

The Czech National Alliance in Great Britain has opened an office in Piccadilly Circus for the distribution of literature explaining the problem of the Czechs and their aspiration for independence of Austria, and also why they have the cause of the Allies at heart. In the office is a roll of honour of the Czechs serving in the British Army.

SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 26.

A Syrian refugee who managed to leave the country only a few weeks ago has communicated to *Al Mokattam* a mass of interesting information about Syria and the Lebanon, from which I send a few extracts. It will be seen that the information given about certain villages on the higher hills in the northern part of the Mountain is of a rather cheering character, and contrasts strikingly with that relating to the other much less fortunate parts. The villages that seem to have suffered most are those lying on the northern coast and on the lower hills in the middle of the district of Kesrawan, all of which used to get their main supplies of foodstuffs from Junieh, the chief Lebanese port, whose coastal trade was completely paralysed by the blockade. This informant estimates the total number of deaths, caused directly by hunger and indirectly by diseases brought about by want of nutrition, at not less than 100,000. In support of this estimate, which he does not consider open to the charge of exaggeration, he argues that the chief means of support of the Lebanese—especially of these parts—were before the war the remittances received from relatives who had emigrated and the oil and silk crops. The remittances were, at least at the beginning, stopped, and the oil stock was not long in being requisitioned by the Turkish Government; while the silk crop was left for some time untouched, until, late afterwards, Swiss merchants, acting for their own account and that of German and Austrian firms, started buying it up. To cap all this the Turkish Government finally drew the cordon round the Mountain with the criminal intention of achieving the starvation of the Lebanese. Then whole villages and hamlets were utterly depopulated, while others lost half, and others, less unfortunate, one quarter of their population.

But the inhabitants of the higher mountains—powerful and independent men, who have always upheld the proud traditions of their race—resolved not to die the weak death of the hunger-stricken. When the Turkish Government set about disarming the people in the southern and middle part of the Mountain they asked two of the higher officers of the Lebanese gendarmerie to prevail upon them to give up their arms. The officers, however, begged Jemal Pasha to relieve them of this duty, and explained to him the futility of such a mission. They suggested, however, that a man from his part should be sent to sound them, when he would have occasion to see how far they were right in their assumption. Jemal Pasha then sent for an officer of the Tripoli garrison, and deputed him to treat with the people of the village of Zgharta. He was to endeavour, first, to induce its leaders to give up their arms, by means of fair promises of generous recompense and privileged treatment at the hands of the Turkish Government; and, if they should persist in their refusal, to threaten them with dire consequences. The officer, however, knowing the proverbial intractability of the people of the village, preferred to go first to the village of Bsharri. He had barely finished explaining the object of his mission to the leading chieftain when the latter, calling one of his servants, ordered him to take the officer down to the stables. When the officer was led back, the chieftain said, "The man who attempts even an encroachment on the threshold of those stables which you have just seen shall not return safe, and the arms that the Government wants to take away from us we shall not part with of our own accord. Let them send those who would try to take them away from us by force, and then we shall settle accounts." He then advised the officer to return at once to Tripoli, as otherwise his life would be in danger.

On the way, some of the people of the village met the officer, and proved to him, by somewhat forcible means, what they meant to do to those whom the Government might be sending to remove their arms. On his return he explained to Jemal Pasha the futility of attempting to disarm the people, and that wisdom dictated they should be left unmolested, unless the Government were prepared to send a large punitive expedition to subdue them in their almost impregnable mountain fastnesses. Jemal Pasha concluded that the cutting off of all channels of supplies from the Lebanon would prove an efficacious and inexpensive means of forcing the people into submission, but the latter were not long in forming armed bands, recruited from different villages, who descended on the plains of the Bekaa, and carried away the wheat by force of arms. Then the people of Zgharta cut off the water supply of the town of Tripoli, which at once aroused uproarious protests on the part of the inhabitants, and finally compelled the commandant to parley for peace and propose to the people of the village a fixed supply of wheat and flour. The latter agreed, but, knowing what little faith is to be placed in Turkish promises, they sent down armed bands to Tripoli, and, under cover of night, forcibly opened the stores and carried away large quantities of flour and wheat, which they distributed among themselves and their neighbours.

This set Jemal Pasha aflame with anger; but some high Lebanese functionaries who, sacrificing national dignity and honour on the altar of personal interests, had abetted the criminal acts of this dictator, and have since been his satellites, tried to appease his wrath and convince him of the loyalty of these highlanders, who were pushed to this extremity by the instinct of self-preservation, but who, once their hunger appeased, would not fail to relapse into peaceful life. Jemal finally agreed to allow them their requirements of flour and wheat from Tripoli, the Bekaa, and Akkar, at the lowest prices, and they have since been paying from 7-8 piastres the rotle of flour at Tripoli, whereas the inhabitants of Beyrout were paying 32 piastres, and that for flour which is adulterated.

Famine in certain districts of the Lebanon, such as Shouf and Metn, where the Druse element prevails, has been less rampant than in other parts; and yet thousands of people there have perished of hunger. During seven months the people of Beyrout are said to have been supplied with flour which is repellent to the appetite; and yet the kind of flour supplied to the Lebanese was still worse. Many Lebanese are said to have been suffering from a disease akin to dropsy, which proves fatal, and this made the people believe that the Government was actually selling them poisoned flour.

FAMINE IN TURKEY.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, a neutral who has reached Zurich after passing several years in Constantinople gives details of present conditions in the Turkish capital.

Austria, he says, lacks many things, but Turkey lacks everything. When people say the Viennese are dying of hunger they are speaking figuratively. But of Constantinople it is the literal and sinister truth.

"For several weeks we had bread in Constantinople which smelt of petroleum. It was made with wheat abandoned by the British troops at Gallipoli. By drenching this wheat with petroleum the British expected to render it useless.

"The Bosphorus fisheries have long been abandoned, owing to mines and to the commandeering of all the boats. Sugar costs over 13s. a kilogram, and coffee 14s.

"Since last spring householders have been unable to obtain coal. Cooking is done with charcoal, which is very rare, or with petroleum, which costs £4 for a 2½-gallon can.

"The Russian Fleet periodically bombards the sole coaling station, thus rendering operations practically impossible. Perhaps public opinion in England and France does not thoroughly realise the task accomplished by the Russians in the Black Sea, particularly since the capture of Trebizond. They have destroyed or paralysed the Turkish navy, destroyed the merchant fleet, and effected an almost absolute blockade of the Bosphorus.

"Scarcely anything remains of the Turkish navy. The cruiser *Medjidieh* was sunk off the Bulgarian coast, the *Torgout Reis* has been anchored in the Golden Horn irreparably damaged, the *Goeben* is still immobilised, and the German engineers have not succeeded in repairing her. Apart from a few torpedo-boats and submarines, the only warship the Turks still use is the *Nidilli*, formerly the *Breslau*. But the Russian fleet keeps such good watch that she rarely ventures beyond the Bosphorus passes. Of the 250 merchant vessels in the Golden Horn at the beginning of the war, all except half-a-dozen have been sunk by the Russians in the Black Sea, or by British or French submarines in the Sea of Marmora."

THE PRISONERS FROM BAGHDAD.

All the British civilians and ladies who were removed by the Turks from Baghdad are in Constantinople, and apparently are being well treated. They are not interned, but are allowed to move about the city. A letter was received in London from one of them on Wednesday. News has reached London from Baghdad that the American Consul there died of typhoid in November.

Some persons who succeeded in getting away from Baghdad report (says Reuter's Agency) that there were a number of Germans in the place, which was quiet. Money and food were very scarce. The authorities were busily engaged in constructing roads, and had demolished a number of British houses. One new thoroughfare had been cut right through the gardens of the British Residency.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Seliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers

URUMIA NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

URUMIA, November 21.

A Notable Visit.

The Grand Duke Boris Vladimirovitch of Russia visited Urumia on November 17 and stayed three days. It was for the first time in its history that Urumia welcomed a member of the Russian Royal Family; and for some days before his Highness's arrival the city was occupied with preparations to give him a fitting reception. By order of the authorities every shop in the bazaars was decorated, and all the streets and the most important places in the city were adorned with fine Persian rugs and other Oriental decorations, which would present to a European visitor a curious sight. Several arches were erected in different parts of the city representing various societies and bodies of the people, such as the Board of Aldermen, the Police, the Syrian Committee, etc. But the most elaborate of these structures was erected by the Governor of the city, Ehtemad-ed-Dowleh.

While the Grand Duke's visit was a purely military affair, it was, at the same time, regarded by the citizens as a high honour. On his way from the Lake to the city, a distance of twelve miles, the visitor was greeted by crowds lining both sides of the roads.

Its Humorous Side.

The humorous side of his reception cannot be overlooked. The masses were expecting his entry to be something like that of a Persian prince. They were all ready to make their bows to the ground on his arrival, and many were standing with knife open in hand, ready to kill a sheep as a "sacrifice" to him. But to their vast disappointment many found that he had passed them in the most unpretentious fashion, and unobserved. While his motor-car passed through the streets, and while he saluted the crowds, many did not recognise him; and only some little time after he had gone by was it possible to convince them that the Prince had actually passed.

On the morning of November 18 the Grand Duke reviewed the cavalry regiments in a wide field below the Russian Consulate; and this was the greatest military parade that Urumia has ever seen in all its history. It is reported that he complimented the officers and men upon their condition, their fine physique, and their admirable drill.

During his short stay he was given a banquet by the officers of the Staff, and was entertained at luncheon at the Consulate and by the Governor.

Benefit of Russian Troops' Presence.

The continued presence of the Russian troops in Urumia and the steady Russian advance to the South have produced a feeling of security and quietness among the people of the city. The mountains on the Turkish border are cleared of Kurds, who for centuries had been a curse to the people of Urumia; the Christian population is anticipating a peaceful winter; and it is generally believed that the doom of the Turks and Kurds is sealed.

Escaped Prisoners.

A few days ago some Syrian soldiers under the Russian command near the city of Bashkala arrested five men whom they regarded as suspicious characters. After a while they were found to be British soldiers who had escaped from the prisoners taken at Kut-el-Amarah. The men were sent over to Urumia, and are under military examination. They are all from the East, and they tell interesting stories of their captivity and escape.

Mr. Alfred T. Davies, chairman of the British Prisoners of War Book Scheme (Educational), in a letter to the Press, says: "In view of the widespread anxiety that prevails in regard to the delivery of parcels consigned to British prisoners of war in Turkey it will, I am sure, be a matter of interest to many of your readers to learn that we have to-day received word that a parcel of books sent from here on August 30 last to an officer of the Royal West Kent Regiment (Kut Garrison), interned at Castamouni, in Asia Minor, safely reached its destination and has been duly acknowledged by its recipient in a letter dated November 20."

IDEALS OF THE VENIZELOS ARMY.

In the course of a paper on "Venizelos and his Fellow-Countrymen," read to the general meeting of the Classical Association, held at Leeds University, on Saturday last, Professor P. N. Ure said that the whole of M. Venizelos's career, with its absolute refusal to accept the deadly doctrine that national and political morality need not obey the laws of individual morality, was from first to last a direct challenge to Prussianism.

No doubt the Prussian doctrine had been challenged from time to time during the last fifty years, but those who had done so had seldom been quite beyond the suspicion of a sentimental pacifism and a failure to recognise disagreeable realities, and had consequently only helped to mark the false antithesis between the idealist and man of action.

What the world wanted in order to overthrow the false doctrine propagated by modern Prussia was an idealist without illusions. That was what Crete had given us, and it behaved us to make full use of the gift. M. Venizelos was a whole-hearted believer in the Entente, but he believed no less in his fellow countrymen. We could not be pro-Venizelists and anti-Greek. Venizelists regarded themselves as representing the true Greece, and they knew the country better than we did. English visitors to Greece had been mainly sailors, traders or tourists, and had not generally seen much of the best elements of the population, the splendid peasantry, and the large, well-educated professional class.

Greeks of the twentieth century were still in many ways the heirs of their predecessors of a classical age. Whether or not there was much racial continuity, there was certainly a racial parallelism. We must not expect them to go along at one stodgy level like ourselves. They were more inclined than we were to alternate between heights and depths. Between 1910 and 1914 nearly the whole nation rose to the heights. Since then a section had sunk lamentably low, but that was how things happened in the days of Themistocles and Pericles. A sympathetic attitude on our part would do much with so responsive a people as the Greeks to prevent such lapses, or, when they had happened, to hasten the cure.

Mr. Alexander Pallis, a Greek, of Sefton Park, Liverpool, expressed his gratitude to Professor Ure for his sympathetic reference to M. Venizelos. It would, he said, afford that statesman great comfort to learn that such a paper had been read at that gathering, and that his attitude met with the approval of the Classical Association. Some time ago several French savants sent a message to Venizelos wishing him success in his patriotic work, and he suggested the Association should send a similar message.

Viscount Bryce said they were grateful to their friend for the suggestion he had made. He did not think he was wrong in assuming that that suggestion would meet with general assent. As a rule the Association kept clear of anything of a political character, domestic or foreign, but there were exceptional circumstances existing now which he believed would justify their expressing their opinion.

It was decided that Viscount Bryce should despatch a telegram to Venizelos expressing admiration for his character, the profound confidence they felt in his conscientiousness and patriotism, and hearty wishes for his success in the course which he was following.

A military officer suggested that the Elgin marbles should be restored to Greece.

Viscount Bryce: I do not think Parliament is likely to address itself to this question at the present moment.

THE NOTORIOUS SCHENCK.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST have heard so much of the notorious Baron Schenck that they will doubtless be interested in the following pen picture of him. It is given by Mr. Hugh Martin in an article entitled "The Master Hun in Athens," which was published in the *Sheffield Independent* (December 27):—

At dinner he used to fascinate me. I had never seen even a German imbibe his soup with quite such noisy signs of gusto. The heavy jowl not more than three inches from the plate, the scalp of the bullet head becoming visibly pinker beneath its quarter-inch crop of bristly mouse-coloured hair. He had a square face, with eyes set rather far apart, and a paunchy body into which he used to pour (after smelling it daintily) glass after glass of a very choice Greek white wine known as "Les Fleurs de la Reine," for it was grown in the private vineyards of the Kaiser's sister. There was a charming appropriateness about these daily libations, for the friendship existing between the Queen and the Baron was a matter of common knowledge; though, to speak the truth, there were incidents in the Baron's past life, known to both friends and enemies, that could not be talked about in polite society. But he had the entrée of the Palace at all hours of the day, and often drank coffee with her Majesty in the afternoon.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

RECORDS FROM ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA.

Although, owing to war conditions, no explorations are being carried out in Mesopotamia, the publication of cuneiform literature, either of the Babylonians, the Elamites, or the Assyrians, is still going forward, there being ample new material available in European and United States museums to last for several years to come. Our French allies still produce their *Revue d'Assyriologie* with praiseworthy regularity, and welcome heartily to its columns essays by Professor Stephen Langdon, the well-known Oxford Assyriologist.

It is now nearly half a century since we commenced recovering Assurbannipal's great tablet library at Nineveh, which was supposed to have been his one great literary storehouse. But the Germans, who for some years have been obtaining cuneiform tablets from ancient Assur, have evidently come across a second library created by the same monarch, just as at Nippur a third collection of his was unearthed. Probably each temple possessed a library, and as the shrines acted as law courts and record offices for all deeds and documents that had been substantiated by an oath asseverated in their deity's edifice, each had a vast quantity of duplicate business and legal records. But the three cities mentioned were furnished with the special kind of antiquarian, and historical, collection which Assurbannipal appears to have been the first royal ruler to inaugurate. His aim was to make fresh copies of very ancient tablets containing the primitive myths, theogonies, annals of the kings, and accounts of war and conquests, public works, and so forth; and, as these were often in two different languages, to provide, for their elucidation, dictionaries and syllabaries and grammars.

Herr Erich Ebeling has recently been publishing many of the religious texts discovered by the Germans at Assur, and they have as colophons to several of the tablets the statement that their contents "were excerpted (from old tablets) for the Assur collection." One, however, is a new piece of literature; for it gives a prayer of Assurbannipal himself, who speaks of himself merely as "son of his god."

Not only did the king employ numerous scribes to rewrite the old literature that was being lost because of the decay, from age, of the tablets upon which they were written, but so interested was he in literary matters that, as Dr. Theophilus Pinches showed some time ago, he apparently took a pride in absolutely writing himself some of the tablets provided by him for the study of future generations. We have tablets which assert this fact as follows:—"I have written on tablets compared and explained, and placed in the collection of Ezidu, Nebo's temple within Nineveh"; or, "Assurbannipal the Great King, according to the tablets and records of the copies of Sumer and Akkad, this tablet I have written and made clear in the assembly of the experts and placed in my palace for consultation. Whoever destroys my written name, may Nebo, scribe of destiny, destroy his name."

The king's object in establishing duplicate copies of very important texts in various cities was that in case of the destruction of the library by foes, fire or floods, specimens of the ancient literature should still remain extant.

The fragments of the Assur collection already edited by Ebeling are particularly important, because they restore to us several of the missing parts of most interesting texts which we had partly recovered from Nineveh. Among these is a portion of the second tablet of the "Creation Epic," giving us the missing lines 92 to 101 of the story, excepting one or two words at the commencement of each line. Another famous myth, that of the "Descent of Ishtar to Hades," is also made quite complete in a part previously wanting; and many lines that were obscure, because partly obliterated, are now made clear. A series of tables containing what is called the "Epic of Niniḫ" and many very ancient hymns and incantations,

forming part of primitive temple rituals, are now enlarged and explained. In the Nineveh Assurbannipal library there was a vast series of priestly incantation texts known as the "Shurpu" tablets. Many portions of duplicates of these have turned up at Assur, and will be of assistance in enabling us to complete the edition of this work. Another curious text, of which we previously possessed parts of two recensions, is a ritual for the sacrifice of a bull.

The office of a scribe was a very honourable one in ancient Babylonia, if he were connected with the State record office, or—what was equally valued—that of one of the temples; and doubtless an author who composed religious writings and historical annals was a personage of importance. Thus, we have accounts of two scribes who became princes, or petty kings, in Babylonia. One of these was Lugal-usum-gal, of Telloh, who discloses his original status in a dedication to Naran Sin; the other was a king of Uruk, named Anam, whom Père Scheil, in recently publishing a tablet which proves he was once a scribe, calls "L'Archiviste-roi Anam."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

A PLEA FOR SERBIANS AND ARMENIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The terrible distress in the Near East is beyond exaggeration. Serbia became a second Belgium at the hands of the enemy invaders; Armenia almost blotted out by the cruel Turk. Thousands have been killed, a far greater number deported to the deserts without food or shelter. A small portion—about 250,000—escaped over the frontier into Russia and Persia.

We would make an earnest plea for both of these suffering peoples. The victorious Serbian Army may reconquer the country, but we must feed the women and children. The Armenians have suffered most appalling agonies, but we must help the remnant, and prevent misery and starvation passing the bounds of endurance, and in the coming spring we must repatriate them under Russian protection.

The British and American Consuls act as our agents, taking an active part in the relief work. Our distributors are missionaries who have been associated with this society for many years. There is, therefore, no deduction for distribution expenses or workers' salaries, nor is there any office rent or staff to pay at this end.

The smallest donation will be gratefully acknowledged by

Yours faithfully,

(Rev.) S. W. GENTLE-CAKETT.

Secretary, Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society.

358, Strand, W.C.,

January 5, 1917.

THE "THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF ISLAM."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In December, 1911, you published a letter from me with reference to "The Encyclopædia of Islam," which was to have been issued in forty-five parts, and I complained that the first ten parts took forty-one months to produce, at which rate of "progress" the last part would be published in fifteen years.

The twentieth number was issued to subscribers in May, 1914, since when, in the language of the great war, "Napoo!"

As I paid a cash subscription of £6 15s. in advance, I have been expecting to receive some statement from the London agents, but I am still without any information.

I think that the British branch of the "International Association of the Academies," who published the encyclopædia under their patronage, should issue some statement as to whether subscriptions are in the hands of the enemy or banked in London.

Further information about this publication will be interesting.—Yours, etc.,

AS-SABUR ("The Patient").

London, January 7.

THE JEWS IN PALESTINE.—We regret that, owing to a printer's error, the name of the writer of the letter on the above subject, which appeared in our issue of last week, was given as Falkowski instead of Tokowsky.

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It has not the same importance as "Trade After the War," but a question which seems to exercise some minds is that of "Tino After the War." The fact is that a good many more people than those labelled Phil-Hellenes are interested in Greece, generally on account of their having been there, if only for a few days. That reminds me; I wonder why more of the thousands who in normal times winter in Egypt do not make a point of going out or coming home by way of Greece. To say that it is well worth the while is too banal. Strictly speaking, any educated person ought to consider it his or her duty to make a point of paying a visit to Greece when they are, more or less, in the neighbourhood. After all, there was never anything in the Palace at Athens to make them look at it; but if they should do so hereafter, they will at least be able to say: "That's where So-and-so lived."

But to get back to Tino—much as I hate the word; but really he has only himself to blame for it. In one of those numerous Press interviews he made a point of giving at an earlier stage of the war the King of the Hellenes reminded us of the pleasure he derived from spending his holidays in England. That chapter, presumably, is closed, and Eastbourne will have to look about for another "tame" Royal Family for its very own. I have forgotten to find out whether Tino's son is still at school at St. X's. For his own sake one will hope not, as the average British schoolboy is not invariably a diplomatist, though essentially patriotic. The tragedy of it all is that the Greek Royal Family were genuinely "English" in their tastes. A friend of mine who knows his Greece well was recalling a few days ago the period when Tino and his brothers infinitely preferred informal gatherings at the British Legation in Athens to the stiff functions that awaited them elsewhere. Those were days when games—so-called parlour games—were rather the rage, and the whole length of the present King might be seen stretched out on the floor playing "Brother, where art thou?" blindfolded.

I have no suggestion to offer regarding the solution of the problem of "Tino After the War"; but if ever Tino has an impartial biographer, I hope he will make a point of tracing carefully the workings of German influence. In the halcyon days to which I have referred a delightfully casual "freak" (to indulge in undiplomatic language) of unbounded hospitality presided at the British Legation. Was it part of Germany's intrigue, I wonder, to take advantage of changes in our diplomatic service to wean Tino from his Anglophil tendencies by insisting upon the German Legation at Athens taking a leaf out of the British book? My friend's knowledge of the inner history of Athens fails him for the subsequent period. But I can bear witness to the fact that Germany's representatives abroad are by no means always dull and pompous. At one place, which must be nameless, Herr and Frau "Representative" did much to add to the gaiety of the community. For instance, it was not at all "official" when the male Germans were celebrating something or other with a dinner, for Frau "Representative" to summon their wives to a rival function, and privately insist upon every one of her guests appearing in male costume—her husband's, to wit. It had been arranged that the husbands were to call for their wives at the end of the evening, and the secret was actually kept until they did so.

Talking of officials. In common with most travellers, I have had a varied experience of them. Some linger in the memory, others fade completely away until the pages of an old diary are being turned over again. I should like to see a hostel attached to our Foreign and Colonial Offices, in which all our future representatives abroad would have to spend a certain time until they could be certified as sufficiently human and normal for their posts. Some would pass through quickly enough. If such a scheme had been in vogue one excellent official would never have dreamed of arming himself with visiting cards which bore only the three words, "The Chief Justice." One such card, I remember, lost its way on board one of his Majesty's ships in harbour. A few days later the Chief Justice had a card left upon him bearing an eloquent legend: "The Midshipman."

Whether Snotty's hint had the desired effect history does not relate. A similar experiment, however, was to my knowledge successful elsewhere. As everyone knows, clubs abroad are apt to play a slightly different rôle from what they play at home. Roughly speaking, they are divided into two classes—some you belong to because you have to, others because you can't help it. Any element of compulsion, however, ceases before it comes to inscribing their names on visiting cards for home consumption. This subtle feature was once overlooked by someone of my acquaintance, who thought it obligatory to publish a small club directory on his cards. His return to grace was effected by flooding his rooms with a number of others bearing references to night clubs and toilet clubs, as well as to those enumerated on his list.

What admirable material the old Greek dramatists could have derived for their plays from the current history of Turkey! They revelled in situations in which their characters were at cross-purposes, while the audiences, knowing the facts of the case, had their interest maintained at the highest pitch to see how the misunderstandings would be straightened out. Think of Greece throwing herself into the arms of a German-Bulgar-Turkish Alliance! The mere idea must go far to reconcile Turkish Ministers for much that they have to put up with these days. I am reminded of the saying of a Salonika official in the unregenerate days of Abdul Hamid, who explained to me that Turkey possessed several valuable industries. On my asking for enlightenment, he said that there were at least three; they were Greek, Serbian, and Bulgarian propaganda, from all of which Turkey derived considerable revenue. Times have changed, but the old antagonists are there. A perusal of the German Press throws a little light on the situation in Turkey. The interview is very much to the fore, and it is invariably written up with consummate *naïveté*. Picture to yourself Talaat Bey finally run to earth by the German lady journalist. "'Bujurun,' say the attendants. 'Bitte,' says Excellency Talaat. (For he is also learning German, and for some time has carried a small dictionary in his breast-pocket, in order that he may study it when he has time.)" I translate from *Der Tag*. But what interests me most are the casual references in all these interviews to the German watch-dogs who are on guard in the Turkish Ministries. We have heard about them before, of course; but how sharp is the watch kept may be inferred from the fact that, even during a conversation with a correspondent, the German "assessor" is present. As a rule he does not enter into the interview, but is generally presented to us as a fellow-occupant of the Minister's room. I trust that Talaat's guardian is human enough to enjoy with him the prospect of Greece putting her head into the Turco-German noose

CORSAIR.

THE PROPHET'S TOMB IN DANGER.

"A. S." writes: The Paris Arabic journal, *Al Moutakbel*, in a recent issue, publishes a leading article, signed by Sheikh Ali Elghayati, raising the above cry, based on a telegram from Medina to the Constantinople Press, announcing the arrival, on November 27, of the Turkish Commission and its departure on December 2, with all the precious treasures which Moslem piety had for thirteen centuries accumulated, as an expression of its devotion, on the Tomb of Mohammed. Two members of the Commission are German. Fortunately, this devout Moslem cry is not an important one as regards the future of Medina, although it must be a great shock to his feelings to see Germans in the prohibited sanctuary of Islam; but, what is more, he is anxious concerning the Tomb, and what those enemies of the Arabs might do to it. Meanwhile, it seems that the treasures carried away so far from the tomb include a rare gem of enormous value and two massive gold lamps, which, with other valuable objects, are being offered to German bankers as security for fresh loans!

THE KING OF THE HEJAZ.

Al Kibla, the official organ of the Government of the Hejaz, published in Cairo, gives details of the visit of the King of the Hejaz to Allied warships at Jeddah. On this occasion the commander of the French cruiser said: "It is a great honour for this cruiser to receive the greatest of Arab Princes, especially as its history gives it a right to this honour, for it was on board this cruiser that the Franco-Russian alliance was signed."

His Majesty replied: "I am happy to visit the brave and heroic Allies who have proved their virtues to the world and who merit all respect and honour." The journal adds:—

"The King then visited the British cruisers, manifesting his satisfaction at everything he saw. On observing some Indian sailors he addressed them in Arabic, giving them words of counsel."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RACE SUPPRESSION.*

The Right Hon. Mr. W. F. Bailey has written, in his book on "The Slavs of the War Zone," a work of beauty, unique in its word-pictures of people and places in the Middle East. A flavour of old-worldism, of feudal times lingering in the twentieth century, permeates the volume; archaic manners and customs, snatches of romantic history and legendary lore, of striving peoples and wandering nomads, of lords and lasses, runs through it like a filigree lode of silver in a bed of quartz. Many of the scenes, be it remembered, are placed in that region of Europe where human vampires, such as Dracula of gruesome memory, still haunt the grim ruins of lonely castles and appear on winter nights to terrify the ignorant rustics. With such a wealth of romance and types of people to draw from it is no wonder that Mr. Bailey, a picturesque writer, should have introduced us to scenes of intense dramatic interest. Moreover, the natural features of the lands lying between the Drin and the Dniester are so beautiful, so varied, at times so chaotic in their magnificence, as in the Carpathians, so desolate in their nakedness, as in the Carso region, that they offer a generous background of many colours to the painter of gorgeous scenes. Then, finally, but not least, there is the intense charm of music—so rich, so varied, so eloquent in the Middle East as to confound the senses and play havoc with passions. Poles, Hungarians, Bohemians, Serbs, and the wonderful Zigeuner gypsies—are they not Nature's instrumentalists, and is not their music peerless? And yet each has a peculiar rhythm, intonation, and mystic depth—or call it passion—of its own which induces the author to deny the accuracy of the well-known platitude that music is a universal language. It is as varied as speech, and as the brilliant coloured costumes of the Southern Slavs. Pictures of guslars and minstrels, of untaught violinists maddening a holiday crowd, of wonderful sounds emerging at night from the darkness or from squalid slum dwellings in the great cities, are among the most memorable mosaics in a structure of fascinating splendour.

But we are not only concerned here with the decorative element of a highly interesting book. When studying some Gothic or Byzantine cathedral, the surface ornament is certainly a distinctive feature of the whole structure, but underlying it, and primarily essential, is the fabric itself. So it is with "The Slavs of the War Zone." Beneath the picturesque garb of description lies a deeper note—one of oppressed and partially suppressed people, of Teuton-terrorized Slavs, of political injustice and moral cruelty. It is a sad note—a low, plaintive cry for racial freedom, for liberation from the Austro-German and Hungarian yoke. So intense is this cry, so long-drawn its echo, sounding away to the north and the south of the Danube, that, willy-nilly, we are made to forget the beauty of pastorals and idylls, and to see only the sufferings of Jugo-Slavs, Poles, Bohemians, and Czechs, downtrodden and tortured by a Prussia that has neither conscience, soul, nor honour. Tragedy is unmasked and stalks through the pages of the book, barefooted and in rags, from Galicia to Herzegovina. It is a sad, sad story, written in the minor key. Its climax, surely, is reached when, in the Great War, Slavs are forced to march in the van of German armies against the Russians and be shot at by their kith and kin who are coming to free them from their cruel masters. Look at any map (unfortunately, the publishers of the book under review have not thought it necessary to include a map) and follow the boundaries of Slavdom, excluding Russia, in Central Europe. North of the Danube lie the lands of the Poles, Ruthenes, Czechs, and Slovaks; to the south the territories occupied by the Slovenes, the Croats, and the Serbs. The two groups, Northern and Southern, are separated from each other by a belt of land under Teuton-Magyar control, represented by the dominant peoples of Austria-Hungary. Of Teutons there are twelve millions in the Hapsburg Empire, and ten million Magyars; together, they have been able to rule over, subject and persecute twenty-three million Slavs! It is truly astonishing how such a state of affairs could have been brought about, but, even more wonderful how, having been created, it could have lasted until to-day. The reason can only be found in the practical application of the *divide et impera* policy which the Hapsburg statesmen have relentlessly pursued with perfectly surprising results. How they managed to pit Slav against Slav is admirably related by Mr. Bailey. We see, for instance, how, to counteract the power of the Poles in Western Galicia, the brother Slavs of Eastern Galicia, who are Russians in all but name, were provided by Vienna with a new name and nationality, namely, Ruthenes or Little Russians.

Their language and their literature are Russian. In religion they stand between Catholic Poland and "Orthodox" Russia. They belong to the Uniate Greek Church, acknowledging the authority of the Pope, while adhering to the ritual, discipline and

doctrine of the Orthodox Russian Church. . . . The Austrian Government also tried to give them a language of their own, with Latin characters to take the place of Cyrillic, a new phonetic spelling, new words collected from all quarters, and new grammatical forms. . . . There are four millions of these Ruthenes in the Austrian Empire.

Western Galicia is the Austrian Poland, properly speaking. Its people are about five millions strong, and, by pampering the Ruthenes at their expense, the Austrian Government successfully checked their power and influence. Further to the west, and neighbours of the Poles, are the Czechs, "a Slav people whom the spirit of John Huss still influences."

Of recent years, as in centuries gone by, they have exhibited a courage, a determination, and a persistent nationalism that have won for them a position of remarkable power in the Austrian Empire. A couple of generations ago they were of small account in the Parliament of Vienna. Their language, which had almost ceased to be written, was gradually revived during the last century. Now it is ousting German all over Bohemia.

Two-thirds of the population are Slavs (Czechs), and one-third German, while over 95 per cent. belong to the Roman Catholic Church. But, how the Germans are hated in Bohemia! The war has proved it; the refusal of the Czechs to fight their Russian kinsmen, the turning of Czech guns on Teuton regiments, revolution—alas, unsuccessful, with the dire results already known to the world at large. But the Czech's revenge, like that of the Pole, is bound to come. And it will be sinister.

The Slovaks, the fourth people of the Northern group of Slavs, are akin to the Czechs, but in a somewhat lower social grade. They inhabit Moravia and North-Western Hungary, where they seem to have lived ever since the fifth century.

During all these years they have been a subject people—ruled in succession by the Arabs, the Franks, and finally by the Magyars, who down to recent times have tried in every way to destroy their nationality, even the use of their language being forbidden in their churches and in their schools. . . . In population they number about two and a-half millions, and their language may be classified as a variety of the Czech. In religion, like their neighbours in Bohemia, they are 95 per cent. Catholic.

Of the various subjugated Slav peoples they are the most enslaved. They have been robbed of their liberty, and every effort they have made to regain it has been ruthlessly crushed. There is no right of assembly; State spies abound, and political intrigue poisons everything. "It is one of the saddest lands in Europe. . . . Over its valleys and mountains and forests has descended the shadow of the slave-driver, and despair lies heavy on the hearts of its people."

Not less interesting than the Slavs of the Northern group are those of the Southern. The Serb, his history and misfortunes are too well known to need comment here. On the contrary, little is known of the Slovenes, about one and a-quarter million in number, who dwell in Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and portions of Istria—that is, in the vicinity of the Austrian Adriatic; they are neighbours of the Croats, who, racially, are one with the Serbs, but who are distinguished from them partly by religion, partly by language. "For literature, indeed, the languages are identical, but the Croats adopt the Latin alphabet while the Serbs use Cyrillic characters." Of the two and a-half million Croats, four-fifths belong to the Catholic Church and the majority of the remainder to the Orthodox Church of Serbia. Akin to them are the Bosnians of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a people belonging to the Serbo-Croatian branch of the Slavonic race. Their religion varies—about one-third are Moslems and two-thirds Christians, the latter being again subdivided into three-fifths Orthodox Greek and two-fifths Roman Catholic. Their interest in the war has been great: Is not Serajevo the "City of the Great War," and does not the Slav of the South hate the Teuton and the Magyar with a more fiery, passionate hatred than does his brother of the North—supposing that to be possible? And who does not remember the infamous Agram Trial, now historic, by means of which the Teutons and Magyars sought to destroy Croatian nationalism and to introduce a wholesale persecution of Croatian patriots? If ever the truth of the origin of this war be known, it will be found to have been caused by the desire on the part of Teutons—both German and Austrian—and Magyars to enslave even more ruthlessly than hitherto the Slavs of the South and to throw the cursed yoke of Prussian Kultur on the shoulders of Serbia, the only free Yugo-Slav State in Central Europe. This they will never succeed in doing. Such has always been the reviewer's opinion, but, after reading Mr. Bailey's account of the Slavs of the War Zone, he is more than ever convinced that not only will Serbia remain free, but that, so latent and powerful is the anti-German, anti-Magyar spirit of the Slav inhabitants of the Hapsburg Empire, that, sooner or later, with or without our help—and let it be with our help!—they also will throw off the chains that bind them to Vienna and Berlin.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

My Country, by her Majesty the Queen of Roumania. Published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton for *The Times*. Price 5s. net.

*"The Slavs of the War Zone." By the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B. (London: Chapman and Hall.)

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. Jan. 12 13	1916. Dec. 30 31	Friday	1335. Rebi L. 18	5677. Tebet. 18
	1917. Jan. 1	Saturday	19	19
14	2	Sunday	20	20
15	3	Monday	21	21
16	4	Tuesday	22	22
17	5	Wednesday ..	23	23
18		Thursday	24	24

The *Sudan Times* of December 20 publishes the text of two farewell Orders issued by H.E. General Sir Reginald Wingate on the occasion of his departure from Khartoum to take up the post of High Commissioner in Cairo. In one his Excellency places on record his "sincere appreciation of the loyal and efficient support I have received in the past seventeen years from the officers and officials of all ranks and classes in the Sudan Government." The greatest testimony to the excellence of their work, he says, is the present state of the Sudan, and the measure of their achievement is the contrast between the conditions of the country in 1900 and in 1916. Sir Reginald concludes by expressing his gratitude for the able and patriotic services rendered by the notables, religious and secular, the native magistrates, nazirs, omdas, and sheikhs, the members of the municipalities and representatives of the commercial and other communities. "Their contribution to the present satisfactory state of the Sudan has been a very notable and significant one; and it is a great pleasure and privilege to me to feel that, in leaving Khartoum, I shall not sever my connection with them, nor with the Sudanese people, whose welfare is, and will continue to be, my close and personal concern."

In the second Order, addressed to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Egyptian Army, and to the officials of the War Department, the Sirdar, after referring to the fact that "the spirit of the Army which assisted to overthrow the Dervish hordes in 1898 is still active," says he is glad to feel that his transfer to Cairo does not involve a sudden termination of his connection with the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, nor can it, he adds, "affect in any way my deep regard and concern for all that pertains to their welfare and the good of the Army."

Before leaving Khartoum Sir Reginald Wingate received the following message from Sultan Hussein:—

My dear Sir Reginald Wingate,—At this moment, when you are about to relinquish the active command of the Egyptian Army and the work of Governor-General of the Sudan, I consider it to be my duty to express, as much in my own name as that of the country, our gratitude for the distinguished services you have rendered to Egypt. It is thanks to you that the Egyptian Army has been able to reach its present pitch of perfection, and also that the Sudan has not only been definitely pacified, but that in addition to this, its old frontiers have been restored to it, by the recent conquest of Darfur. Such things are worthy of our appreciation. And therefore it pleases me to show it publicly, by conferring on you the Grand Cordon of Mohammed Ali.

Sir Henry and Lady McMahon were entertained at luncheon at the Royal Automobile Club on Monday by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, to welcome them on their return and to thank them for the help they have given to the joint societies in Egypt. The guests included Adeline Duchess of Bedford, the Marchioness of Ormonde, Georgiana

Countess of Dudley, the Countess of Gosford, and Sir Robert Hudson.

Lord and Lady Granville have left Paris for Salonika.

The appointment of Lord Granville, who goes as British Diplomatic Agent to Salonika, recalls the fact that his father, the late Lord Granville, twice held office as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The first time he went to the Foreign Office was in July, 1870, shortly before the outbreak of the Franco-German War, and it is on record that Mr. Hammond, the able and experienced Under-Secretary of his predecessor, told Lord Granville unofficially that he "had never known so great a lull in foreign affairs, and that he was not aware of any important question that would have to be dealt with."

Sir Francis Elliot, the British Minister in Athens, has left Greece temporarily, on purely private business unconnected in any way with the political situation.

We understand that most of the members of the British colony in Athens, who left Greece as a consequence of the recent "events," are expected to arrive in London this morning.

A despatch from an Athens correspondent states that Mr. Duckworth, a British subject, has been missing since December 3. If, says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, this refers to Mr. Egerton Duckworth, who has been many years a resident in Athens, his disappearance must have excited remark and elicited inquiry, for he had a large number of friends and acquaintances. His house was a few yards from the British Legation. A linguist of rare accomplishment, he was as familiar with the Greek language as with Athens, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He could have had no personal enemies, and if he has met with foul play the motive must have been political. If the matter has not been taken up already by the proper authorities it should be investigated. Mr. Duckworth is a Lancashire man, and his relatives live at Southport.

M. Gennadius, Diplomatic Agent for the Greek Provisional Government, was among the callers at the Foreign Office on Monday.

The Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch entertained the members of the Serbian colony at luncheon at the Legation in Queen's Gate on Sunday, on the occasion of the Orthodox Christmas Day.

Mme. Take Jonescu, the wife of M. Take Jonescu, Roumanian Minister without portfolio, has arrived in London from Jassy. She is staying at the Ritz Hotel, but is confined to her room by illness, and is unable to see her friends.

Mme. Paraschivesco, wife of General Paraschivesco, of the War Ministry of Roumania, has left London for Paris.

According to the *Matin*, M. Guillemin, French Minister at Athens, on Monday flew over the harbour of Salamis and the Piræus in a seaplane, piloted by a sub-lieutenant.

"It is not often that a Bishop gets mentioned in despatches, but I notice," (says a writer in the *Daily Mail*) "the name of Bishop Gwynne, the Deputy Chaplain-General, in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch. Dr. Gwynne, who was appointed to the Bishopric of Khartoum in 1908, is a 'whole-hogger' so far as this war is concerned. 'We are out to win, to fight for victory,' was his message to the Church of England troops on the second anniversary of war."

At the Russian Church in Welbeck Street, Marylebone, on Sunday, which was the Russian Christmas Day, a special service was held in the morning. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnov, Priest to the Russian Embassy, assisted by two Serbian priests, officiated. After the liturgy of Pasil the Great, a *Te Deum* was sung by the choir. Among the large congregation were the Grand Duchess George of Russia, accompanied by her two daughters, the personnel of the Russian

Embassy, and the Staff of the Consulate, including a number of Russian officers. There were also present thirty Serbian boys, who are being educated in this country.

A special service was also held at the Greek Church of St. Sophia, in Moscow Road, Bayswater. The Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, officiated, and was assisted by the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis. Among the large Hellenic congregation were M. Jean Gennadius, the diplomatic representative of the Greek Provisional Government, Madame Gennadius, M. Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General, Madame Stavridi, the Staff of the Consulate, Sir Lucas Ralli, and M. P. Ralli.

At the Liverpool Greek Church on Sunday there was a special service of thanksgiving for the action taken by the Allied Powers in extending their protection to the Greek nation and in recognising the new National Government led by M. Venizelos. Prayers were offered for the safety of M. Venizelos and the success of his Ministry, while the customary petitions for King Constantine were, in accordance with the desire of the Greek community in Liverpool, omitted from the ordinary church service. The large congregation included M. Malandrinou, who recently resigned his position as Greek Consul in Liverpool.

Major Procter, who in civil life is the manager of the Manchester branch of the I.O.B., has been recently mentioned in despatches. He is at present in England recovering from injuries received in France, when a shell struck the parapet of the trench in which he was, and he was completely buried in the earth. At one time it was thought that he might lose his sight, but happily that danger is past.

On December 16, at the church of St. Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park, W., the marriage took place of Second Lieutenant Ronald Wilson Broatch, London Scottish, son of Mr. and Mrs. Broatch, of Port Said, Egypt, and Dorothy Frances May Clarkson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Clarkson, of Bedford Park, W., and Heacham, Norfolk.

Sheikh Fuad El Khatib, formerly Professor at Gordon College, who now occupies an important post in the new kingdom of Arabia, arrived at Khartoum lately on a short visit to the Sudan. Sheikh Fuad is Director of Foreign Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mecca; and since the absence of Sherif Abdulla, the son of the Grand Sherif, he has been acting Foreign Minister.

The Dardanelles Commission held a further sitting at the House of Lords on Wednesday, when Major-General Sir S. von Donop and other officers were examined. Lord Cromer is unable to attend owing to influenza. Sir John Maxwell appeared before the Commission on Friday last.

The Right Hon. Sir H. Mortimer Durand will take the chair at a meeting of the Central Asian Society on Wednesday next, when Mr. N. Kato will read a paper on "Japan's Part in the War."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Sir Walter Beaupré Townley, K.C.M.G., has been appointed successor to Sir Alan Johnstone as British Minister at the Hague. Sir Walter has been British Minister at Teheran since 1912. He was born in 1863. After he had served as Third Secretary of the Embassy in Paris he was transferred to Teheran in 1889, and returned to Paris in 1892. In 1894 he went for a while to Bucharest, and then returned again to Paris. After that he was appointed to Lisbon (1897), Berlin (1898), Rome (1900), Peking (1901), Constantinople (1903), and Washington (1906). In 1906 he was appointed Minister to the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Paraguay, and in 1910 he went to Bucharest and remained there until 1912, when he went to Teheran.

The Anglo-Hellenic League has informed Reuter's Agency that the Greek Provisional Government at Salonika has published a decree appointing Mr. Basil Malandriros Consul-General at Liverpool, Mr. George Tombazis Consul at Glasgow, Mr. Leonard Macarthy Consul at Newcastle, and Mr. Casdaglis Consul at Manchester. All these gentlemen resigned, after the events of December 1, the Consular appointments they formerly held under King Constantine's Government.

The *Echo de Paris* states that, contrary to certain reports which have appeared, it is not M. Diomedes, but M. Romanos, who will be the representative of the Venizelist Government in Paris. M. Diomedes is only entrusted with a special political mission to Paris and London.

Ismaïl Khan Fanzaneh, the newly-appointed Persian Minister in Rome, has left Teheran for Italy.

Our Cyprus Correspondent states that Mr. Antrobus, of the Survey Department, who has done good work for the Land Registry Office, is leaving the Government service, and is returning to England.

El Lewa W. S. R. May Pasha, Sudan Government, having retired from service in the Sudan, is no longer on the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Lieut. W. J. Smith, Dorset Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Transport for duty.

Captain T. G. N. Bardwell, East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services are placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

The following appointments are announced: El Kaim, S. E. H. Giles Bey, Staff Officer Transport, to be General Staff Officer, 2nd grade, and A. Q. M. G.

El Bimb. (temporary) E. D. M. Heriot-Hill, Transport to be Staff Officer Transport.

El Bimb. (temporary Kaim.) S. E. H. Giles, Staff Officer Transport, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

The King of Roumania has conferred on M. Porumbaro, late Minister for Foreign Affairs and now President of the Senate, the Grand Cross of the Star of Roumania. M. Contzescu, Counsellor of Legation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been promoted to be a Minister Plenipotentiary.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, has received from King Ferdinand the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Alexander, together with an autograph letter.

OBITUARY.

Captain Alfred Huntriss Arnold, West Yorkshire Regiment, died at Lady Wimborne's Convalescent Hospital, Templeton House, Roehampton, on December 30, of wounds received in March, 1915. He was 24 years of age and was educated at Uppingham. He joined the West Yorkshires at Malta, and for over a year served under Lieutenant-Colonel Philips at Skutari, Albania, when the Powers stationed an International Force there after the evacuation of the town by the Montenegrins. On the outbreak of the present war he returned to Malta, and came to England in September. With his battalion Lieutenant Arnold took his full share of trench fighting all through the first winter's campaign, and was gazetted temporary captain before Christmas, 1914.

FLIGHT COMMANDER HANS ACWORTH BUSK, R.N., missing in the Dardanelles since January 6, 1916.—Any definite information that might be obtained through relatives or prisoners of war in Turkey concerning the fate of this officer would be gratefully received by his mother, Mrs. Busk, 6, Wadham Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

THE LATE DR. BOWEN.

AN APPRECIATION.

A correspondent writes:—The notice, in the last number of *THE NEAR EAST*, of the death of the distinguished missionary, the Rev. Andrew Watson, of Cairo, reminds one afresh of that other great loss the Christian workers' field has suffered in the death of the Rev. Marcellus Bowen, D.D., at Vevey, on the 3rd October last. *THE NEAR EAST* contained a brief, sympathetic notice of Dr. Bowen shortly after the news of his death reached this country, but surely a further word will be prized by the great number of friends throughout Turkey and Egypt who held Dr. Bowen in deep and affectionate esteem. In Switzerland, where his death occurred so suddenly from a stroke of paralysis, he and Mrs. Bowen, in their temporary sojourn there, had drawn around themselves a circle of friends, cultured and international in character, that hastened to express sympathy and to show every mark of recognition that would have followed had he died in his own country or in the city of his especial labours. The memorial service for Dr. Bowen, held at the American Church in Geneva, on Sunday morning, October 8, and which was so largely attended, testified to the goodness and great-natured character of the man and to the instant appeal he always made to the hearts of all those with whom he came in contact.

He was singularly well fitted for his chosen life-work. With no biographical data at hand one can only outline generally that he was born in the State of Ohio, about 70 years ago, with the study of the law a tradition in his family and with that profession chosen for him should his tastes lead him that way. He was a graduate of Yale University and then entered a Theological Seminary, as religious study made an appeal to him stronger than that of the study of the law. He was early fitted for his life-work, early married to Miss Flora Stearns, a brilliant, talented girl of kindred tastes, and after a few years of work in the ministry in the city of New Haven, they both came to Turkey (to Smyrna first, as one remembers), to be thereafter a continuous inspiration to all who came in contact with them—native, foreigner, fellow-countrymen alike. Dr. Bowen's last and longest service for the peoples of the Near East, which covers a period of many years, was accomplished through his appointment as head of the American Bible House, in Stamboul. This work gave him free scope for the use of his talents in many different ways; while he still remained a preacher of more than usual spiritual uplift and appeal, and with a knowledge of the Turkish and other languages that brought him in close contact and sympathy with the people of the country, his work also took him to the various mission stations throughout the Ottoman Empire, and often to Egypt—even to the regions of the Upper Nile.

This is but the briefest outline of the life of one whose years of service were crowded with stirring incident and events. We should not close without some word of reference at least to the notable home life of Dr. and Mrs. Bowen at Constantinople, to their unceasing hospitality—hospitality to the traveller within their midst, to the returning missionaries from the far Interior, to their generous participation in all philanthropic work, and to their uplifting influence on the social and intellectual life of the community. Their home was a cultivated centre where all nationalities met and kindly intercourse was encouraged and where the reception was as gracious and comprehensive as was that memorable view from their windows over city, strait, and all the surrounding country.

Long will he be mourned, long will they both be missed from that city on the Bosphorus where both have worked and both have given so freely of their best for all peoples, and through days shadowed by wars and revolutions as well as through days of unclouded Eastern sunshine and peace.

On Sunday, the Serbian Christmas Day, every man in the Serbian Army received a packet of cigarettes as a Christmas gift from the British who worked in Serbia. The latter organised a fund for this purpose, and ordered the cigarettes direct from Salonika.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATHS.

SEMPLÉ.—Previously reported missing, now reported killed in action on June 29, 1916, Second Lieutenant William David Semple, King's Royal Rifle Corps, eldest son of Colonel Sir David Semple, Director-General, Public Health Department, Egypt, and of Lady Semple, Woburn Sands, Bucks, aged 21.

WRIGHT.—On December 24, while on active service abroad, Captain Henry Somerset Wright, Manchester Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wright, of the Mardyke House, Cork, and Fern Hill, Clonakilty, and dearly-loved husband of May Wright, 26, Gledhow Gardens, S.W.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismaïl.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: **AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.**

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL, Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine.

Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1917.

THE ALLIES AND GREECE.

The Allies are at last getting down to bedrock in Greece. For a long time—too long a time in the opinion of many—they have been content to probe the muddy waters that overlaid it with a peculiarly non-sensitive instrument, and there were moments when they seemed to have lost their bearings entirely. We cannot pretend to know whether it was the case or not. But now that a strong pole has been directed straight to the bottom, it is perhaps fair to the Allied Governments to suggest that they have had cogent reasons for persistently delaying to adopt the obvious course. What those reasons were has not been disclosed to an expectant public, and, possibly, never will be. For the moment we may console ourselves with the reflection that the policy of vacillation appears to be at an end. It is evidently more than a coincidence that the ultimatum, with a time limit, sent to the Greek Government followed close upon the Allied Conference at Rome. That Conference, according to a semi-official statement, "once more recorded the complete agreement of the Allies on the various questions discussed." As it would certainly have been a monstrous thing if such complete agreement had not existed, there will be a tendency to lay more stress on the concluding statement that "it was decided to carry out a still closer co-ordination of their efforts." Failure to co-ordinate all the Allies' efforts, whether military or political, has been at the root of most of their troubles during the last thirty months. It was, for instance, open to misinterpretation to find the Italian Minister still remaining in Athens when the British, French, and Russian Ministers considered it necessary to live on board the Allied Fleet at the Piræus. The Italian Government quite correctly associated itself with the diplomatic steps taken by the Entente Powers; but the palpable hiatus in the co-ordination of the Allies' efforts would encourage the Greek Government and Germany to believe that they might still use to their advantage any past lack of sympathy that there may have been between Italy and M. Venizelos. If the Rome Conference dealt with the Greek question at all, we may hope that the outcome of its deliberations has been that all the previous obstacles in the way of doing the obvious thing in Greece have now been removed, and that the ultimatum is the first fruit of the new order.

The new Note addressed to the Athens Government will not necessarily solve the Greek problem. What it sets out to do, in requiring an answer within forty-eight hours, is to determine the relations between official Greece and the Allies. With a forbearance which appears more magnanimous than politic the latter have allowed this point to remain unsettled since December 1. Until that date the Greek Government claimed to be neutral. Its interpretation of the attitude was open to challenge, and from time to time the Entente Powers had to ask for assurances on the subject. These became more and more unsatisfactory until on December 1 Greek troops, specifically mobilized and posted in commanding positions for the purpose, opened fire on Allied landing detachments approaching Athens. This overt act of hostility, which resulted in a number of casualties to the Allied force, was followed by a series of outrages

perpetrated on Allied subjects in Greece and unequivocal language on the part of King Constantine's Ministers, if not of the King himself, extolling the action of the army in attacking what were termed the country's "enemies." The personal injury done to British subjects and others would of itself have justified an immediate declaration of war; the more so, as it has been followed by the most reckless and provocative language in the Greek Press, of which only so-called "royalist" papers are allowed to be published. Refraining from extreme measures, the Allies addressed two Notes to the Greek Government, on December 14 and December 31, in which they indicated the steps they required Greece to take in order to regularise her position and to make reparation for the events of the first two days of December. The Greek Government professed its readiness to comply with the terms of the first Note; but in regard to the second, without undertaking or refusing to fulfil the Allies' demands, it is understood to have handed in a series of statements pointing out certain difficulties in complying with some of those demands. These proceedings can only be judged in relation to the specific actions and attitude of official Greece. Some steps, it is believed, have been taken to give effect to the request for the transfer of Greek troops from Thessaly to the Peloponnese; but for the rest there has been no attempt on the part of the Greek Government to make amends or to deal honourably with the Allies. In these circumstances no other course was open to the Allied Governments than to insist upon immediate compliance with the terms of their former Notes.

It is well at this stage to recall the outstanding features of the position in Greece. At no time since the war began has King Constantine shown himself at all partial to the Allies; even the opportunity of joining them against the Turks was refused when such a step might have implied no actual hostility to Germany. On the other hand, there is the definite action of Greece in repudiating her alliance with Serbia, which, without placing King Constantine's moral rectitude too high, we may believe would not have been taken, unless he had felt certain that, whatever might come of the repudiation, the Central Powers would see him through. The occupation of Salonika by the Allies made King Constantine definitely antagonistic to their cause. He may be able to plead justification for this attitude; the point is susceptible of argument. What cannot be justified is any attempt to scheme against the safety of the Allied troops while maintaining the mask of neutrality. To what extent the King and his Ministers were more open in their hostility than the Allies have chosen to admit we do not know. When King Constantine early in October, at the very beginning of von Falkenhayn's offensive in the Carpathians, announced that in three weeks Roumania would be overwhelmed after the manner of Serbia, it entailed no straining of his words to infer that he was speaking with first-hand knowledge from German sources and with manifest approval of Germany's cause. It was just at this time that the Allies began to insist upon guarantees for Greece's neutrality, by the demand, first, for the surrender of the navy and then for the control of the public services. As is realized now, the demands were enforced too deliberately. King Constantine had time to rally the army and a part of public opinion to his side, and the Allies' task was rendered far more difficult. There is no longer any reason to doubt that King Constantine and the section of the Greek army which still follows him would readily throw in their lot with the Central Powers against the Allies, if the former could give them practical assistance. The only place where such assistance could be afforded is in Macedonia, and the Allies have to decide upon the possibility of the enemy approaching Greek territory near enough to give King Constantine's troops the support they are counting upon. If the Allied Governments live up to the assurance definitely given by Mr. Lloyd George that they would "run no risks," then on the expiry of the ultimatum Greece, whatever the tenour of her reply, must be regarded as an enemy country, until such time as the unmistakable risks now being run have been eliminated.

THE CENTRAL BALKANS.

By H. M. Wallis.

II.—MIDWINTER.

After some weeks of perfectly detestable weather, in which outdoor work of any kind, and even locomotion, is almost impossible, the weather takes up, and a couple of months of hard frost follows. This is what the people of the country long for; they enjoy it. For those who understand the conditions, and are adequately fed and clothed, it is delightful; for those who are not it may be deadly.

There may be anything from six inches to a foot of snow, which is not soft and clinging, as is ours at home, but as dry as powder, and squeaks beneath the heel like the chirrup of a bird. The air is usually still. The sun rises without a cloud, rides all day in intense brilliance—very trying to the eyes—is quite capable of skinning one's nose and ears, and sets in cloudless glory at night. Then out rush the stars in a deep violet vault of sky, and down goes the mercury to zero.

For a strong man, well clothed and well fed, this is the healthiest climate possible. It is almost as exhilarating as the Engadine. One can walk all day without an overcoat. But, if a wind gets up and the snow begins to move, mind what you are doing. Also it is not well to be out after dark even in a village. Wolves, the tawny-coated monsters of the Balkans, are still very much to the fore. Even by day, and along a highway, one may find a huge brown beast loping slowly behind one, or using the carriage in which one is travelling as a stalking-horse whereby to get within pounce of a flock of travelling goats. The villagers warn one against this beast, and furnish their sheep dogs with savagely spiked collars. Even within five miles of Sofia and electric light standards wolves have chased a law-abiding citizen to his very porch, and he within a few yards of a tram terminus!

The natives never take liberties with these months of hard weather. They dress for it. The women, whose summer working-dress is a single garment, the long flax smock spun and woven by their own hands, now betake them to stockings and hide sandals, also to heavy cloth pelisses, and to *cosaques* of sheep-skin with the wool worn inside. In especially hard weather two of these *cosaques* are worn, one over another, also a head-wrap of woollen crochet-work. The men wear their heaviest coats lined with fleeces, and in the case of the Vladh shepherds, whose calling keeps them late and far afield, a hooded cloak of a material like the skin of a bear for thickness and depth of pile. I know not how it is woven, nor where; it shoots the heaviest rain, and when peace returns should be a popular material for motor-coats. I have seen nothing like it elsewhere.

Fuel is always a difficulty in the settled parts of the Balkans. There is very little in Bulgaria; the Turk during his last years of mastership, say 1865-1880, cut and sold everything he could get to market, and there has not been time, nor money, to repair damages. Tsar Ferdinand did as much as one energetic and far-sighted man could, but it takes more than one man or one generation to reafforest a depleted countryside.

Except white poplar and willow along the courses of rivers, Thrace is miserably bare. I saw them bringing wood for the army before Adrianople from Kostanetz far to the north and by an indirect route. I only heard of two coal mines in Bulgaria. One was of brown coal, dusty stuff, and affording the minimum of heat. The other was similar to Welsh, but lies wide of any line of rails. It is English owned, and working was just beginning when this war broke out.

Of the central-southern Balkan, the Peren range, there is no precise information available. It is a mountain ridge, well wooded, but totally unexplored. Lord Rothschild has little or no information as to its

natural history, and tells me nothing is known. Tsar Ferdinand, who is a great naturalist, asked leave of the Sultan in happier times to be permitted to visit and collect plants. He was refused on the ground that his safety could not be guaranteed. There is wolf and bear there, and hyaena is reported, and may be there. There are no decent roads that I could hear of.

This mountain mass is to the south-south-east of Mount Rilo, a *massif* of some 10,000 ft. in height, never free from snow. This and the radiant glens of its system form a serious barrier to an army advancing upon Sofia from the south.

A glance at the map will show that the mountain systems of the Balkan run east and west, and sink to their lowest as they approach the Black Sea. The farther west one goes the loftier and rugged they appear. Neither are they crossed by passes in the usual sense of the word, nor for the most part do they show peaks, but run for enormous distances in almost level-topped hogs'-backs. These have to be crossed somehow. The well-remembered Shipka is such a "pass"; it held up a Russian army for long, and was eventually the ruin of the Turkish force opposed to it.

The steep sides of these east-and-west extending ranges are seamed by glens cut in the limestone by small, swift trout-streams. The Chepino, the Kostanetz Glen, and the railway route from Sofia to Kustendil are such. All three are extremely tortuous, narrow, and steep, overhung by enormous cliffs around which one saw eagles wheeling. It needs no saying that, regarded as military approaches to the capital of Bulgaria, they leave something to be desired.

If we had taken the Dardanelles, and Constantinople had fallen, we could have turned both the Rhodopes and the Balkans by their Black Sea approaches, and—done various other things.

These mountains, though less imposing to the eye than the Alps or the Pyrenees, are formidable works of nature. The chamois is fairly common among them, and anyone can draw his own conclusions from the fact, for the chamois is not found in easy country. Even in summer these ranges would not be negotiated at the first rush, and in winter, with from one to two feet of snow in the passes, they would be less easy. For, roundly speaking, they produce nothing in the way of food. The resources of the Balkans are all in the rich river-bottoms, such as the valleys of the Maritza and Vardar, and the farther you go the poorer the country, until one comes out upon the plateaux around Sofia, approximately fifteen hundred feet above sea-level, where there are normally plenty of food-stuffs and cattle. But the winter temperature of Sofia is low. Roses will not grow there unscreened.

The best wheat land lies between the Rhodope and the Balkan, around Stara Zagora. This is called "the granary of Bulgaria." Incidentally, one may mention that whilst barley is a favourite crop, oats are much less common, and are a modern innovation introduced by the Russians since 1879. Maize is general, its straw makes good roofing for huts.

Mr. BERNARD SHAW says:

"The New Witness" employs more specific literary talent to the square inch than most of our journals could enlist even if they liked literary talent (which they mostly don't!)"

Mr. G. K. CHESTERTON contributes each week an article on current events, under the title: "AT THE SIGN OF THE WORLD'S END."

Mr. HILAIRE BELLOC writes special articles on matters of public import connected with the national crisis.

Mr. ERNEST NEWMAN, our Musical Critic, writes weekly.

M. ERNEST DIMNET, whose articles on French politics have attracted so much attention, will continue his series, entitled "France at War."

Mr. RAYMOND RADCLIFFE, the City Editor of THE NEW WITNESS, replies to any queries accompanied by a coupon.

Mr. HERBERT VIVIAN, our Special Correspondent on the Italian front, contributes a series of striking articles from Italy.

DRAMA: THE NEW WITNESS follows closely all dramatic performances.

LITERATURE: All books worth reading are reviewed by distinguished literary critics.

THE NEW WITNESS.

Every Thursday. Edited by G. K. CHESTERTON. Price Sixpence.

Terms of Subscription: Post free to any address in Postal Union, Twelve months, £1 8s.; Abroad, £1 10s.

OFFICES:—20-21, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, LONDON.

AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S ADVENTURES IN ROUMANIA.

Miss Louisa Taylor, daughter of Dr. Michael H. Taylor, Coroner for the Kingston Division of Surrey, who for some years has been engaged in educational work at Craiova, in Roumania, has just reached home after an adventurous journey lasting over a month.

When the war broke out Miss Taylor was assured that there was no danger of the Germans ever reaching Craiova, and so she remained in the town. But, fortunately as it turned out, she decided to be prepared for an emergency by keeping in her possession enough money to bring her home. As educational work was at a standstill owing to the war, she joined the Red Cross staff, and was nursing when the Germans entered Craiova on November 20. On reaching the hospital that day she was advised by the medical superintendent to leave at once, without even going back to her lodgings for a change of clothing, because the Germans had issued a proclamation that the inhabitants were to make an immediate return of all British subjects living in their houses. By the medical superintendent's advice she walked along the railway for about nine miles, till she found a train, which took her twenty miles on the way to Bucharest. A friendly wagoner gave her a "lift" across the country to a station, where she found a crowded train waiting, and where she came up also with the retreating Roumanian Army. The train and the Army proceeded side by side for five or six days, at the end of which time they reached Bucharest. During the journey the train was bombed by the enemy and was under shell fire almost the whole of the way. Arrived at Bucharest, she found that the Roumanian authorities and the Consuls had left for Jassy. On her second day with the troops she received one piece of bread, and once a day afterwards was given a similar ration. She pushed on by train to Galatz, where the British Consul advised her to make her way to Odessa via Reni. At Odessa the British Consul introduced her to an English family, who hospitably entertained her for four days while her papers for the journey home were being prepared. She then took train to Petrograd, and thence back to England.

The engineers of the famous Roumanian oil wells told Miss Taylor that they had so dealt with them that the enemy would not be able to use them for two years. She was also told that the Germans got 300,000 wagonloads of grain and hundreds of thousands of cattle.

ROUMANIAN RELIEF FUND.

The Committee of the National Roumanian Relief Fund met in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the Earl of Rosebery presiding. The financial statement made by Sir George Anderson (Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh), treasurer, showed that the fund amounted to over £22,000. Mr. John Samuel, on behalf of the fund raised by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, reported that over £9,000 had been subscribed in addition. It was resolved to communicate with the Roumanian Minister with reference to the provision of relief for Roumania.

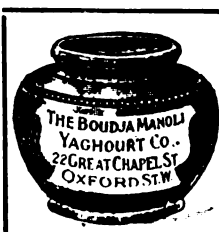
"ARMENIAN SUNDAY."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, writing to the Rev. Harold Buxton, hon. secretary of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, says: "In view of the appalling sufferings which the Armenian and the Assyrian Christians are still enduring in such a degree as to call for the sympathy and aid of every Christian man and woman, I desire to express my approval of the renewal, during the coming spring, of the effort which was made last year to raise money in our churches and elsewhere for the alleviation of that dire distress. In many churches arrangements are already being made for collections on their behalf on Sunday, February 4, and I venture to hope on that, or one of the succeeding Sundays, there may be a widespread effort to alleviate distresses which are literally unspeakable. The money should be sent to the Secretary of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, 95, Victoria Street, London, S.W."

Cardinal Bourne has signified his approval of this proposal, and it is hoped that it will be largely adopted throughout the Free Churches of Great Britain.

LOST MAILS FOR THE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

The correspondence other than parcels addressed to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force which reached the Army Letter Office, London, for despatch from December 18 to 25, both days inclusive, has been lost at sea through enemy action. Compensation is not granted by the Post Office for losses due to the acts of the King's enemies; but remittances in certain forms can be replaced, as to which information can be obtained on application to the office of posting.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT
may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.
Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locoums, Halwa,
Bamias, &c.
Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

CONVERSAZIONE OF CENTRAL ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

Last Saturday the Central Islamic Society commemorated the birth of Mohammed by a conversazione at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, W.C. There was a musical programme, which was contributed to by artists from both East and West. Mr. Yusuf Ali presided, and amongst those who were present were Princess Sophia Dhuleep Singh, Princess Ourousoff, Prince Abdul Karin Khan, Count de Borch, Viscomte de Potiers, Dr. Taymour, Dr. Tallarico, Sayed El Bakry, Sheikh Kidwai, Fahy Pasha, and Easda Bey.

During the evening Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall delivered an address, in the course of which he said that the Prophet Mohammed was an historical character, of good family, but poor. He married a wealthy widow, Khadija, and travelled to Syria and further with trains of camels bearing merchandize. There he encountered Jews and Christians more enlightened than those of Mecca. He pondered much on the subject of religion, and inquired especially about the faith of Abraham, whom the Meccans, though idolators, claimed as their ancestor and the founder of their temple. He early came to perceive that the Eternal Majesty is one and undefinable in human terms, and that the attempt so to define God as an individual or group of individuals furnished the opportunity for priests and rabbis to practise extortion on the people by representing themselves as the guardians of the spiritual life which should be free to all. At the age of forty he had a vision calling him to be a prophet. He suffered twelve years of persecution in his native city and then fled to Medina. He established a little kingdom and army, and, in the ten years remaining to him of life, succeeded in reforming all Arabia. He destroyed idolatry, raised women from a position of the utmost degradation to one of honour and assured position, established strict laws for war, and made universal brotherhood a principle of fact and common law.

AN EXPOSITION OF ZOROASTRIANISM.

Last Tuesday Mr. Herbert Baynes read a paper before the Royal Asiatic Society entitled "The Messianic Hope and the Zoroastrian Prophecy." He said that in the sixth century before Christ the problem before Zoroaster was how in a faith at bottom wholly monotheistic to account for evil. His solution was that inherent in the Supreme Being there were two opposing forces, good and bad. These forces he called Ahura Masda and Angra Mainju, or, as we are wont to call them, Ormuzd and Ahriman. Of these the evil was thought to be the weaker, and Zoroaster did not hesitate to teach that in the fullness of time a saviour would arise born of a virgin, with a halo of divine glory to bring peace and establish righteousness on earth.

Proceeding to expound his subject more fully Mr. Baynes quoted Professor Deussen, to the effect that in endless time and boundless space, separated from each other by vast distances, two great realms existed—those of beginningless light and beginningless darkness. Truth, light, and life were the attributes of the one; death, darkness, and falsehood of the other. Everything good in the earth was the creation of Ahura Masda—the corn-bearing earth, rivers, seas, metals, and trees—whilst winter, drought, illness, beasts of prey, reptiles, and vermin were brought into creation by Angra Mainju. The whole history of the world consisted in a conflict of these two principles. It covered a period of fifteen thousand years from the first creation to the end. Zoroaster's teachings included the resurrection and the day of judgment. He taught that man's fate after death depended upon the life he lived, and that the evil principle would be finally completely destroyed by the good one.

An interesting discussion followed.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galimani, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepherd's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacamatli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calabotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vañades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vañades.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Socco and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Experiences in Albania.

"My Albanian Winter" is a fascinating article contributed to the January *Blackwood* by "Officier de Liaison." The writer was one of a party of British officers who landed at Medua in November, 1915, for the purpose of making arrangements "for the feeding and supplying of the Serbian Army, which it was then hoped would be able to maintain itself through the winter on the Serbian side of the Albanian Alps." But, he adds, "the news which we received on our arrival made it clear that there was no chance of this being done, and that the army itself would soon be upon us in Scutari." Such proved to be the case.

Towards the end of November the Serbians began to arrive. The retreat of an army can never be a satisfactory operation for the troops taking part in it, and its effects are not less demoralizing because it is described as "strategic" or "plan-mässig," or "in consolidation of our positions." From the point when baggage has to be abandoned selfishness begins and discipline declines, and in proportion as the conditions approach those of the natural struggle for existence the process is accelerated. No retreating army can keep its morale. The Serbians in this retreat had come about as near exhaustion as an army can get. The column to which my servant Milivoj (of whom more later) belonged had no rations issued for the last six days before they reached Scutari. For weeks after he would pick up any stray piece of food he saw lying about, not because he was hungry, but from the same sort of instinct that makes some people save the string off parcels—"Never know when that may come in useful."

The arrival of the Crown Prince with his brilliant bodyguard "impressed the Scutarenes," and it is interesting to read of the arrival of Admiral Troubridge and Colonel Phillips, "hoarse, hungry, bearded, and bootless." In December Admiral Troubridge took over the command of the port of Medua, at the request of the Serbian General Staff, and, we read:—

There was a pleasant incident when the Admiral rode into Medua at the head of the Naval Brigade, in their patched and ragged uniforms, mounted on the shaggy mountain ponies with which they had made the passage of the Albanian Alps. The Serbian officer commanding had collected some sixty Serbians, not less ragged than the Naval Brigade, given them each an extra piece of bread, and lined them up on either side of the road as a Guard of Honour. When the Admiral saw them he stopped in surprise, reined in his horse, and saluted them with the words: "Pazame Bog junaci!" ("God be with you heroes!") When a Serbian General reviews troops in peace time, it is the custom for him to greet them with the words, "Pazame Bog vojnici!" ("God be with you, soldiers!") In war, or as a special compliment, "Vojnici" (soldiers) becomes "Junaci" (heroes). It was a long time since these men had stood on a parade-ground or heard this greeting. It brought back Serbia to them, and made them forget their sufferings.

A curious light on the "collecting of information" is contained in the following passage:—

I slept that night at the Franciscan Convent at Alessio, where I bade a warm farewell to the Frate in charge of the guest-room, who had been a good friend to our party, though I regret to say he used to pass all he could learn about our doings through a certain channel to the Austrians. He was not, however, fitted by calling for espionage; and we soon found from certain countermeasures which we took that his information was extremely misleading. I am afraid that the things which we told him were not all of them true.

The writer praises highly the loyal support given by Essad Pasha to the Allies. He writes:—

Essad is the head of a well-known Albanian family, who had established his power during the last few years over Central and Southern Albania. We were very much impressed by the length of his arm and the prestige of his name in the interior of Albania. In Durazzo his power was naturally overshadowed by the Italians, who were there in some force at the time. But in the *Hinterland* it was quite another story. We carried no recommendations from Essad, and were not accompanied by his gendarmes. Everyone knew that the Austrians were advancing from the north (and many believed the Bulgars were also advancing from the east). The days when Essad's hand would still be able to reach the disobedient were numbered: and in point of fact he took ship for Italy only a day or two later. Nevertheless, we found his gendarmerie actively carrying out his last orders. We saw two arrests made. And the mere knowledge that the Pasha was the friend of the Allies was sufficient to secure us and our hated Serbian servants a safe passage all along our road. And this though everywhere we heard the word "Komita" whispered, and several times we passed little knots of men with rifles going up into the mountains to join the Bulgar "Komitajis." If at the end of the war Essad were to land at Durazzo without a piastre in his pocket or a retainer at his back, it is the writer's belief that his arrival would at once constitute a political event of the first magnitude. Such is the prestige of his name and the terror of his record.

Any attempts which may be made—by either side—at the end of this war to set up a non-national government in Albania are likely to make shipwreck, if this factor is left out of consideration.

The article tempts us to quote further from it, but in fairness to the writer we resist the temptation, advising our readers not on any account to miss this excellent item in the always admirable *Blackwood*.

The War in the East.

The *Nation* concludes an article in which it sums up the effect of the eastern campaign upon the war as a whole up to the end of last year:—

A considerable success at Kut would largely restore our prestige, and it would rise still higher if the British troops advanced into Palestine. It is certain that both these developments will be attempted, and to check them the Germans must weaken the European theatre of war. It is here that the fate of the Allies will be decided. The East, in fact, both near and far, is still a subsidiary stage. Nothing has happened to make it less so than it was in the beginning. It is idle to conceive our prestige is finally bound up with operations in Palestine and Mesopotamia. Two-thirds of the German forces lie in the West, and the fact that Germany is declaring the Somme battle ended must not blind us to its obvious effects. Without it we should have had no offer to negotiate; and whatever were the hopes that surrounded its inception they were seen to be misplaced when once it was realized that only a small area could be drawn into the conflict. When we have enough material to double or treble the length of front involved, the issue will be decided. But this must not lead us to depreciate the rôle of the armies that are fighting towards Bagdad and Beersheba. They fit into their place as parts of an intricate whole.

The Greek Imbroglio.

Dr. E. J. Dillon, writing in the *Daily Telegraph* (January 8), prefaces his article on the above subject with the remark that "Nowhere have the failings of Entente statesmanship come out in more startling relief than in its dealings with Greece."

We quote this writer's opinion of the forces which led King Constantine to adopt a pro-German policy in the face of treaties which bound him to the Entente:—

Incapable of chivalrous emotion, the ruler of the Hellenes is swayed by a feeling of mysterious awe towards the person of the Kaiser. Him he regards as the living embodiment of military force, the only ideal that calls forth his veneration. And towards the Kaiser he looks up for direction in all the tribulations of life as naturally as "the sunflower turns to her god." This hero-worship, childlike in its unreasoning instinctiveness, is the mainspring of Constantine's international dealings. Shrewd and practical enough to desire for himself, his dynasty, and his country the protection of the masters of the Continent, he is firmly persuaded that the Germans, under Wilhelm's lead, will emerge from the smoke of battle the arbiters of Europe's fate. And he and his people have the enviable privilege of being their devoted clients. That would seem to have been the guiding motive of Constantine's foreign policy, not merely since yesterday, but long before the war—from the historic September day over three years ago on which he proposed a toast to the Kaiser and the German army, and ascribed his own recent victories to the principles inculcated by the invincible warriors of Prussia.

German Peace.

The *Outlook* (January 6) deals in a straightforward and thoroughly reasonable way with the question of what a German Peace would mean. In the course of a leading article the paper shows that Germany's main objective was the opening up of direct land communication with Turkey. This objective at least has been gained.

Let us define once more that objective. It should have been familiar to British students of foreign policy for the last thirty years; it should have presented a danger-signal to our statesmen, to whom has been entrusted the safety of the Empire. They preferred to wear their party blinkers and to concentrate their energies upon so-called "social reform." All the time it should have been apparent to any intelligent observer what direction German *Weltpolitik* was taking. There was little attempt to disguise the aim: learned professors and military fire-eaters alike expounded the gorgeous destiny of the Teuton. The wooing of Turkey was a preliminary move, but it was not done clandestinely. Our loss of influence at the Porte was no sudden event, sprung upon an unsuspecting Foreign Office. To paraphrase the late Lord Salisbury's saying, British diplomacy elected to back the other horse—the Balkan peoples who could not keep faith with one another even in their struggle for independence.

The paper recounts the various "incidents" which led to war, and concludes:—

Can we believe that these facts were only coincidences? Or is it not a saner view that Germany has attained the object for which she set out to cripple France before settling accounts with the only other great military Power which could stand by the small Slav peoples? But for the certainty that France would fulfil her pledge to her Ally there is at least the probability that the offensive would have been confined to Eastern Europe. Fortunately, as will be proved in the end, for all the Entente

Powers, German arrogance felt equal to the double operation, and expected to be able to use her fleet in expediting the task. Had she had the run of the sea there can be little doubt that she would have succeeded. The British Navy saved Europe. Nevertheless, we hold that Germany has temporarily achieved her original and less ambitious design. As she can do no more, she is naturally ready to make peace on her own terms.

Lord Kitchener in Bethlehem.

The Quarterly Statement of the *Palestine Exploration Fund* (January) contains a remarkably interesting article on "Christmas in Bethlehem," from the pen of the late Lord Kitchener, written when he was a lieutenant. The article in question was found, with another, among some reports and other papers of the late Field-Marshal, in his own handwriting and over his signature. Our quotation is from the latter portion of the article:—

At 9.50 p.m. we went to the Latin chapel, where there was already a crowd of natives. At 10 o'clock the service commenced; the Patriarch, in splendid vestments and with mitre and crozier, was seated on a throne to the left, while numerous priests went through the ritual of the Roman Church.

The crowd was by this time so dense that it was hard to keep one's place, and the noise of scuffling and fighting for places was such that nothing could be heard of the service. Turkish soldiers with fixed bayonets were placed at intervals down the church, and one could not help remembering that a few years ago, on a similar occasion, a frightful amount of blood was shed in this place. . . . A measured tapping announced the approach of the French Consul, and the six kavasses appeared shortly, hitting the ground with their sticks to warn people

to get out of the way. After a good deal of squeezing they managed to reach the chair prepared for the Consul; he was in uniform, wearing several orders, and was accompanied by his staff. The kavasses formed a ring round the Consul, and by a good deal of pushing we managed to get the ladies into this charmed circle. The atmosphere of the small vault without any ventilation was most oppressive, and the turmoil going on gave one no peace. I saw several men faint and be carried out.

At midnight the "Gloria in Excelsis" was very beautifully sung, a centre candle was lighted on the altar, and the wax image of a child was displayed. At 2 a.m. a procession was formed of all the priests bearing candles and, lastly, the Patriarch carrying the wax figure. Close behind him came the French Consul and his staff, carrying candles, and guarded by his kavasses. The procession wound its way through the cloisters into the great basilica, and down the steps into the Grotto, which was almost entirely filled by the priests. Here the Gospel was read, and the image was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the Manger. The procession then reformed and returned to the church, where, after some more ceremonies, the Patriarch was unrobed, and said Mass himself in ordinary priest's vestments.

We left while this was going on, as it was 4 a.m., and rode back to Jerusalem with the dawn, not sorry to be out of the stifling atmosphere and in the fresh morning air. That Christmas morning ride to Jerusalem with all its associations, and after the night we had gone through, is one of my cherished remembrances of the Holy Land.

Articles to Note.

"Turkey and Arabia," in the *Manchester Guardian* (January 4).

"An Englishwoman in Roumania," in the *Birmingham Post* (January 5).



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.**

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Business is crying aloud for the enterprising in Egypt, I hear. The Chamber of Commerce (6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria) has a good deal of interest to say to British firms who handle, or who are prepared to handle, rice, coffee, sugar, spices, etc. Before the war the produce was practically monopolised by two Hun firms, whose turnover in 1913 approximated £2,000,000. These firms are now in liquidation, and if this valuable trade is to be retained in British hands there is no time to be lost. Egypt is able to afford easy facilities for trade, and British firms of repute may be sure of a firm welcome.

After all their boasting of the loot which they intended to extract from unfortunate Roumania, the Germans are now giving way to uncontrolled rage because our Allies have left their oilfields bare and unworkable. In the early days of the German advance the *Berliner Lokalanzeiger* assured its readers that the oil-well machinery had only been damaged at isolated points. An officer on the German General Staff dispels this illusion, however. "The destruction in the oil region is so terrible and wild," he says, "that it surpasses everything that so far has happened. Whatever could be ruined has been ruined." Excellent for the moment, though it is regretted very sincerely, of course, that so serious a step has been necessary. However, the cost of restoration will be part of the reparation to be exacted when peace comes.

One German paper, at least, has been impelled to speak the truth about the limited character of the supplies which the Hun armies have secured. "Nothing," the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* wrote recently, "could be more misleading than to estimate too optimistically the economic effect of the capture of Wallachia on our food problem. On paper, the figures relating to the grain supplies which Roumania possessed on July 1, 1916 (1,600,000 tons), with those for this year's harvest (4,400,000 tons), might easily lead one to be optimistic. These figures certainly bear forcible testimony, especially in their general indications, to the fertility of the enemy territory taken by us, but it is another question whether we can thereby arrive at an immediate conclusion respecting the future of our corn supplies during the war. As yet we do not know what part—for it can only be a part!—of the July stock referred to still remains, and how much of it has fallen or will fall into our hands. But as concerns the present harvest it is at the same time to be remembered that so far we have captured only a portion—albeit the richest—of Roumania, that no inconsiderable part of the harvest will be destroyed by the Roumanians and—especially—by the Russians, and that the Roumanian Army has surely consumed a great quantity, representing a considerable deduction from the original estimate of the stock. All these are uncertain factors which make all attempt at calculation on the basis of former stocks and resources simply theoretical. Only when we know what we actually hold in the way of grain stores in Roumania can

a safe judgment be formed concerning the economic significance of this item in our corn provision."

This is frankness with a vengeance, and we know that the frankness is warranted by the facts. Since the stories of the fabulous booty found in the Roumanian towns were published a change has come over the spirit of the Hun, who has discovered that he loves peace and seeks after righteousness. Austria has become extremely restive since she secured so great an addition to her food supply, while Bulgaria and Turkey are positively rejoicing in the sacrifices which they continue to make in the cause of Kultur. As I have said before, we all sympathise with Roumania, and mourn with her the desolation of her fair countrysides; but the full strength of the German hordes has been detracted from by the removal or destruction of available supplies of fuel and grain, and the Allies are under a debt to the country and people for acquiescing in a sacrifice which was none the less bitter because it was so necessary.

The Central Powers are keen, apparently, on advertising the "loan" which the "Turkish Senate has authorised the Ottoman Government to negotiate" with the German Government. The latest news of the transaction reaches us via Vienna, which places the figure at £T38,78,400. It is stated further that the "loan" has been followed by a Turkish issue of bank notes to the extent of £T35,000,000. We shall find probably that the loan is merely a scrap of paper, and has been "put through" to warrant the Turks in further inflating their paper currency; another view is that Germany is merely securing some of her claims on her Moslem ally. Another "item of news"—to quote the Vienna correspondent—is that the commercial treaties which were concluded some time ago between Germany and Turkey have now been ratified.

I observe that, for whatever it may be worth, the Germans continue to advertise elaborate schemes for propaganda work and export organisation. Among the latest is the "Institute for Economic Intercourse with Bulgaria," formed by the most powerful manufacturing and agricultural associations in Germany, and under the patronage of the King of Bulgaria. Its object, says the *Economist*, is to stimulate and develop intercourse between Bulgaria and the Central Powers, by applying to this purpose "all the best available intelligence and every technical and organisatory device." With this association has now been combined the "German-Bulgarian Society," and one of the first activities of the joint societies will be the publication of a German newspaper in Sofia.

Another proposal is in the hands of the "German-Balkan Society," which is about to publish a special commercial handbook in German, Bulgarian, and Turkish. The "German Levant Association," founded in March of the present year, has already been very active. It has its own organ, the *German Levant Gazette*, and does its chief work in obtaining export permits and arranging credits. Its sphere of activities covers the whole of the Near East. Even Persia has its own society, the "German Persian Economic Association,"

which in its prospectus writes as follows: "On the conclusion of peace, Persia, with its great natural resources, will certainly be of great importance to the German import and export trade, and, in order to prepare for this period, it has been determined to start immediately on necessary preliminary work." There is little doubt, too, that the money forces in Germany are moving at the back of these schemes. The Deutsche Bank is to open a branch in Sofia. The Discontogesellschaft, Bleichröder, and the Norddeutsche Bank are already represented in Bulgaria through their possession of the Creditna Banka, a concern with a capital of six million lev. There may be a good deal of smoke in all this. It will be well to realise, however, that there is some fire as well.

The Cairo correspondent of THE NEAR EAST, in his letter published to-day, makes clear the situation in Egypt regarding the growing of wheat. He points out with perfect truth that the cereal output in the country is entirely subordinated to the production of cotton. If the voice of our Lancashire friends is one of truth Egyptian cotton is wanted very badly indeed by the textile industry of the United Kingdom, and I dare say there would be an outcry if the acreage under the staple were reduced.

It will be argued, of course, that just now wheat is more important to Britain than cotton: that the need for food-stuffs in increasing quantities is so great that little else matters. Well, that is a point of view which cannot be ignored; further, there is little doubt that, physically, Egypt can grow cereals almost to any extent. But who shall decide between the two? Who will find the way to induce the native agriculturist of the country to make the change, if, indeed, a way can be found? What a pity it is that people at home will not keep away from matters of which they know little. "Every cobbler to his own last" is a motto which can be commended to a great many people in England who pose as authorities on subjects of which, actually, they are blissfully ignorant.

The directors and shareholders of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company are to be congratulated upon the excellent showing made by the concern for the last year. Conditions in Persia are very precarious—they always have been: they always will be until Persians can be induced to come more in line with reasonable methods and abandon their prejudices. The war has made matters a great deal worse, and the dislocation and muddle which have ensued will require much adjustment before we can get back even to the unsatisfactory state of 1913 and early 1914. However, an improvement is indicated, and I judge from the tone of the chairman's speech that the outlook is more promising than it was a year ago.

COMMENTATOR.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Wheat Production in Egypt.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 16.

On December 4 Reuter's telegrams contained the following message from London:—"In the House of Commons Lord Robert Cecil announced that the Imperial Government was communicating with the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments in regard to the possibility of increasing the wheat supplies available for export to Great Britain. The question, he added, would be examined with the utmost care and expedition."

Taken as it stands, this message does not appear to contain anything startling, for it would seem to be the most natural thing in the world for Great Britain, in view of the threatened shortage in the world's cereal supply, to address herself for assistance to those of her dependencies that are agricultural countries. Those out here, however, who happen to be aware of the local condition of things, received the message, in so far as it concerned this country, with somewhat of a shock, for, though Egypt, an agricultural country *par excellence*, may in the good old days have enjoyed world renown as a granary, nevertheless to-day her cereal output is entirely subordinated, so to speak, to her production of cotton. She has, in fact, never posed nor attempted to pose in modern times as a cereal-exporting country; on the contrary, she has with but one exception annually imported a large quantity of flour.

In this connection it may be of interest if I give some particulars of the manner in which the agricultural area of Egypt is divided up. The table at foot shows this, and at the same time gives details of the development which has gone on of recent years.

Restricted Area.

With regard to this table, it should be explained that the extent of the cultivable area of Egypt is restricted by the amount of water available every year. As everyone who has read the reports of the Ministry of Public Works will remember, the main pre-occupation of the irrigation officials is to provide water for the enormous area which has come under cultivation during recent years. So great has been the extension of cultivation, and so large is the area that is cultivated more than once every year, that, even with the development which irrigation has undergone in certain years, there is still shortage of water, and basin-land is exempted from part or all taxation because it has not been covered by the flood. From this it follows that no extension of the present cultivable area can take place until further water facilities are provided.

Egypt produces the following cereal and food crops:—Wheat, maize (with which is included millet), barley, beans, and lentils. The available supply of wheat, which, according to the telegram quoted, is the cereal wanted by the Home Government, could be increased by extending either the wheat or the maize area. The former is out of the question for the current agricultural year—at any rate, on any useful scale—as the wheat-sowing season is over. The extension of the maize area might render more wheat available, because an increase in the maize crop would tend to lower the price by comparison with wheat, and so would incline that portion of the popu-

lation, which only eats wheat when it is relatively cheap, to take maize instead. But, unfortunately, owing to climatic conditions, every increase in the proportion of the area put under cereals must be accompanied by a corresponding decrease in the cotton area. A few words of explanation of the agricultural system followed in this country will assist in making this clear to your readers.

The Seasons.

There are three main agricultural seasons in Egypt—viz., the Sefi, or summer, from March to October, when cotton is cultivated in both Upper and Lower Egypt, sugar-cane and a small amount of maize in Upper Egypt and rice in the Delta; the Nili, or flood, from mid-July to November, when maize is sown in certain parts of Upper Egypt and all over Lower Egypt, with the exception of a small area in the extreme north, where rice is grown (as this season comes within the Sefi one, it follows that the land cultivated is that which has not already been taken up by the summer crops); and the Shitwi, or winter, from November to June, when wheat and barley are grown in Upper and Lower Egypt, and beans in Upper Egypt.

The normal rotation in Egypt is a two-year one—viz., wheat, barley, or beans; maize; bersim; cotton, sugar-cane, or rice; wheat, barley, or beans; and so on. The main season for maize being the Nili, it follows that, if its cultivation is to be extended, a corresponding portion of the area which would in the ordinary way be given up to cotton has to be sacrificed, whilst the extension of the wheat area would entail a similar interruption of the normal rotation, for, apart from the weakening which the soil would undergo from the cultivation of cotton after wheat, there is the fact that the latter does not ripen until a date which is long after the proper time for sowing cotton.

Under these circumstances, therefore, it is out of the question for Egypt to increase her production of cereals on any appreciable scale without seriously interfering with and reducing her cotton production, and it is for Great Britain, who takes the lion's share of the cotton crop, to say whether or not it is advisable for this country to sacrifice her cotton area and devote all the available land to cereals in order to be able to supply the Home country with some of the foodstuffs the latter appears to want.

Cotton or Wheat?

Supposing, however, that the British Government's decision was in the former sense, it would be extremely difficult to give effect to its wishes, for with cotton commanding prices which are double what they were before the war it is not likely that the fellah, from public-spirited motives or prompted by foresight, will put more than he can help of his land under what he sees is at present a less remunerative crop. He may not grow more cotton this year, but it is asking too much of him to expect that under the circumstances he will of his own accord grow less.

The only way in which a decrease in the cotton area to the benefit of that under cereals can be brought about is either to offer the fellah for his cereals a price which will make the production of the latter as remunerative as cotton or to restrict the cotton area by law. The first alternative is entirely dependent on the Home Government; the second, although there is a very recent pre-

cedent, which, as it happened, had no bad results, would, under present conditions, be a highly undesirable step to adopt, and would, it is to be feared, give rise to dissatisfaction, especially if it were taken for the main purpose of providing cereal exports.

Even granted, however, that the objections to the introduction of legislation for the restriction of the cotton and the increase of the cereal area could be overcome, or that the fellah could be induced, either of his own free will or by the offer of special prices, to put more of his land under cereals, it is very much to be feared that the result would be of little use to the Empire. This should be clear from the following table, which gives the cereal imports and exports of the country during the past seventeen years:—

TABLE showing the quantities of Wheat, Beans, Maize, Rice, and Flour imported and exported into and from Egypt annually from 1900 to end of October, 1916.

Years	Wheat.		Maize.		Flour (Wheat and Maize.)	
	Im-ports.	Ex-ports.	Im-ports.	Ex-ports.	Im-ports.	Ex-ports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1900	11,135	1,383	32,455	1,527	49,971	673
1901	17,378	773	10,844	1,174	66,606	216
1902	11,266	2,139	1,404	8,905	58,445	463
1903	7,037	4,818	3,621	1,951	67,777	639
1904	9,893	3,959	1,347	1,960	86,019	—
1905	29,992	3,781	32,507	709	121,422	695
1906	19,438	3,503	36,538	530	149,739	531
1907	15,812	3,728	4,992	2,305	140,681	1,319
1908	17,453	3,386	21,469	1,376	170,675	—
1909	4,720	665	19,022	1,558	170,381	2,978
1910	918	2,479	2,109	4,610	121,604	3,887
1911	1,953	1,248	5,776	1,425	161,205	3,561
1912	281	1,482	2,802	886	141,675	3,213
1913	4,586	2,342	30,081	233	203,547	62
1914	3,403	89	17,460	1,059	132,715	40
1915	2,199	49,364	39	43,107	31,326	1,743
1916 to end Oct.	—	10,371	—	125,752	22,492	—

Cereal Imports.

This table shows that Egypt has been in the habit, as already pointed out in the opening paragraphs of this article, of annually importing cereals (mostly in the form of flour), and that with the solitary exception of the period 1915-16, she, for all practical purposes, never exported any. The figures also show another important fact, which I consider entirely knocks on the head any idea of Egypt being able to assist Great Britain with wheat exports. This is the fact that the only period in which Egypt exported cereals in any quantity—that is to say, the period in which she produced sufficient for her own needs and those of the British Army quartered on her, and had a surplus after those needs were satisfied—was the one which, as the first table shows, coincided with and followed on the year in which the cotton area was restricted, and a consequent extension in that under cereals and other food crops took place. The quantity of wheat and maize which it was possible to export between January 1, 1915, and the end of October, 1916, was, however, only about 220,000 tons, or, approximately, 120,000 tons, in the agricultural year.

This, it may be noted, was as a result of a decrease of 569,266 faddans or about one-third in the cotton area. Now, even 220,000 tons of wheat is not going to afford much alleviation to the corn situation at home, and since, I presume, no one would dream of asking that during the rest of the war Egypt should stop cotton cultivation—which would be the only sure means of producing a surplus of any assistance to the home supplies—it should, I think, be perfectly obvious that the sole sane course to adopt would be to leave the country alone, in so far as concerns export of cereals. Indeed, when one considers that Great Britain and the Allies took 75 per cent. of the total cotton crop last year—90 per cent. of the cotton exports during September and October this year—and that Egyptian cotton is generally admitted to be most valuable—in fact, the only satisfactory cotton available—for the most important munitions of war, there can be no doubt that it is in the interests of the Allies that Egypt should be encouraged by every means possible to continue her cotton cultivation as before, even if that entails the risk that she may eventually have to be helped with some of the cereals which other parts

Agricultural Year.	Cultivated Area.*	Total Area Cultivated*	Cotton.	Maize.	Rice.	Wheat.	Beans.	Barley.	Sugar Cane.
1906-1907	5,402,716	7,662,317	1,603,224	1,779,281	240,036	1,218,346	595,683	458,413	41,008
1907-1908	5,325,512	7,597,859	1,604,415	1,789,705	248,763	1,168,166	541,085	440,606	38,562
1908-1909	5,373,983	7,670,544	1,597,055	1,796,745	271,820	1,249,264	566,688	423,793	43,982
1909-1910	5,345,352	7,711,844	1,642,610	1,840,653	287,143	1,251,720	560,635	389,057	48,919
1910-1911	5,263,858	7,545,591	1,711,241	1,772,686	227,109	1,237,322	541,403	370,143	45,599
1911-1912	5,285,454	7,681,288	1,721,815	1,833,068	226,010	1,282,935	517,819	364,051	50,079
1912-1913	5,282,626	7,712,412	1,723,094	1,852,760	242,367	1,305,577	478,187	369,159	49,468
1913-1914	5,023,230†	7,402,485	1,755,270	1,941,411	35,629	1,253,221	428,497	383,342	48,209
1914-1915	5,308,890	7,891,572	1,186,004	2,113,710	318,808	1,533,801	623,321	445,643	52,181
1915-1916	5,232,271	7,715,168	1,655,512	1,782,555	144,607	1,394,184	502,812	422,765	59,224

* Part of the cultivated area produces two crops annually, which explains the difference between these two columns. † Diminution due to large area of Sharaki.

of the Empire may send for home consumption.

Official Steps.

In view of the present condition of the world's cereal market and shipping—a condition which will not improve as the war progresses—it is perfectly clear, however, that Egypt can expect little or no assistance from outside, and that she ought to take immediate steps to provide for her own requirements. As a matter of fact, efforts are being made by the local authorities to devise some means in this year of abundant water supply for increasing the production of cereals—at any rate, so that the people may have sufficient for their own needs. We shall know in a short time what it has been found possible to do. It may, however, be necessary to restrict somewhat the cotton area to attain this end, but as the sole object of this interference with the liberties of the large farmer element will be to render Egypt self-supporting, and to remove the danger of famine or serious shortage with which this country will be menaced owing to the impossibility of bringing in the usual cereal imports during the rest of the war, such a measure would be fully justified, and should be accepted by the people without a murmur, albeit, if taken merely to produce a surplus for export to Great Britain or other parts of the Empire, it would not be received with favour.

It is just possible that the real intention of the Home Government was not that Egypt should provide wheat for export to Great Britain, but that she should produce sufficient cereals for her own requirements, and also for the British forces quartered on her, thus doing away with the necessity of sending wheat across the seas to this country, as in the past. We have, however, not been vouchsafed any explanation of the statement made in the House, and we can only deduce that the foregoing may be what was intended. At any rate, to provide for her people and for the army, which is defending her from invasion, is the utmost that Egypt could do or ought to be expected to do.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, December 18.

Work in the copper mine at Skouriótissa proceeds, under the direction of two Americans. The company is now carrying out some prospecting work in the vicinity of Athiénou, which lies immediately to the south of Golgoi, formerly one of the principal seats of the cult of Aphrodite.

Excavations have been carried out here at various times, and since the British occupation. Athiénou is the village *par excellence* of muleteers, an admirable class in Cyprus, whose business has been seriously affected by carriage and motor traffic and by the railway. The prospecting work is under the direction of Mr. K. Solomonides, secretary of the company.

The Chilean Nitrate Committee announce the nitrate of soda statistics for December as follows:—"Europe (including Egypt).—Exported from Chile to Europe (including Egypt), December, 163,469 tons. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining the information hitherto given, we intend to discontinue for the present the issue of this circular."

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WEDNESDAY.

There has continued a lack of activity in most quarters of the market, and many traders find it rather hard to account for the decidedly small demand which is being experienced at the present time. The slackening off in the turnover occurred just before the Christmas holidays, chiefly owing to the slump in raw cotton rates which was taking place. Since then there has been a reaction in prices, but buyers of yarn and cloth have not been stimulated to place orders on a freer scale. For some reason or other our customers lack confidence, and undoubtedly there is much uncertainty as to the future level of values. Wages questions have been prominent this week. On Tuesday a further sitting at the Manchester Town Hall of the Court of Arbitration appointed by the Board of Trade was held to deal with the cardroom operatives' dispute. It is understood that the award of the arbitrators will be given at an early date. On Wednesday afternoon a joint meeting took place between the Master Spinners' Federation and the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation to deal with the application of the latter body for a rise in wages of 20 per cent. After discussion, it was decided to adjourn until Friday, January 19. The all-round inquiry in piece goods for Egypt continues much smaller than a little time ago. Shipments last month to that outlet amounted to 28,000,000 yards, and the exports during January are expected to be very heavy. Fresh buying, however, for the time being is in abeyance. No real increase in the business offering for India can be recorded. Some miscellaneous sales have occurred in printing and finishing cloths, but practically nothing has been done in grey shirtings. Most China shippers continue to adopt a waiting policy. The South American outlets have not been at all active. Most manufacturers of cloth have still healthy engagements, but there is a little concern in some quarters at the recent paucity of demand. American yarns for home use have been purchased sparingly from day to day. The prices now ruling, especially in wefts, are nothing like so remunerative as a month ago. Certain qualities are getting more plentiful, and stocks are beginning to back up at the mills. Only scattered sales have been put through in export bundles, but a little more inquiry has been mentioned in 40's mule for India. Rather more irregularity has shown itself in Egyptian yarn quotations, and trade has been of a restricted character.

Produce Report will be found on page 261.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

A commission agent who has been established in business in Cairo for a long time, desires to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of shoe laces, braces, garters, towels, and eye drop tubes.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration for the supply and delivery of winter clothing (uniforms and overcoats) for the season 1917-18. A copy of the specification, conditions and form of tender may be obtained on payment of 100 millièmes (about 2s.) from the office of the Administration's Inspecting

Engineer in London, Sir A. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., where also standard samples may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways Administration, Cairo, up to 10 a.m. on January 25. Samples of the materials it is proposed to use should be submitted to the Superintendent of Stores, Saptieh, Cairo, by January 11.

With reference to the approaching completion of the plans of the Tangier-Fez Railway, the British Consul-General at Tangier reports that tenders will be received by "M. le Président de la Commission Générale des Aljudications et des Marchés," Dar-en-Niaba, Tangier, up to 11 a.m. on March 1, for the construction of the Bab Tisra section of the French part of the above-mentioned railway. This contract comprises the construction of a length of about 20 kilometres (about 12½ miles) from the station of Petit-Jean to a spot situated to the right of Sidi Ahmed Mserredj. The estimated value of the contract is placed at 4,200,000 francs (about £168,000 at par rate of exchange), and a provisional deposit of 50,000 francs (about £2,000) is required to qualify any tender. The contractor must elect legal domicile in Morocco and at least forty days before the time for the receipt of tenders, must forward certificates of competency to the "Direction Générale des Travaux Publics," Rabat. The cahier des charges may be consulted at the office of the "Commission Générale" above-mentioned or at the office of the Tangier-Fez Railway Company, 41, Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris. [In reference to the foregoing it should be borne in mind that the exportation of certain kinds of railway material to Morocco is prohibited.]

A British manufacturers' agent, at present in London, desires to obtain the representation for the Algerian market of United Kingdom manufacturers of woollens, tweeds, etc., silk and cotton linings, and hats, caps and helmets. Communications in this connection should be addressed to the Secretary, Statistical and Information Department, London Chamber of Commerce, 97, Cannon Street, E.C.

To be Wound Up.

The following firm is to be wound up:—Van Minden and Co., 86, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C., importers of tinfoil and liquorice. Controller: G. Bostock, 21, Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C.

Liquidations.

Liquidation has been ordered of the following firms:—Richard Dietterle, of Alexandria (Receiver: the Public Custodian of enemy property); Alexandre Safaromskijo, Cairo (Receiver: the Public Custodian of Enemy property); Orenstein and Koppel, of Cairo (Receiver: Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo).

Notice of sale has been given in the Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of the debts on open account or represented by bills, etc., of the following enemy liquidations:—Austro Orientalisch, H.A.G.; Hugo Hackh; Stross Brothers; Rudolf Kirchmayer and Co.; Continental Caoutchouc and Gutta Percha Co.; Société Anonyme d'Electricité Ganz; Orenstein and Koppel-Arthur Koppel, Limited; Colloid Wolfram Lamp Co. (B. Lifschitz, liquidator); Kortenhans and Hammerstein (H. Ziegler and C. Lucianovitch, liquidators); Seeger Brothers and Cotton Export Co. (A. Cortessi, liquidator).



TUCKEY'S

"SPECIAL"
YEARS 10 OLD.

57/-

PER DOZ.
Cases Free.
Carriage Paid.

PURE MALT POT STILL

SCOTCH WHISKY

MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

"LIQUEUR"
YEARS 12 OLD.

60/-

PER DOZ.
Cases Free.
Carriage Paid.

THE LANCET says:—"It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

CHARLES TUCKEY & CO., LTD., London Offices, 3, Mincing Lane, E.C.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Concrete Afloat.

Reference has been made in these columns to the use of reinforced concrete in floating structures, and the following notes, extracted from a recent issue of *The Engineer*, will be of interest. "In some quarters," says our contemporary, "there is a tendency to think that there is a novelty in the use of this material for such a purpose. This, however, is not the case. For a good many years now reinforced concrete has been employed in the construction of the hulls of barges, etc., as well as of caissons for dock building and similar work. Such caissons are built on shore, launched in very much the same manner as are ordinary ships, towed into the positions which it is desired they shall occupy, and then sunk by filling their hollow insides with a sufficient weight of material. For example, there were the caissons used in the construction of a jetty some 320ft. long at Alexandria. The bodies of these caissons were about 64ft. long, and just over 26ft. wide from side to side, though the width at the top was increased to 29ft. 6in. by a cantilever on each side. Two of these caissons were 17ft. 9in. deep, and the other three just under 23ft. deep. The larger sized caissons actually weighed about 400 tons, and drew about 6ft. 6in. of water. When sunk and filled, however, they weighed as much as 2,500 tons. These caissons were built on shore, launched, towed into position, and then sunk.

"Batterie des Maures."

"Another example is afforded by a large caisson of reinforced concrete which, when sunk in position in the bay of Hyères, formed what is known as the "Batterie des Maures," which Messrs. Schneider use for the purpose of testing torpedoes. This caisson measured rather more than 50ft. high, and was 77ft. long by 45ft. wide at the base, and 65ft. long and 35ft. wide at the top. The outer walls were 6in. thick, and the inner walls which divided the structure up into cells were 4in. thick. It also was built on shore, launched, towed out into the bay, and sunk on a bed which had previously been levelled.

"Still another example is that of Kobe Harbour, where an extensive scheme of improvement was commenced in 1907. There, reinforced concrete caissons of the cellular type, and measuring roughly 119ft. long, 35ft. 6in. on a special staging erected on piles, the latter being arranged in lines with intervals between them sufficient to permit of the pontoons of the floating dock—which were projected from the latter very much like the fingers of the hand, or the teeth of a coarse comb—being made to enter the lanes of water between the rows of piles. In this way, on increasing the buoyancy of the floating dock, the caisson could be lifted, and on the pontoons being withdrawn from between the lines of piles the caisson was withdrawn also. Then, on again decreasing the buoyancy of the floating dock, the caisson became water-borne, and could be towed into position by tugs.

Back to 1849.

"Such reinforced concrete structures, however, though they had to float, were not intended to float continuously; but reinforced concrete has, as we have already said, been for a long time now employed for building the hulls of barges, pontoons, etc. In an interesting article which appeared some years back in our contemporary *Ferro Concrete*, reference was made to numerous examples of reinforced concrete being used for the building of hulls of boats, barges, pontoons, etc. It appears that one of the earliest instances of this method of construction was afforded by a small rowing boat which was built in 1849 by

a Monsieur Lambot, of Miraval, in France. This little craft, which was not quite 10ft. long, was first fashioned in skeleton by means of a network of iron wires over which was applied a shell of strong hydraulic lime mortar just under 2in. thick. The boat was used for pleasure purposes on a private lake, and was in service as lately as the beginning of 1913. Possibly it is still in existence. Attention may also be drawn to quite a number of boats, barges, etc., built in Germany, France, Italy, and Canada. A barge built by Messrs. Grancher and Singlar, of Lozère, in France, is described as being 50ft. long and 13ft. wide with a total depth of 3ft. 4in., and as being much cheaper to build than if steel or wood had been used for the hull. Italy had in service at the end of 1912 as many as 20 barges and 60 pontoons made of reinforced concrete—the latter being used principally for floating bridges. A reinforced concrete barge built in Canada measured 80ft. long, 24ft. wide, and 7ft. deep. Barges of the same material were also built for use on the Panama Canal.

A Huge Pontoon.

"Curiously enough, although at the time it was launched we had very few examples of reinforced concrete boats or barges in this country, the largest pontoon which had up till then been constructed was designed by Messrs. L. G. Mouchel and Partners, and built for the Manchester Ship Canal in 1912. This pontoon is 100ft. long, 28ft. wide, 8ft. 6in. deep to the main deck, and 13ft. deep from the upper deck to the keel. It draws about 5ft. 6in. of water when fully loaded, and it acts as a movable pumping plant which is shifted from place to place as may be desired, and which is used for pumping material dredged from the canal on to any low-lying land near the banks which it may have been decided to raise. The material, as it is dredged from the canal, is loaded into barges, which are then moored alongside the pontoon. The necessary pumping and other machinery, which consists of a compound vertical steam engine and condenser, three centrifugal pumps, and three steam winches, with the necessary auxiliaries, weighing altogether 43 tons, is installed on the upper deck of the pontoon. The hull is sub-divided into several water-tight compartments. The shell of the hull is 3in. thick, except beneath the coal bunkers, the capacity of which is 40 tons, and the boiler, which weighs 58 tons, where it is increased to 4in. The interior bulkheads and the main deck are also 3in. thick, while the upper deck is 4in. thick. The materials used in the construction were cement, sand, and washed Penmaenmawr granite broken to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. gauge, and steel reinforcements. Even the bollards, which are used for mooring and towing purposes, were, says *Ferro Concrete*, made of reinforced concrete."

Moroccan Harbours.

The British Consul-General at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.) has furnished, in a report of recent date, the following particulars, based on a recent official announcement, regarding the present position of the harbour works at the various ports of the French Zone of Morocco:—"The works at Casablanca are being pushed forward, but, deeper water having now been reached, progress on the extension of the great mole is comparatively slow, only 24 metres having been accomplished in September last. Of the total length of 1,900 metres to be built, only 564 metres have so far been completed. Other works, viz.: the construction of subsidiary quays and jetties for facilitating the loading and discharging of cargo at this port are being carried on at the same time. The company holding a concession for the port of Fadala has continued the work of jetty construction and dredging, and quays and terre-pleins are in course of construction at Rabat and Salee. At Kenitra a quay 250 metres long is being built, whilst an attempt is being made to

clear the bar at the mouth of the Sebu river by dredging. Should this prove successful, the importance of Kenitra will be greatly increased, as it is at present severely handicapped by the bar, which in winter is frequently impassable for weeks at a time. At Mazagan and Mogador small harbours for the use of lighters are being constructed. At Saffi some warehouses for the Customs Administration have now been completed; the only work at present in hand is the construction of a terre-plein, a definite decision in regard to the work to be undertaken at the port not having yet been reached. Agadir is not yet opened to commerce, but as vessels occasionally have to visit the port for the conveyance of military stores, etc., a pier has been built

ROUMANIAN 'OIL' WELLS.

A Roumanian report to the Munich *Neueste Nachrichten* says that the value of the destroyed works on the surface of the oil wells is estimated at 200 million francs (£8,000,000), and there is also the loss of production and the cost of repairing the works underground, which cannot yet be estimated. All the wooden towers over the boreholes have been rendered unserviceable, but the iron towers of American firms could not be blown up for lack of time. All the engine-houses are down, all the cranes and machinery have been smashed, and all the oil tanks were set on fire, but only a few exploded. The underground machinery cannot be used for weeks. Everything was destroyed that could be destroyed, and the destruction was performed not only in workmanlike manner, but with considerable skill.

RUSSIAN SILK.

Silk culture in Russia has developed so poorly that even Transcaucasia and Turkestan, where the industry has existed for a long time, produced scarcely 1½ per cent. of the total quantity of the world's production in silk per annum—viz., 400,000 poods of crude cocoons, or, perhaps, a little less, wrote the *Financier* recently. True, the Russian Government has turned its attention to the silk business in these districts, and we may hope for better results.

In Europe the business of cultivating silkworms has declined, not so much because of the increased value of labour, but rather from the insufficiency of fresh food. The silkworm is exceedingly sensitive, and is subject to diseases and suffers from cold. They are feeding them to some extent with scorzonera there, but it is purely experimental with this vegetable; but for me the question has been positively decided. The scorzonera is an excellent food for the silkworm, making it quite possible to extend this profitable production of silk through all Russia.

Silk cultivation in Russia is necessary. It is a powerful aid to national industry. Silk may be used where wool is scarce, and wool is now, as everyone knows, an article of primary necessity, and it can be easily replaced by silk textile. It is advantageous, at the same time, to remember that the Germans, foreseeing in the future the possibility of an economic war with the Powers of the Alliance, which would put them in a series of difficulties in the production of silk by the German factories, even now, during the war, have referred to the necessity of the earliest possible development of silk cultivation throughout Germany by means of feeding the worms on scorzonera leaves. If the German agriculturists have already proceeded to the establishment everywhere of the silk industry, why not work on that hint in wide Russia, which is a country of agricultural economy, in the first place?

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHARBY
P. O. B. 1094. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 806

FREDG. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan."
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

RESTRICTED TRADE.

Further List of Banned Firms in Egypt.

The following additions to and removals from the list of firms and persons not resident in enemy territory, with whom trading has been prohibited, are contained in a proclamation by the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, published in the *Journal Officiel* of December 18, 1916:—

Additions to List.

ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY.

Aachen and München Insurance Company, Calle Cangallo 319, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Agence Stigler, Montevideo, Uruguay; Arnold, H., Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Barbagelata, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Bernard Hermanos, Calle Cangallo 315, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Bonino, José A., Calle Rincon, 456 Montevideo, Uruguay; Brito, Enrique, Rondeau 2126, Montevideo, Uruguay; Buddensieg, Juan, Calle Cangallo, 845, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Bustamante, Miguel, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Callejas, J., Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cattaneo, Constantino, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cevini, Luis, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Defesche, Juan, Calle Moreno 508, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Fuhrmann, H., and Company, Herrera, 2260-2300; Paseo Colon, 1102-1128; Calle Maipu 39 and Calle Peru 1132, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Horn and Company, San Martin 201, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hosmann, Julio, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Melber, Leon (of Boker and Company), Calle Alaina 261, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mey, Hugo, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Meyer, D., and Company, Calle Cangallo 499, Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

Padros, Simon, and Company, Tres Esquinas 676, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Panzera, Remaldo, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Puig, Alberto, and Company, Argentina.

Robert, Pusterla and Company, Calle Belgrano; Calle Peru 401, Buenos Aires; and Calle Urquiza 1099, Rosario, Argentina.

Schlieff, Georg, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Ures, Alfredo, Montevideo, Uruguay.

BOLIVIA.

Fuss, Alfredo (of Hirschmann and Company), La Paz.

Joerges and Company, Calle Oruro, Potosi.

Krüger, R., and Company, Cochabamba.

"La Mariposa," La Paz.

BRAZIL.

Beck, Ernesto, and Company, Florianopolis; Buschmann, C., Rua, Theophilo Ottoni 76, Rio de Janeiro.

Cardoso, Victor Mattos, Para; Casa Lemcke, Rua Libero Badaro 104, Sao Paulo; Chaves, J. P., Santos; Coelho, José Ignacio, Rua da Constituicao, 44, Rio de Janeiro; Companhia Graphica Rio Grandense, Porto Alegre; Companhia Industrial de Ribeirao Pires, Sao Bernardo; Companhia Nacional de Café, Rua 15 de Novembro, Santos.

Day (John) Bromberg and Company, Marechal Floriano 51; Vigario José Ignacio 19 and 21 and Rua val Patria 24, Porto Alegre; Dais, José Esteves, Para; Drechsler, Max, and Company, Rua do Bon Jesus 20, Pernambuco.

Fonseca, Vaz and Company, Rua Sao Pedro 63, Rio de Janeiro; Friedrichs, Werner, Rua Quinze Novembro, Para.

Haering, Fritz, Rio de Janeiro.

Laves de Moraes, José, Sao Paulo; Leal, Anthanasio, Sao Francisco do Sul; Leite de Fonseca, A., Rua Sao Bento 5, Rio de Janeiro; Lemcke, Henrique, Rua Libero Badaro 25, Sao Paulo.

Martins, Manoel, and Company, Rio de Janeiro; Marx, W. (alias Henrique Oliveira and Company, alias "Norbert Hertz," alias D. Tyne O'Day, alias "Mins Missen"), Rua da Alfandega 102, Rio de Janeiro; Mattheis and Company, Rua General Camara 69-71, Rio de Janeiro; Melcher, Conrado, and Company, Rua Sao Bento 40, Sao Paulo; "Mins Missen" (see W. Marx).

"Norbert Hertz" (see W. Marx); Nosack and Company, Rua Frei Gaspar 22, Santos.

O'Day, D. Tyne (see W. Marx), Oliva, J., Sao Paulo; Oliveira, Eduardo, Santos; Oliveira, Henrique, and Company (see W. Marx).

Ribeiro, Trajano (Jordan Gerken and Company), Sao Francisco do Sul.

Schmidt, Trost and Company, Rua Santo Antonio 5, Santos; Rua Alvares Penteado, and Caixa, 153, Sao Paulo; Silva (Da), Domingos and Company, Rua Sao Bento 28a, Sao Paulo.

Trinks, Peter, and Company, Rua de Santo 38, Santos.

Vaz, José, Rua Sao Pedro 65, Rio de Janeiro; Voelcker, Luis, and Company, Porto Alegre.

Warnecke, Hermann, and Company, Rua Direita 9, Sao Paulo; Werner, Hilpert and Company, Rua da Alfandega 99-101, 104, and 108, Rio de Janeiro; Woebecke, Gustav, Porto Alegre.

CHILE.

Alvarez, José Reinaldo, Coquimbo.

Blackadder, Guillermo, Iquique; Bonder, Victor, Concepcion.

Chaparra, Luis A., Iquique; Garrasco, Justiniano (Timmermann and Company), Valparaiso and Santiago.

Lillo, Guillermo, Antofagasta; Lopez Loayza, Alfredo, Iquique.

Plesch, Julio B., Arana 281, Concepcion.

Vega, Luis S., Iquique.

COLOMBIA.

Botica Alemana.

Dissel (van), Rode and Company, Cucuta.

Gieseken, Ludwig, and Company, Barranquilla.

Illers, Juan D., Barranquilla.

Matos, Vicente, Barranquilla.

Nobmann and Company, Barranquilla.

Strauss, Georg, and Company, Barranquilla.

Willson Cook, W., Cucuta.

DENMARK.

Anita Produce Company A/S., Sofievej 2, Copenhagen; Christensen and Thøgersen, Grøningen 1, Copenhagen; Continental Handels and Transit Aktieselskab, Vimmelskaf-tet 42, Copenhagen.

Gad, Th., Clausen, Havnegade 45; Vesterbrogade 12; and Frederiksberg Allé 19a, iii, Copenhagen.

Haubroe, L., and Company A/S., Holbergsgade, 8, Copenhagen; Henius, Emil, Vestervoldgade 31; Grøningen 15; Bernstorffsgade 21 (formerly of Christian IX.'s Gade), Copenhagen; Holm, Ulrich C., Vimmelskaf-tet 42, Copenhagen.

Interchange Limited A/S. (Manager E. U. Landgraff), Holbergsgade 3, Copenhagen.

Jensen and Hoeck, Amaliegade 36, Copenhagen.

Landgraff, E.U., B.W., or E.M. (of Interchange Limited A/S.), Holbergsgade 3, Copenhagen.

Schacke, Julius, Knabrostraede 1, Copenhagen; Streit, Carl, Aalborg and Esbjerg.

ECUADOR.

Brouer, Leopold M., Quito; Bucram, M. (or Bucaram), Quito.

Delius, A. H., Quito.

Hinnaoui, Bachir, Quito.

Muller, Jorge, Quito.

Rahim, Abdul, Quito; Reimers, Edgar, Quito.

Schroeter, Wilhelm, Quito.

Uscocovich, Gregorio, Bahia de Caráquez.

Webber, Carlos, Quito.

GREECE.

Achaia Wine Company (Société Vinicole Allemande), Gutland, Patras; Akif, Hassan, and Company, Salonika; Asseo, Jacob, Yildiz Han 11, Salonika.

Charamis, Panayiotis, Piræus; Cohen, Mordoh and Company, Kasmindji Han, Salonika; Cohen, Simmando, Piræus.

Fabrique de Tabacs et Cigarettes Macédoniennes, Salonika; Fenyves, Philip, Teldji Han 18, Salonika.

International Magnesit Werken, Gerekari, Eubœa.

Maroulis, Alexander and Company, Salonika; Mayer and Company, Salonika; Mazzino, A. J., Syra; Miceli, E., and C. B. Xanthos, 20, Place de la Liberté, Athens.

Société Anonyme d'Entreprises Commerciales, Kolokotronis Street, Piræus; Stein's Oriental Stores, Limited, Salonika; Stuermer, Max, Candia, Crete.

Zachariou, John, Rethymo, Crete; Zachariou, Peter, and Son, Rethymo, Crete; Zirini Brothers (John, Basil and George Zirini), Xanthi.

(To be continued.)

REEF GOLD IN TURKESTAN.

Interesting Discussion of Recent Investigations.

The question of the discovery of gold within the limits of Turkestan has been frequently considered, and was circumstantially set out not long ago by Mr. V. M. Vebero, in a work entitled "The Minerals of Turkestan," in which he comes to a conclusion apparently much more optimistic than that of Mr. I. Mushketoff before him, particularly in regard to reef gold. On the basis of some new facts, namely, the discovery of reef gold in quartz veins intersected by paleozoic schist, Mr. Vebero doubted the previously entertained essential connection between gold and granites.

In August, 1914, Mr. Mushketoff made some observations which confirmed those of Mr. Vebero, and throw a considerably more favourable light on the gold business of Turkestan. As is known, the Aliask Valley includes the system of the Fergana and Alai, from the Pamir, which begins on the Alai range. In the centre of this latter rises the great Kauffman peak, 26,300 feet high. From the western slope of this height there declines the little-known long Sauk valley which is difficult of access. The Sauk-Sai falls into the Muk-Su, at Altyn-Mazar. The Sauk-Saya is a tributary of the river Dzhanguchak, on which for two years investigation work was carried out by the Pamir Gold Association.

All the right slope of the valley of Sauk-Saya, intersected by the Dzhanguchak and other gorges parallel to it (Terek, Sasyk, Tyuve, and others) is complicated by a rather regular schist suite which stretches to the north-east. Investigations hitherto have disclosed several veins intersecting the gorge of Dzhanguchak about a verst above its mouth, and yielded pretty satisfactory results. Analysis showed not a bad content of gold in all the veins. A chief gallery was driven 20 arsheen in, and then a pit was sunk. The work is dry and easy.

Of much greater interest are the results obtained by the investigations of Mr. Ph. P. Paelyanin. In the little gorge running parallel downwards from Dzhanguchak—that is, between it and Terek—the vein is largely of ochry quartz. It contains much apparently pure gold in small pieces. Frequently fragments of gold are found in nests.

In almost every piece of quartz knocked off by the stamps there is one or more of such pieces of gold, so that the content on the whole should be very great. Of course, the reliability of the vein, its continuity, size, and contents, are not yet made quite clear, but the fact itself of such an abundance of visible gold in the quartz governed by the schist suite is very interesting as regards Turkestan. Everybody knows of the immense extent of such schist suites in Alaisk, Fergana, etc., whilst the veins of quartz, some of them ochry, are very wide.

It is interesting that now there is being cleared up the origin of the gold sands of Altyn-Mazar and the mouths of the Sauk-Sai, known long, long ago. The content of the gold sands, according to the observations of Kozell-Poklievsky, increases even higher up, along the Sauk-Sai. All these deposits have been discovered by traces of old mining work very frequently found here, having been carried out by an unknown race. The Kirgis call it Chinese-Armenian. The word Armenian in this case may be a synonym for Christian, and then it might mean the Nestorians, who were long hidden in Kashgaria and its neighbourhood. In Dzhanguchak are seen important galleries belonging to that time with half-rotted supports, and also remains of a complete gold-washing factory with twelve sets of grinding apparatus. How the reef deposits were found in the depths of the range by these ancient gold-seekers is not known.

According to a Berlin telegram the stocks of petrol and petroleum captured at Campina in the Roumanian oil district consist of about 2,000 truck-loads. The oil wells at Campina, the telegram says, will be in working order in about a week, and the Standard Refinery at Ploesti at once.

COMPANY MEETING.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd, was held on January 8 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. Greenway (Chairman and managing director) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The chairman said: Gentlemen.—As the directors' report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss accounts have been duly circulated we will, with your permission, follow the usual procedure of taking them as read. Before dealing with the accounts it is, however, necessary to refer to the delay which has taken place in the presentation of the report and accounts and to the consequent delay in holding our annual meeting. This, as you will doubtless have understood, has been due to the dislocation of our work and to the changes in staff which have been consequent upon the war, but I am pleased to say that the arrangements which we have now been able to make will, I think, tend to overcome these difficulties and to ensure our annual report and balance-sheet in future being presented at a date that will, notwithstanding the war, more nearly correspond with normal conditions.

I will now ask you to kindly give your attention to the accounts while I give you a few explanations. Dealing first of all with the balance-sheet, you will see on the debit side that the amount of paid-up share capital at the end of the financial year under review stood at £3,000,000, as compared with £2,750,000 in the previous year, the difference being represented by the amount of £250,000 received from His Majesty's Government in respect of the second call on their 2,000,000 Ordinary shares. Since the date of the accounts a third call of £250,000 has, as mentioned in the report, been made and paid on these shares. The item of £112,000 under the heading of "Advance against uncalled capital" represents an advance which we had obtained from our bankers against the outstanding uncalled capital. Turning to the credit side of the account, gentlemen, you will find that the amount at which "purchase price of concessions, shares, etc., in other companies" stands is £1,777,473 1s. 5d., as against £1,635,312 4s. in the previous year's accounts. The increase of £142,160 17s. 5d. represents further subscriptions of capital during the year to our subsidiary and associated companies. The expenditure under the heading of "refinery tank installations, pipe lines, etc.," has gone up from £1,420,279 15s. 1d. to £1,544,849 18s. 4d. The actual expenditure debited during the year in connection with the extensions in progress amounted to £419,255 0s. 10d., but deductions of £284,684 17s. 7d. were made on account of depreciation and transfers in respect of sale of lighters to the British Tanker Company and other items, leaving only a net increase of £134,570 3s. 3d. for the year. A new entry in the accounts is the credit of £160,000 in respect of the estimated amount of our claim against the Persian Government for the loss sustained through the shut down of our refinery for several months owing to the cutting of the pipe line by Persian tribesmen in the early part of last year. It is perhaps needless for me to say that no credit has been taken for any part of this amount in the trading account, it being offset by a similar sum included in the amount standing against "sundry creditors" on the opposite side of the balance-sheet. A further claim will fall to be made against the Persian Government in connection with the loss caused by the suspension of the work of laying our new pipe line, but we have not yet received sufficient particulars of the various items of this claim to enable us to estimate its amount. Another point to which I should like to draw your attention is that the credit of £49,470 1s. 3d. for "preliminary expenses and expenses in connection with increased capital"—always an unsatisfactory item in a balance-sheet—no longer appears, the whole of this amount having been written off in the profit and loss account, to which I will now ask you kindly to give your attention.

The only item in this account, gentlemen, which I think needs any comment is the credit, amounting to £171,723 1s. 4d., in

respect of the balance of trading account, including accrued dividends. This amount is only slightly in excess of the amount shown last year, but you will observe that it is arrived at after charging depreciation, instead of before, as in the previous year, and as depreciation has been dealt with on a much more liberal scale, I think it may be regarded as a satisfactory result, seeing that no portion of the new pipe line or refinery plant was in operation, and that our work was entirely shut down for a period of about three months during the period covered by the accounts. Altogether the amounts written off for depreciation and the balances carried forward by the Anglo-Persian and its allied companies are about £140,000 in excess of the amounts so provided for in the previous year's accounts, and this represents approximately the improvement in the working results for the year under review. The result for the current year ending three months hence will show a further considerable improvement on these figures, as the throughput of the refinery will be more than 100 per cent. in excess of that of the previous year, and a still further large augmentation may be looked for during the next financial year, as the first half of the refinery extensions provided for under the arrangements with His Majesty's Government will then be in full operation as well as the original refinery. Although these results may, I think, in the war conditions under which our extension work is being carried out, be regarded as quite satisfactory, yet it is necessary to again draw attention to the fact that they would have been vastly more favourable had we been in a position to transport and market our benzene and kerosene products ourselves.

As regards the political situation, gentlemen, you will be pleased to learn that since I last had the pleasure of addressing you we have had a period of entire tranquillity in the conduct of our operations, the German endeavours to induce Persia to depart from her neutrality having completely broken down. (Hear, hear.) The German agents who, by misrepresentation, for a time succeeded in inducing some of the more ignorant tribesmen in Southern Persia to revolt against their Government would appear now to be quite discredited, and have found it advisable either to clear out of the country altogether or to seek the protection of the Turkish forces which are still holding a small portion of North-Western Persia. Our relations with the Persian Government, I am pleased to say, continue to be of the most cordial character, and it must be a matter of extreme satisfaction to them, as it is to us, to see that this great undertaking, which has been developed in their territories by means of British enterprise and of British capital, is now arriving at a stage where it will be productive to them of a large annual revenue. Unfortunately, this satisfaction will be somewhat marred by the heavy loss which was sustained in consequence of the cutting of our pipe line last year by Persian rebels—and for which loss the Persian Government are under the terms of our concession liable—but inasmuch as this wanton act of destruction was, no doubt, directly or indirectly incited by the enemies of this country, and was one of the results of the German attempt to draw Persia into the war, it is to be hoped that the Allied Powers will, when settling the terms of peace, be able to arrange that Persia obtains compensation in one way or another for this and other losses of which she has to some extent been the innocent victim, although they were, I regret to say, unfortunately, aggravated by the support which was for a time lent to the German machinations by a disloyal section of the community.

The progress of our various works and extensions has, of course, continued to be seriously retarded by the great scarcity of labour and transport which has been brought about by the disturbed state of Persia, by the military operations in Mesopotamia, and also by the considerable aid, both in staff and engineering facilities, which we have been rendering to the military authorities in the very essential work of building the craft necessary for their operations on the River Tigris.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, however, we were able, in August last, to complete the upper section of the 10-inch pipe

line up to the point which permitted of a connection with the 8-inch portion of our old line, and this has enabled us since then to pump crude through the latter to the full extent of its capacity, and we learn by cable that the whole length of the 10-inch line will be completed and in operation this week. We shall then be able to pass through the two lines a total of about 360,000,000 gallons, or 1,440,000 tons of crude per annum. With additional pumping stations this quantity can very easily and at comparatively little cost be increased to 3,000,000 tons per annum.

As regards the refineries, the first half of the extensions to which I have already referred was also completed in August last, but, unfortunately, the quantity of crude which the 8-inch line was capable of delivering has not been sufficient to keep it fully running, but with the completion of the 10-inch line this week the whole will be brought into operation. In addition to this extension, a further one is in course of erection at Abadan, and should be completed towards the end of the present year. The progress in our refinery extension work is shown by the fact that our throughput for the present financial year will, as I have already mentioned, be more than 100 per cent. in excess of the year for which accounts are now submitted, and for the next financial year it will again, unless anything unforeseen happens, show an increase of a further 40 per cent.

As regards the fields which are being worked and tested by the producing companies, I have great pleasure in reporting that the further evidences which are being obtained as time goes on are proving more conclusively than ever the extraordinary richness and extent of the Persian oilfields, and leave little room for doubt that His Majesty's Government, in acquiring a two-thirds' interest in this company, has secured for the nation an asset of enormous value—one that will, when the fields are more developed and the further pipe lines, refineries, etc., which will then be necessary, can be built, not only be giving the Exchequer a very substantial addition to its annual revenue, but also be affording British consumers a most valuable safeguard against the dangers of monopoly. (Hear, hear.) The potentialities of this asset, gentlemen, are, indeed, so great, both as a source of revenue for the country and as a means of supplying under national control a large portion, if not the whole, of the petroleum products which have become such a necessity of the Empire—for naval and military purposes, as well as for the industrial and shipping developments which we are looking for after the conclusion of the war—that it has now become a matter of the highest Imperial importance for the Government to continue, and even to extend, the policy which was initiated when they acquired a controlling interest in this company.

As an illustration of the evidences which lead to this conclusion I may mention that well No. F7, which, when I had the pleasure of addressing you last year, I reported was maintaining its production of 7,500 barrels daily, is now giving a production of 10,000 barrels, or about 1,600 tons, daily under a pressure of 220 lbs. per square inch, and the Fields' manager estimates that if this pressure were taken off it would give a yield at the rate of 25,000 barrels, or 4,000 tons daily. This well during the five years for which it has been flowing has, under the heaviest pressure which could with safety be put on it, yielded something like 1½ million tons of oil, and is to-day not only showing no signs of falling off, but is, as I have just pointed out, giving a larger production than ever. Unfortunately, a good deal of this oil had, as you are aware, in the past to be burnt owing to the inadequacy of our former pipe line and refineries to deal with such a large quantity; but this is a contingency which we hope will be avoided, or at any rate minimised, in the future, with the further storage, pipe line and refinery facilities which are now being provided. The only other well which our producing companies have been able to allow to flow at all freely in the meantime, owing to the inadequacy of our facilities, is No. 8B. This well, although it has not yet been fully drilled in, has, since the oil horizon was first met with early in 1913, produced between 300,000 and 400,000 tons of oil, under the maximum pressure practicable, and there is little doubt that it will, when opened out fully and drilled further into the oil horizon, also prove to be a very large producer.

Further evidence of the phenomenal productivity of this field is given by a telegram received a fortnight ago reporting that six of the partly drilled wells which are being carried down to the main horizon in order to ensure a sufficient supply of crude for the new pipe line all give indications of being very large producers. These wells, it should be mentioned, are not in close proximity to F7 or B8, but were selected at different outlying points so as to test the productiveness of as large an area as possible, and the indications given by them go to show that wells 7F and B8 are not "freaks," dependent for their oil upon deposits of a "pockety" character, but that the whole of the field in which they are situated is enormously productive and capable of producing all the oil that we shall be able to deal with for a long time to come.

As regards testing work in other fields, I reported last year that in one of these a good oil horizon had been reached and that the test well had been successfully capped, but it will probably be a long time before we shall need to tap this additional source of supply and be in a position to form an estimate as to its productivity. At the field on which I reported that work had been resumed the first well put down was found to have been badly located, and a second well was started. This struck a small sand at a depth of 1,060 ft. yielding a very fine quality of oil, containing the extraordinary proportion of about 73 per cent. of benzene, but it is now being carried down to a lower depth in the hope that the main oil horizon may be reached. At the third outside field referred to by me last year work was interrupted for a considerable time by the unsettled conditions prevailing in this neighbourhood, but drilling there has now been actively resumed, and we have received a telegram reporting that the indications are favourable. Several other fields which show favourable indications are also now under close examination by our geologists. What I have said, though by no means exhaustive, regarding the richness of our territories will, I think, suffice to show that I have in no way over-estimated their great potentialities; and in view of the attention which is now being called, as a result of the lessons taught by the war, to the urgent necessity for securing some form of State control over the chief essentials of our national existence, you will, gentlemen, I feel sure, share the great satisfaction which we feel in knowing that in one of the most important of these essentials the interests of the nation have already been safeguarded by the policy which was initiated by the Government in respect of this company 2½ years ago. (Applause.)

Before concluding my remarks, gentlemen, I would like again to refer to the excellent services which have been rendered to us, under most trying conditions, by our staff during the past year. In addition to their current work they have not only had to cope with a large amount of additional work in connection with the extensions which have been in progress, but they have also had to devote a great deal of time and energy to the work which they have been called upon to do to assist the military authorities. That they have been able to carry through this work so satisfactorily as they have done, notwithstanding the shortage of staff and labour due to the war conditions, shows that they have not spared themselves, and I am sure that you will join with the Board in expressing our very great appreciation of the sacrifices that they have made in the national interests. (Hear, hear.) I am very pleased to state that the services of one of our staff—Dr. Young—who has given most valuable assistance to the authorities, have been recognised by the bestowal upon him of the Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire. (Applause.) I now beg to move, gentlemen: "That the report of the directors and balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the financial year ended March 31, 1916, be received, approved, and adopted," and I will ask Lord Inchcape kindly to second this motion.

The Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.: I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—Before putting it to the meeting I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions which you desire to ask.

There being no questions, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is to elect directors. Before proceeding with this business I would like to take the opportunity of referring to the change which has taken place in the position of Admiral Sir Edmond J. W. Slade, who, as you will have seen from the report, has been elected Vice-Chairman. Admiral Slade, who has kindly consented to accept this position, will in future devote his whole time to the affairs of the company, and anyone who has had the opportunities which I have had of appreciating his great business abilities will, I am sure, agree with me that the securing of his whole time services in this capacity will be of great advantage to the future of the company. (Applause.) As Admiral Slade is already a director, this appointment does not need any confirmation, but I am sure it will meet with your warmest approval. The directors retiring by rotation are Sir Hugh S. Barnes, Mr. James Hamilton, and Mr. D. Garrow. They are all eligible for re-election, and you will, I am sure, all agree with me in desiring that we should continue to avail ourselves of their very valuable services. I, therefore, now beg to move:—"That Sir Hugh S. Barnes, Mr. James Hamilton, and Mr. D. Garrow, who retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election, be and are hereby re-elected members of the Board," and I will ask Admiral Slade kindly to second this motion.

The Vice-Chairman (Vice-Admiral Sir Edmond J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O.): I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. H. A. Powell proposed the reappointment of Messrs. Brown Fleming and Murray, C.A., as auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

Mr. W. A. Buchanan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The last business before the meeting, gentlemen, is the special resolution, of which notice has been read, by which we are asking for power to increase the number of the Board. In connection with this, and with the appointment of Admiral Slade as Vice-Chairman, I may explain that these steps have become advisable owing to the growing national importance of the company, which renders it desirable that we should, without calling special meetings from time to time for the purpose, be in a position at any time to make such additions to our Board as may be necessary in order to ensure the company being worked to the greatest possible advantage. Although we are asking for power to increase the number of directors to seventeen, I may explain that there is no intention, at any rate at present, of availing ourselves of this power to anything like the full extent, as we shall, it is needless to say, always limit the size of the Board to the smallest number consistent with the satisfactory working of the company. With this explanation I now beg to move: "That the company's articles of association be altered by striking out of Article 81 the word 'eleven' and substituting therefor the word 'seventeen,'" and I will ask Mr. J. T. Cargill kindly to second this motion.

Mr. John T. Cargill seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting, and I have to thank you for your kind attendance.

Mr. Powell proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, and for his services to the company.

Mr. Buchanan seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The proceedings then terminated.

COMPANY NOTES.

United Egyptian Lands.

A meeting of shareholders of the United Egyptian Lands has been convened for January 23, 1917, for the purpose of considering the financial position of the company, consequent upon the institution of foreclosure proceedings in Egypt by the Mortgage Company of Egypt against the company on account of the instalments of capital and interest on mortgages being in arrears.

In the course of a circular issued by the directors of the United Egyptian Lands, it is recalled that in 1911 plans for bringing into cultivation a further 2,000 feddans on the Kom El Ahkda Estate were prepared, and the Mortgage Company agreed to advance £25,000, to be spread over five years, to enable the company to bring the area into cultivation. Between the years 1911 and 1914 £21,000 of the £25,000 was advanced and was expended in the cultivation of the land at Kom El Ahkda, with the approval and concurrence of the Mortgage Company's expert. During the year 1914-15 the company's position became an exceedingly difficult one, owing to (1) the drop in the price of cotton, consequent on the war; (2) the scarcity of water, which seriously affected the crops; and (3) the virulence of the boll-worm; but an arrangement was come to with the Mortgage Company under which the company agreed to make the necessary further advances to enable the company to continue the development of its lands, subject to the following conditions, which were complied with:—

(1) That Mr. Citti, managing director of the United Egyptian Lands in Egypt, should be appointed judicial receiver, in which capacity he had to account for his doings to (a) the Mortgage Company, and (b) the Mixed Tribunals at Alexandria; (2) that a part of the staff should be dismissed and the salaries of the remaining employees reduced, from the managing director downwards. An arrangement was come to with outside creditors for £6,000, under which they were given a second mortgage. As appears by the last published balance-sheet, made up to March 31, 1916, the company was indebted to the Mortgage Company in £91,500, made up as follows:—Balance of moneys due on original mortgage, £55,500; further advances referred to, £21,000; balance of arrears to March 31, 1916, £15,000; arrears since that date estimated at £4,000. Against this the assets in mortgage to the Mortgage Company are:—(1) Balance of instalments due from purchasers of land; (2) 2,000 feddans of cultivated land at Kom El Ahkda; (3) about 1,300 feddans of uncultivated land at Kom El Ahkda; and (4) about 120,000 square metres building land at Rodah Island.

Ritz Hotels (Egypt).

An extraordinary general meeting of the Ritz Hotels (Egypt), Limited, will be held at the offices of the secretaries, Gresham House, Sharia Suliman Pasha, Cairo, on Wednesday, January 17, 1917, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be discussed:—(a) Sale of the uncompleted construction and loose building materials of the company and the consideration of offers; (b) liquidation of the company. Should the meeting approve sale of such building material, resolutions authorising the directors to sell will be proposed. Should the meeting approve the liquidation of the company, meetings for passing the necessary resolutions will be subsequently convened.

"Flower" Motor Ship Co.

Pending the presentation of accounts, which will be compiled as soon as possible, the directors of the "Flower" Motor Ship Company, Limited, have decided to declare a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (equal to 2½ per cent.) on the paid-up capital less income-tax, for the half-year ended December 31, 1916, being the final dividend for the year 1916, payable on February 1, 1917.

An ordinary general meeting of the Credit Foncier Egyptian will be held at Cairo on January 22, 1917.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THEOBALD STREET, Thursday.

Our market has been exceedingly quiet this week in consequence of holidays in Egypt and the approach of the War Loan here. Prices, however, are generally very steady.

Some few hundred Nationals and Agriculturals have changed hands in the neighbourhood of 13½ and 5½.

In Delta Light there were same small transactions at about 5½ to 5½. Markets have been done in a small way at 24s. 9d. and Khedivial Mails at 27s. 3d.

Union Foncières have been an exceptionally bright feature, with business up to 25s. 6d.

In United Egyptian Lands there have been some 4,000 shares changing hands at about 7½d.

In Greeks no business has been done, and the market remains absolutely nominal.

Oil Shares.

Little interest has been displayed in oil. This morning North Caucasians were dull at 25s. 9d., and New Schibaleffs receded to 6s. 3d. Chelekens came into request, and rose 9d., to 5s. 6d. Russian Generals were a shade firmer at 24s. Roumanian Consols were not much dealt in, but finished 3d. down at 8s. 6d. Bakus were done at 2s. 9d., and Spies again drooped.

MONEY MARKET.

LONDON, Thursday.

The tendency of discounts has been steady owing to the arrangements made with the non-clearing banks to prevent the market from being flooded with short credits. April Treasury Bills were quoted at from 5 to 5½ per cent., and longer dates at 5 3/16 per cent.

Bar silver was in the neighbourhood of 36½d. per ounce.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian, Gamsah, 433 tons.
Baku Russian Petroleum (1909), 78,900 poods.
Bibi Eibat, 830 tons.
Black Sea, 332 tons.
British Maikop, 43 tons.
Hargarde, 1,655 tons.
Maikop Combine, 272 tons.
Maikop Pipeline, 290 tons.
North Caucasian, 9,953 tons.
Russian Petroleum, 54,900 poods.
Ural Caspian, 2,408 tons.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
January 1.....	240,000	260,000
January 2 and 3.....	350,000	330,000
January 5 and 6.....	310,000	510,000
January 7 and 8.....	560,000	650,000
January 9.....	210,000	80,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915.	1916.
	Week ended Dec. 31.	Week ended Dec. 31.
Cattle markets.....	950 ..	1,532
General markets.....	367 ..	512
Cattle markets closed.....	1 ..	1
Receipts (£).....	1,317 ..	2,044
Total from commencement of year (£).....	51,828 ..	56,933

* Total for 10 days.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Reporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc. Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price.	Price Jan. 5	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.	July 27, 1915.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892.....	99	70	69½
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907.....	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1908.....	80	47	46½
City of Alexandria 4½ %, 1908.....	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5½ % Bnds.....	96	67½	67
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan.....	93½	68	68
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt.....	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890.....	88	66½	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890.....	82½	61	51
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878.....	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24½ %).....	80½	67	67
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	67	50½	50½
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	49½	49½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	48½	48½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889.....	45	39½	39½
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	48	48
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893.....	54	49½	49½
Do. 4 % Rente, Loan, 1902.....	77	59½	59½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907.....	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.).....	90	72	72
Do. 5 % Currant.....	—	89	89
Montenegro 5 % Loan.....	82½	50½	50½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911).....	91	74½	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., £600.....	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds.....	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855.....	103	75	75
Do. 4 %, 1891.....	94½	74½	75
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894.....	84	65½	65½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902.....	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified.....	79	50	50
Do. 4 % Loan, 1906.....	65½	38½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1908.....	69	38½	38½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.).....	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.).....	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.....	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia.....	—	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	—	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania.....	—	8½	8½
Eastern Bank.....	—	80½	80½
Imperial Bank of Persia.....	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank.....	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.....	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt.....	13½	13½	13½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.....	8	5½	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer.....	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debts, Red.....	98	78½	78½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debts, Ser. I.....	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.....	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.....	17½	8½	8½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.....	22	12½	12½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.....	87	53	53
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.....	101	57½	57½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 %.....	80	54½	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %.....	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds.....	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares).....	1½	17/6	17/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.....	—	89½	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt.....	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment.....	—	—	—
Do. do. Def.....	—	—	—
Bahara Co.....	8½	7½	7½
Do. Pref.....	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh.....	2½	2½	2½
Do. Def.....	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % Mt. Db. Rd.....	—	8/10½	8/9
Do. Delta Land and Inves.....	9½	85	85½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.....	98	6/1½	6/—
Do. and Foreign Trust.....	5½	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1½	—	—
Do. Founders.....	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt.....	—	97	97
Do. 5 % Debts. Red.....	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.....	98	7½	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chgs. Debts. Rd.....	97	74	73½
New Egyptian Co.....	9/3	9/—	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.....	—	10/3	10/—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.....	1½	23/9	1½
United Egyptian Lands.....	1/9	—/9	—/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.....	12½	12	12
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.....	12/6	4½	13/—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.....	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels.....	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.....	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1½	24/—	24/9
Do. do. 5 % Debts. Red.....	99½	93	92½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer.....	—	21/—	20/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debts. Red.....	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord.....	—	28/5½	27/—
Do. do. Pref.....	—	3½	77/6
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.....	90	94½	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7,500).....	£179½	144	144
Upper Egypt Hotels.....	2½	1½	1½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	Price on Jan. 4.	Jan. 11.	
Anglo-Persian.....	12/6	11/6	
Anglo-Persian.....	20/7½	21/9	
European Oilfields.....	3/0½	2/9	
Roumanian.....	8/10½	8/6	

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Jan. 11.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane.....	433	425
Canal de Suez.....	4450	4205
Credit Foncier Egyptien.....	664	675
Turkish Unified 4½.....	59.90	60.20
Egyptian Unified 4½.....	89	83.50
Serbian, 1895.....	59.50	56

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON DECEMBER 18.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.	
National Bank of Egypt.....	£ 13½ to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie.....	Fr. 106 " —
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.....	£ 12½ ex cpn.
Soc. Anonyme du Bahra.....	L.E. 6½ " —
Do. priv.....	L.E. 3½ " —
Lois Turcs, oblig.....	Fr. 126 " —
Bons de Panama.....	Fr. — " —
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New).....	Fr. 68 " —
Privilegiée.....	Fr. 95 " —
Cheikh Fadl.....	Fr. 72½ ex cpn.
Urbanes et Rurales.....	£ 2½ " —
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte.....	£ — " —
Building Lands of Egypt.....	£ — " —
Union Foncière d'Egypte.....	L.E. 1 " —
Société des Immeubles.....	L.E. 4½ " —
Bonded Warehouses.....	L.E. 4½ " —
Unifiée.....	L.E. 80½ " —
Privilegiée.....	Fr. 69½ " —
Land Bank of Egypt.....	£ 4½ ex cpn.
Fondateur.....	£ — " —
Pressage et dépôts.....	£ 32 " —
Nungovich Hotels.....	£ 24 " —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt.....	£ 5½ " —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.....	£ 3½ " —
Ord.....	£ 33/3 " —
Alex. and Ramleh Railway.....	£ 48 " —
Egyptian Delta Light Railways.....	£ 54 " —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Cairo.....	Fr. 104 " —
Jouissance.....	Fr. 155 " —
Egyptian Markets.....	£ — " —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.....	Fr. 270 " —
Div.....	Fr. 210 " —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.....	Fr. — " —
Egyptian Salt and Soda.....	£ 24½ " —
Credit Foncier Egyptien.....	Fr. 590 " —
1886 Oblig.....	Fr. 327 " —
1903.....	Fr. 250½ " —
1911.....	Fr. 260 " —
Delta Lands.....	£ — " —
Port Said Salt.....	£ 36/3 ex cpn.
Cotton Ginners.....	£ 8 " —
New Egyptian Co.....	P.T. — " —
United Lands.....	£ 32/6 " —
Levant S.S. Co.....	£ 175 " —
Fond.....	£ — " —

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, January 11.

Currants.

There has been a moderate demand for all produce this week, with a fair amount of business done at old rates. It is evident that the political crisis in Greece has influenced holders in their firm attitude, and a further advance of prices is almost certain if the situation does not develop favourably.

The stock of currants in London on December 30, was 9,169 tons, against 6,725 tons in 1915; whilst in Liverpool it is reported to be only 3,000 tons. Therefore, with such apparently small available supplies in the two principal markets, and with no prospects of arrivals so long as the blockade exists in Greece, the outlook is serious.

Sultanas.

The market is quiet with only small business passing, mostly in Afghanistan and Australian sultanas, which in small quantities arrive occasionally.

Figs.

There has been a better demand with business done at full prices. A further advance is probable.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet, with small transactions passing at, more or less, recent prices; London-Calcutta, spot, closing at 103s., also afloat and December-January at 103s., with January-February at 104s. Bombay, ordinary, January-February, 105s. 6d. Rapeseed is somewhat neglected, but prices are firm; Toria, January-February, at 92s. 6d.; Ferozopore, December-January, 90s.; and brown Cawnpore, afloat, at 86s. 6d. Cottonseed is dull. London-Egyptian, Sakelaries, spot, is quoted at £18 10s. per ton, a fall of 17s. 6d. in the week. Canaryseed is inactive, and the various descriptions of Morocco seed are obtainable on somewhat reduced terms. Rangoon beans are quiet at about recent quotations.

Oils.

Linseed oil is rather quiet, spot pipes offered at £50 5s., and barrels at £51 5s. landed terms. Rape oil is firm with good business done in ordinary brown, naked, spot, at £54; and English, refined barrels, at £57 to £59. Cotton oil is quiet, and easier, closing for crude spot pipes at £49 10s., and barrels, sweet, at £58 to £60, as to make.

Locust Beans.

There is a scarcity of this article, especially of Cyprus kind, and with the existing demand any arrivals would be welcome.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 298.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	265	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Constantinople and After ..	276	Notes and News	281
Cairo	267	TANGIER TO TEHRAN	273	The Financial Situation in	
Khartoum	268			Turkey	282
Cyprus	268	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Egyptian Trade	283
		A Glimpse of Mohammed V. ..	272	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	283
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	274	Trade Notes	283
"Young Turk" and Arab ..	269	LETTER TO THE EDITOR—		Produce Report	284
The British in Athens ..	270	Salonika and Balkan Policy..	271	Engineering Notes	285
The Balkans. — III. — The		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST ..	278	Restricted Trade	286
Break - up of the Winter				Company Meetings	287
(H. M. Wallis)	277			Company Notes	287
				On 'Change	288
				Stock and Share List ..	288

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The enemy's advance in Roumania has been arrested for a whole week before the Sereth lines. There have been alternating successes at different points along the battle front; but, as a result of the week's fighting, our Allies still hold their positions, and in some places have thrown back the German-Bulgarian forces. This constitutes the only serious check that the enemy has received since he initiated the sweeping movement through Roumania last November; for, although the approach to Braila was barred for some days, the Germans were in the meantime making headway on the left of their line, in the mountains, and ultimately their advance at this point led to the withdrawal of the Russian troops defending Braila. It is in the Carpathian heights, where the Hungarian railway system favours the invaders, that the Russians and Roumanians have experienced the greatest difficulty in checking the enemy's advance. For the measure of success which has attended their arms during the last week they may be indebted in part to the weather, which can be terribly severe in this region at this time of the year. It is evident, however, that Russian reinforcements are making their presence felt, and we may now hope that the moment is rapidly approaching, if it has not already arrived, when the advantage in numbers and munitions will rest with our Allies. Of the fighting qualities of the Roumanian soldiers when they can meet the enemy on anything like equal terms there is no question, and sooner or later we may expect to see them given an opportunity of showing their mettle under more favourable conditions than hitherto.

For the moment the heaviest fighting appears to have taken place between Braila and Galatz. The Russians, after artillery preparation, recaptured the village of Vadeni, seven miles south-west of the latter port. With the arrival of reinforcements the enemy resumed the offensive, but, coming under our Allies' concentrated fire, suffered great losses and failed to reach the Russian trenches. If von Mackensen finds himself unable to advance, his first consideration will be so to strengthen his present position, which represents the shortest line for holding the territory already conquered, that our Allies will have little chance of breaking through for some time to come. The Russians, on the other hand, if adequate reinforcements are now reaching them, will try to keep the fighting as mobile as possible, to prevent the enemy from digging him-

self in for the rest of the winter. The next few days, therefore, ought to witness the climax of the struggle on the Sereth line.

From Athens comes the announcement that the Greek Government has agreed to the demands of the Allies in their entirety. If, as is also stated, the British Minister has returned to the Legation from his refuge on board the Allied Fleet at the Piræus, it is evident that he has accepted the undertaking thus given and believes that it will be carried out strictly and without delay. In view of the past record of King Constantine and his Ministers it would, perhaps, have been fairer to them to allow a short time to elapse before showing this alacrity to resume normal diplomatic relations. The most charitable view of the Greek Government's conduct compels the Allies to realize that it is not altogether master in its own house. Nothing is more calculated to encourage the irresponsible element in Greece in whose hands the real power lies to continue the policy of kicking over the traces than the premature acceptance of promises before they have been translated into deeds. It is difficult, however, to suppose that the Allied Governments and their representatives in Greece do not appreciate this point, and are deliberately running the risks which the British Prime Minister promised should not be incurred. The blockade remains, and presumably it is considered that this will serve as an adequate guarantee for Greece's observance, after many failures, of her pledges.

We are the more ready to share Sir Francis Elliot's optimism, because it has consistently been maintained in these pages from the first that a firm attitude which left King Constantine no loophole for escape would solve the Greek problem. The blockade and the actual position of the Central Alliance, in spite of the somewhat dazzling flash in the Roumanian pan, together with the determination of the Allies, shown now for the first time, to put an end to an impossible situation, have had the inevitable effect. But it would be folly to overlook the various influences at work in Greece. Considerable misgiving has been caused by the report that Field-Marshal von Falkenhayn has paid a visit to King Constantine. As there had been a previous reference to a Major von Falkenhayn, who was stated to be the power behind the throne in Germany's interests in Greece, it is more than probable that there has been some confusion of names. The point is, perhaps, not very material. In the first place, as the Allies had found themselves obliged to insist upon the removal of

Baron Schenck and the enemy Ministers from Athens, it is equally a breach of the spirit of the undertaking given, however unwillingly, by King Constantine, that he should receive either Marshal von Falkenhayn or Major von Falkenhausen. In the second place, whoever the emissary from the German Emperor, his message will have taken one form or the other: either King Constantine will have been bidden to hold on because the Germans were coming to his help, or he will have been told that, as far as Greece was concerned, the game was up, and that he had better make the best terms he could with the Allies.

There can be little doubt that the Allied Governments have a shrewd notion of the tenour of the message delivered by Germany's emissary. If the latter should prove to have been von Falkenhayn, and if he has been discussing a plan of campaign with the Greek Commander-in-Chief, it would still be a comparatively simple matter to checkmate that plan. In these circumstances we should not expect to find the British Minister returning to Athens to take up his residence once more at the Legation. The more natural interpretation, therefore, of the course of events in Greece is that the Allies have gained their point. Whether, as is hinted, they have been helped by a conflict of opinion in the Royalist forces remains to be seen. The Greek Government, doubtless, finds itself from one cause or another compelled to yield. It is left to the Allies, however, to exercise a most careful scrutiny, in order to make sure that their demands are carried out in their entirety both in spirit and in letter. The *de facto* rulers of the country, whoever they may be, have shown themselves to be possessed of a most unpleasant disposition, and are quite capable of trying to hoodwink the Allies and to perpetuate their tyranny and spite at the expense of the Venizelists.

A further point to be borne in mind in connection with the situation in Greece is that, even when all the Allies' demands have been carried out, no settlement has been effected of the anomalous division of the country under two separate and mutually hostile jurisdictions. The Allied Governments may have adopted the attitude that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, and may prefer to give the situation time to adjust itself. Such a course could not prove satisfactory to either of the two parties, although from the Allies' point of view it avoids direct intervention in a matter which is essentially Greece's own private affair. Care must be taken, however, that no injustice is done to M. Venizelos and the Government of National Defence by a policy which, though nominally holding the ring with strict impartiality for both sides, in effect penalises the more honourable of the two opponents.

If the Central Powers should decide to stretch out a hand to Greece, it would be by way of Albania that we might expect the attempt to be made. During the past week there have been reports of fighting in Albania at two separate points, north and south respectively of Koritza. From the fact that the Italians record the capture of a village on the road from Liaskoviki to Koritza, at a point, that is to say, due east of Valona, it is evident that very little headway has been made in clearing southern Albania of the enemy. Between Lake Prespa and Koritza the Italian troops form the left wing of the Salonika force. It has, therefore, not yet been possible to advance the Italian front in Albania as a whole sufficiently to bring it into line with the Macedonian operations. Consequently any signal success on the part of the enemy in Albania would bring him to the Greek border in the rear of the army of the Orient. A dash of this kind would be theoretically much more attractive to German Headquarters than a methodical attack on the Salonika position. Difficulties of transport would probably rule out anything but a counsel of despair. This region, however, may call for close attention, unless it be accepted that the day for German military surprises has gone.

A further success of the British troops based on Egypt has finally cleared Sinai Peninsula of Turks. On January 9 Rafa, on the frontier of Palestine and thirty miles north-east of El Arish, was attacked by a force composed of Anzac Mounted Troops and the Imperial Camel Corps. A night march brought the troops to the Turkish position at seven o'clock in the morning. By the end of the afternoon the position was carried and 1,600 of the enemy out of a garrison of about 2,300 were taken prisoners. A relief force approaching from Shalal, sixteen miles east of Rafa, was intercepted at a short distance from the latter town and, according to the official report, "entirely destroyed." The offensive from Egypt has so far been characterized with a marked efficiency, which has led not only to the defeat of the enemy, but practically to the complete elimination of all the forces he had left in this region. We must suppose that the Turco-German authorities counted upon immobilizing a large army in Egypt by constant reports of impending attacks on the Canal. The demands of the Central Powers have caused Turkey to collect as many troops as possible for employment in Europe, and the rapidity of the British offensive in Sinai, supported as it has been by attacks on railway communications in Asia Minor, has prevented her sending help in time to the attenuated garrisons left in these parts. Not the least advantage of the Sinai offensive is that it will enable an estimate to be formed of Turkey's military strength at this moment, and of her capacity to resist a series of co-ordinated attacks on her various fronts.

In a remarkable document, serving as a covering despatch to the Allies' reply to President Wilson's Note, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs supplies a striking commentary upon the Allies' aims in the prosecution of the war to a successful end. One passage refers to the expulsion of the Turks from Europe, and its importance justifies its reproduction at length in these notes. Mr. Balfour writes:

It has been argued, indeed, that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe forms no proper or logical part of this general scheme. The maintenance of the Turkish Empire was during many generations regarded by statesmen of world-wide authority as essential to the maintenance of European peace. Why, it is asked, should the cause of peace be now associated with a complete reversal of this traditional policy?

The answer is that circumstances have completely changed. It is unnecessary to consider now whether the creation of a reformed Turkey mediating between hostile races in the Near East was a scheme which, had the Sultan been sincere and the Powers united, could ever have been realized. It certainly cannot be realized now. The Turkey of "Union and Progress" is at least as barbarous and is far more aggressive than the Turkey of Sultan Abdul Hamid. In the hands of Germany it has ceased even in appearance to be a bulwark of peace and is openly used as an instrument of conquest. Under German officers Turkish soldiers are now fighting in lands from which they had long been expelled, and a Turkish Government, controlled, subsidized, and supported by Germany, has been guilty of massacres in Armenia and Syria more horrible than any recorded in the history even of those unhappy countries. Evidently the interests of peace and the claims of nationality alike require that Turkish rule over alien races shall, if possible, be brought to an end; and we may hope that the expulsion of Turkey from Europe will contribute as much to the cause of peace as the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France, of Italia Irredenta to Italy, or any of the other territorial changes indicated in the Allied Note.

Further progress in the neighbourhood of Kut has been reported, but it has to be measured in yards. Advancing from the south, the British force had been able to get astride the Shatt-el-Hai and so approached quite close to Kut from this direction. But the Turkish defences east of the town, on the right bank of the river, which were a connecting link between Kut and the Es Sinn position, held firm, and, aided by the bad weather, have resisted capture for some weeks. The greater part of these were taken as a result of a few days' operations terminating on January 11. From the report of the engagement it is clear that the enemy made a stubborn resistance. The Turk on the defensive, especially under German direction, is ever at his best. The slow rate of progress in this theatre may be a disappointment; but as no particular time-table has to be kept, one purpose of the offensive will be served by the exercise of unrelenting pressure on the enemy.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 27.

H.H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan is still in Upper Egypt, and has derived great benefit from the change. He will remain at Assuan until next week, when he will start on his return journey to Cairo, where he is expected to arrive about the 10th prox. His Highness received Sir Reginald Wingate when he passed through Assuan on his way down from Khartoum.

The Departure of Sir Henry McMahon.

On Saturday last Sir Henry and Lady McMahon left Cairo for England. Their departure was an official one, and a great crowd of officials and residents, Egyptian and European, assembled at the station to bid them farewell. A guard of honour of British and Egyptian troops was drawn up in the station-yard and on the platform, and Sir Henry McMahon reviewed them before passing down the long line of guests, with each of whom both he and Lady McMahon shook hands. H.H. the Sultan specially delegated his Grand Chamberlain, Said Zulfikar Pasha, to convey his good wishes for a safe journey, and Lady McMahon was presented with many beautiful bouquets. When the train steamed out of the station the band struck up "Auld Lang Syne," and gave the finishing touch to what was a very impressive ceremonial. As the crowd filed out of the station, and, indeed, during the farewell ceremony, one heard on all sides expressions of sincere regret at the departure of their Excellencies after such a comparatively short sojourn in Egypt, and of hope that Sir Henry's signal services would soon receive fitting recognition from the Home Government.

The New High Commissioner.

This morning another impressive ceremony took place at the station, in honour of the arrival of the new High Commissioner. Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, who were accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Symes, D.S.O., Private Secretary, and Mr. Keown-Boyd, Assistant Private Secretary, had travelled down from Wady-Halfa by the Sudan Government steamer Ibis, and only boarded the special train at a station a few miles south of Cairo. There was a great crowd on the platform to welcome their Excellencies, those present including Said Zulfikar Pasha, representing H.H. the Sultan, General Sir Archibald Murray, Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, the Ministers, and an unusually large number of officials and notables, including a noticeable sprinkling of old Army officers and Sudan officials. Sir Reginald Wingate, who, it may be noted, wore the uniform of a full general, and Lady Wingate passed slowly down the platform, shaking hands with most of the guests and saying a few words to the many old friends and acquaintances whom they recognised. Both their Excellencies looked remarkably fit, considering the long time they have spent in the Sudan without any change of climate. A salute of seventeen guns was fired when the train drew up in the station, and guards of honour, each of 100 men, were provided by the British and Egyptian Armies. Owing to the fact that he will still maintain his connection with the Sudan, the new High Commissioner will have a larger personal staff than his predecessor; and the extra accommodation required has been provided by transforming the ball-room constructed by the late Lord Kitchener into offices, where the Chancery will be housed.

The Sinai Victory.

The good news from the eastern frontier has had an excellent effect, and is regarded as a good augury for the new High Commissioner. It has certainly come most appropriately to put heart into the pro-Entente element, which has been feeling some discouragement at the unfortunate situation in Roumania and Greece. At the same time, by reason of the possibilities which the reoccupation of El Arish opens up, it has completely discountenanced the pro-Turks, who see in it, and in the almost simultaneous recognition by Great Britain and France of

the Shereef as King of the Hejaz, an indication of the final shattering of all their hopes. It has more than once been remarked in this correspondence that British successes on the frontiers of Egypt, however small they may be, have more effect on the Egyptians than the greatest victories of the Allied arms in other parts, and it has been noticeable that the fact that we have now reoccupied Egypt's eastern frontier town, with the prospect it holds out of the cutting off of all Turkish posts in the Sinai and of the certainty that our position will so menace the Turkish lines of communication that the Shereef will be enabled to capture Medina in the very near future, has made a more favourable impression on the local population than all the extraordinary successes which the Franco-British armies achieved a short time ago on the Western front.

The Racing Season.

On Saturday last Gezira Sporting Club held its first race meeting of the season. It was exceedingly well attended, and the racing was excellent, some of the events attracting unusually large fields. As recently mentioned, it was at one time feared that it would not be possible to hold race meetings this winter owing to certain objections that had been raised. The difficulties which then stood in the way have, however, since been overcome, which is a matter for much satisfaction, as there is no doubt that these race meetings constitute a great encouragement to local horse breeding, apart from the welcome relaxation which they afford to the military and civilian elements. The stewards are to be congratulated on the smoothness with which everything went, and on the excellent structural improvements that they have introduced since last year.

CAIRO, January 4.

H.H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan is now on his way back to Cairo, having left Assuan on his *dahabeah* on Friday last. Before his departure from Assuan his Highness inspected the Dam—for the first time since the work of heightening had been completed—and also visited the schools in the town, which may be regarded as a distinct indication that he is completely restored in health. On his return to Cairo the Sultan will give a banquet at Abdin Palace in honour of the new High Commissioner and Lady Wingate.

The High Commissioner.

In addition to receiving Sir Reginald Wingate at Assuan and to deputing his Grand Chamberlain, Said Zulfikar Pasha, to greet him on his arrival at Cairo Station, the Sultan sent his Excellency a letter welcoming him, in his own name and that of the Egyptian nation, on his taking up his duties at the Residency. The letter was couched in the most friendly and cordial tone, and has made a great impression on the people generally. Certainly there can be no doubt as to the goodwill which the Egyptians bear towards Sir Reginald Wingate, and amongst the earliest and most prominent callers at the Residency have been not only officers, past and present, of the Egyptian Army, but provincial notables and Bedouin.

One of the first official acts of the new High Commissioner was to call on the Prime Minister and each of the other Ministers; and since the day of his arrival there has been a constant stream of higher officials through the portals of the Residency, come to report on and discuss the work of their various administrations with their new supreme chief, who is losing no time in picking up the threads and in getting a thorough grasp of current affairs. Some important questions concerning both the Sudan and Egypt, as it happens, are awaiting attention; and with Sir Reginald Wingate at the Residency it should be possible to reach a speedy decision, since it will not be necessary to incur all the delays which were entailed under the previous régime, when everything concerning the Sudan had to be referred to him at Khartoum.

The Sinai Victory.

On the occasion of his latest success in the Sinai, General Sir Archibald Murray has been the recipient of

congratulatory telegrams from H.H. the Sultan, Sir Reginald Wingate, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Sir Henry McMahon (who received the news just before his departure), General Milne (commanding the British forces at Salonika), and the Grand Shereef, who sent his congratulations through the Residency. The importance of the victory is becoming more and more patent to the local population, and the Press is full of articles drawing attention to the significance of the British advance. From the message sent to General Murray by the High Commissioner after the fall of El Arish there appears no doubt that a forward movement into Turkish territory has been decided upon—the reference to the threat which our victory constitutes to Southern Syria and the Hejaz and to the enemy's communications allows of no other construction. The Syrian element is wild with delight at the prospect of an early deliverance of their brethren from the sufferings which they have been and are still undergoing, whilst those of us who have all along advocated the undertaking of a Syrian campaign rejoice that even at this eleventh hour the powers that be should have decided to adopt what is certainly one of the most obvious and effective means of creating a diversion in favour of the Allied forces engaged in fighting the Turks in various parts of the Ottoman Dominions and elsewhere.

Most of the prisoners taken at Maghdaba arrived in Cairo this week. They had come from El Arish by water to Port Said, and were all in splendid condition. The fact that most of them were Arabs, mainly from Syria, would confirm the information received here some while back that all the Arab element in the Medina garrison had had to be withdrawn and sent to other fronts. Mention of Medina reminds me that Fakhry Pasha, whose name has been freely mentioned in connection with the Armenian massacres, is in command of the Turkish forces at that point. If we are able to cut and hold the Hejaz Railway, he will, unless he can get back into Syria before that event takes place, fall into the hands of the Allies or the Shereef, which is the same thing. Surely this would be an ideal opportunity for the Allies to put into execution their threat to make those responsible for the atrocities personally accountable.

Officers invalided or on leave from the Sinai whom I have met are one and all loud in their praises of the assistance rendered by the Egyptian auxiliary services, especially the Egyptian Labour Corps. They affirm that the plucky and willing way in which the "Gyppies" have worked has been a positive revelation, and that but for their co-operation the lines of communication and means of supply would not to-day have reached anything approaching the advanced stage at which they now stand.

Egypt's Food Supply.

Considerable progress has been made with the investigation undertaken with a view to extending the cereal and food crop areas, so as to supply Egypt with the food-stuffs which she will lack this year—to which reference was made in the recent note on the cereal situation of Egypt—and some definite decision is shortly expected. Meanwhile an arrangement has been made whereby a considerable extension of the potato area will take place this winter. Egypt always obtains her seed potatoes from Italy, but, owing to transport and other difficulties, the usual supply has not been forthcoming. The military authorities, however, hold considerable stocks of potatoes, which, as it happens, have come from Italy. It has now been arranged through the Ministry of Agriculture for these stocks to be placed at the disposal of reliable cultivators on the condition that they deliver to the military authorities during the next three months an equivalent quantity from their last crop, and that they undertake to sell to the Army at a fixed price a similar quantity from the resultant crop when it is ready later on. By these means the situation will be saved both for the Army and for Egypt. The former will be certain of obtaining at reasonable prices all their potato supplies well into the summer; the Egyptian growers will be able to carry on as usual potato cultiva-

tion, which, as mentioned, at one time threatened to be out of the question this winter; and the country will be assured a potato crop which will certainly be above the normal size.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, December 30.

The Cold Weather.

The cold weather has set in with emphasis, and a number of residents have been laid up with fever, which has been brought out by the cold. The minimum has gone down to 51 degrees Fahr., and to those who have been here for a hot weather or more this is desperately cold; and few are found so hardy as to dine or to sit out under the stars after dinner, as is the usual custom. Notwithstanding this, the climate is now extremely bracing, and it would be difficult to find any place where the weather is so equable and so reliable as in Khartoum during the winter. Except in the middle of the day (and possibly not even then), it is not necessary to wear a sun helmet, and there is a briskness in the air which will one day make the place a medical resort for the jaded.

Col. Stack, C.M.G., and Mrs. Stack have just taken up their residence in the Palace, so that he can begin his period as Acting Governor-General and Sirdar from the beginning of the new year.

The usual lawn tennis tournament has been held on the grounds of the Sudan Club. The handicapping was most successful, and produced excellent matches. The Men's Doubles were won by Messrs. Job and Davidson, who secured the victory in the final against Mr. Hawkins and Capt. Pattison, after a desperate struggle. The winners of the Mixed Doubles were Mrs. Davidson and Major Giles. The runners-up were Mrs. Hewins and Mr. Howell, and this, too, was an extremely close game.

Venizelist Supporters.

There has been a most successful Venizelist meeting among the Greeks in Khartoum, and a considerable sum was collected for the cause. Telegrams of sympathy were also received from the various Greek communities outside Khartoum, and it is expected that a certain number of volunteers will shortly leave to serve in the Venizelist Army.

The *Sudan Herald* has changed hands, and is now the property of a syndicate of Greeks. A new editor has been installed, and it is said that the paper will develop a more forward policy.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, December 30.

By order of the High Commissioner, the King's message to his sailors and soldiers was published on Christmas Day in the official *Gazette*.

The Commissioner and Provost-Marshal, Mr. C. S. Cade, has fixed the maximum prices of a large number of articles, especially of food, to take effect from January 1. The step gives great satisfaction.

Rain has at last fallen in abundance. On December 24 and following days there were copious falls in almost all parts of the island, and the peasants are busily and joyfully engaged in sowing their lands. In some places there was a combination of hail. At Nicosia parts of the town were flooded, the water rising in some houses over three feet. Help was given by the police, who were well aided by civilians. The Pedias river brought down its rich volumes of fertilising water to the Nesaoria plain. One unfortunate villager, who had sought shelter under a culvert, was drowned, but no further casualties have been reported yet. The railway towards its western terminus was damaged at some points, and traffic was delayed for a short time. At a few villages some losses were sustained. At Skilloura, to the north-west of Nicosia, heavy rain on one night would have had more serious results had not the villagers been keeping an all-night vigil with prayers for rain. The change of weather has been most opportune, and a return of sunshine is welcomed, the outlook being at present quite satisfactory.

THE "YOUNG TURKS" AND THE ARABS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The following is a further instalment of the series of revelations which explain the events that led up to the final rupture between the Grand Shereef and the "Unionists." It serves to show how deep-seated were the causes that brought about the rising in the Hejaz, and how the national movement extended far beyond the limits of the peninsula, and embraced both Syria and Al Irak. It shows, also, that, far from the declaration of independence being the outcome of a growing personal antagonism between the Shereef and the "Unionists" the former, at least, exercised extraordinary patience and magnanimity. It amounts, in fact, to an *apologia* by the Shereef for having striven too long to hold back the rising tide of indignation in the Moslem world.

Before handing over to his interviewer the documents referred to below the Grand Shereef described the painful character of his position, which he likened, with the eloquence of Arabic metaphor, to the rain that is ardently desired by the peasant and equally dreaded by the artisan, and to the man who, having too short a bed, has to keep his limbs cramped up. The "Unionists," he said, were constantly narrowing the ground on which he could hope to arrange at least a compromise between them and the Arab and Moslem world.

The first document which he handed to his interviewer is a printed circular, signed by the leading Ulema and professors of Irak, Busreh, Baghdad, and Damascus. It is addressed to the Moslem world, and begins by saying that the state to which the Moslems have been driven required that expression be given to what has long been accumulating in the heart of the Moslem Arabs, and that the medium of writing be resorted to for a full understanding by them all of the present critical position throughout the world. Islam is likened to a temple resting on three foundations, the Koran, the language, and the two sacred shrines. If one of these be struck the blow would react on the other two. The circular then goes on to explain how the "Unionists," inspired by an evil spirit, tried to demolish this sacred temple, and how, having found it beyond their power to destroy the first two bases—which were of indestructible spiritual essence—they assailed the third. Of Islam they know only the word, acknowledging it in so far as it represents one large family, of which they want to be the ruling head. A heartfelt appeal is then made to the Shereef to protect the House of Allah, he being most fitted by right of descent and by position to do so. He will not and cannot tolerate, the signatories feel sure, that the house of his God and the tomb of his great ancestor be desecrated, that his religion and the language of the Sacred Book be reviled. The appeal is insistently repeated in a succession of phrases, varying in expression, but all stamped with the same passionate ardour. Finally, a general appeal is made to all Moslems in the world to support the leader of this sacred movement by every means in their power.

When the interviewer had finished reading this circular, the Grand Shereef turned to him and said: "The fact that this circular is printed shows that it is one of a large number of copies which have been distributed broadcast. While, on its receipt, I was in deep meditation as to what I should do in this grave crisis, which Islam was traversing, to please Allah and do my duty by the Faith and its followers, I was surprised by what some of the 'Unionists' thought best calculated to weaken my resolution, but which had the very contrary effect." He then handed over to his interviewer a letter written in Turkish to the following effect:—

To the Shereef of Mecca,

What we have lately learned has scarcely added to our knowledge of thy former acts against the Government. You have known that the Government does not consider the Arabian Peninsula as anything more than one of its many provinces. Indeed, we do not deem its inhabitants entitled to any special consideration, or endowed with any qualities beyond those possessed by the meanest inhabitants of the waste deserts. We,

therefore, do not wish that any demands be made for its reform, or that thou shouldst tell us any further about its fallen worth. We have not forgotten the behaviour that thou and thy inhabitants of the Peninsula have indulged in, from time to time, towards our valis; and if thou dost not relapse into quiet, and feel content with such reforms as the Government may think possible to grant, we shall let fall our might on thee and those around thee, and then thou shalt never rise up again.

For the Committee,

(Signed) KHALIL.

His Highness finally said: "Such is my position with these self-constituted leaders! Vainly have I tried to temporize and to co-operate with them. I am not of those who seek power for its own sake, so that I could find some excuse for myself towards my conscience. The more I feigned complaisance the more these people thought that it was due to fear and cowardice, and now I feel weary of all this artifice. Even so, I shall try to give them a further period of grace, wherein they may yet change their policy; for the hearts of men are in the hands of Allah. If, however, this change should not come about, then I shall have no other alternative but to turn to Allah for guidance."

A NEO-TURANIAN PRAYER.

The following is a translation of the new prayer specially drawn up by the Turkish Minister of War for the Turkish soldiers, who are under obligation to recite it every night. It will be noticed that it does not contain any verses from the Koran, and that no mention is made of the Prophet. The White Wolf is an idol which the Turks used to worship before their conversion to Islam:—

Almighty God! Grant the Turks health

And unite all the Brethren in the benevolence of the Sultan. That Thy Power may be glorified, grant us the favour of the White Wolf.

Thou Young Turan, thou beloved Fatherland, We beseech thee to show us thy path,

Our great ancestor Aghouz calls us.

Almighty God, shed upon the Turks the blaze of Thy light

That the path of Turan may be plain and dwellings be illuminated

In every place and corner with a rosy glow.

TURKISH ATROCITIES: THE ARAB VIEW.

In *Al Kibla* (the official organ of the Hejaz Government) of Safar 1, 1335, there is an article headed "Turkish Atrocities." In this article the Editor comments upon Mr. Asquith's speech at the Guildhall, in which he referred to Turkish tyranny and the Armenian massacres. He then affirms that he has been informed, through a trustworthy source, that Baron Oppenheim, Germany's representative in Syria, said:—"The Turkish authorities hang those Arabs who are of no importance and spare those who can use their pen and know how to speak, the intelligents who can influence and draw the Arab nation. It is impossible for Turkish rule to exist in this country unless the source of intellectual movements is demolished."

Commenting on Baron Oppenheim's statement, the Editor says:—"This is the highest degree of civilisation which the Germans claim to have reached, when we see one of their most prominent men calling upon the infernal Jemal Pasha to hang the intellectual and influential Arabs. Were these words uttered for the satisfaction of that evil soul bent on ignominious deeds and the annihilation of a nation by sword and fire?"

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815

COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.

Illustrated Catalogues on request
ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms, Mufti, Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits, Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements, Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits.

4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

THE BRITISH IN ATHENS.

EXODUS OF THE COLONY.

(FROM OUR ATHENS CORRESPONDENT.)

ON BOARD S.S. ———,

PIRÆUS, December 20.

A large two-funnelled, white-painted steamer is quite a centre of attraction in Piræus harbour. This is the Greek Atlantic liner — which has been chartered by the British authorities to convey the British residents away from Greece in case of war. Steam launches, motor-boats, and rowing boats passing to and from the shore make an animated scene. A British bluejacket with fixed bayonet stands day and night at the gangway, as no unauthorised person is allowed to board the ship, and other sentries are on duty at other parts of the vessel.

There are over 400 British subjects on board, of whom probably two-thirds are women and children; and the scene somewhat resembles that on a cross-Channel steamer, where one meets various types of British character. They have now been on board a fortnight, and have become accustomed to their surroundings, and friendships and cliques have necessarily followed. The popular chaplain of the British Legation conducts Divine service on Sundays on the promenade deck, and a children's service is held in the afternoon. Much interest was attracted on the 17th by the novelty of a christening aboard, when Mr. and Mrs. Henderson's infant son was baptised, an ice bucket being used as a font.

Life on Board Ship.

Many of these passengers have left their businesses and their comfortable houses at short notice, to be reduced to idleness and the cramped accommodation of a crowded ship; some have large families, and there are several infants in arms; and many are undergoing this ordeal for a second time, for a large number are refugees from Constantinople who are now forced to leave their temporary homes and the livelihood they have managed to create in Athens. The merriment of the children and of the light-hearted produces, however, a diversion for the more sober ones; and those in authority have spared no pains to introduce amusement and to make the routine of life afloat as smooth as possible.

The ship is in charge of a distinguished Naval officer, who has with him a staff and a chief executive officer of exceptional tact and ability—qualities most necessary for one who has to listen to those who may have grievances to expose. Advisory committees have been formed to assist the commander and his staff, and rules have been drawn up to regulate the day's routine. A committee of ladies inspects the cabins each morning, and you risk being admonished if your cabin is untidy. Another committee will listen to any complaints you may have, and, if necessary, submit it to a higher authority, and a committee of gentlemen controls the stewards' department, and so on.

Entertaining the Refugees.

At 10.30 a.m. Lieut. Burns, clad in white, rings a bell for Swedish drill. Many of both sexes and all ages avail themselves of this exercise, and the children have their share of the amusement. On some afternoons a naval band affords great pleasure, and parties of officers from his Majesty's ships at — visit the ship and contribute to the entertainment of the fair sex. There is, fortunately, much musical talent on board, including a professional violinist who affords great pleasure in the evenings to lovers of music. Miss Pengelly and Miss Jameson, Lieut. Young, Major Huntingford, and Mr. Miller have delighted their audiences with their charming songs, and it is generally midnight before the handsome music saloon is emptied. In the comfortable smoking saloon bridge-players form their parties, and the young people will be found playing games or having their own little concerts in the second-class saloon. The spacious deck affords a fine promenade, and races for the children and young ladies have been organised and prizes distributed; while in the steerage cabin the Naval Guard attract quite a large audience with their sailor songs and other forms of amusement.

No mail has arrived from England for over a fortnight, and as only pro-German newspapers now appear in Athens, very little authentic news of what is going on is obtainable, but a daily bulletin is posted up with the oversea military *communiqués*. A small grey transport lying close by has on board the British Minister and his staff, and is in effect the British Legation afloat; and near by several French and Italian warships guard Piræus harbour.

January 6.

Weighing Anchor.

The s.s. — is under weigh at last, and a scene of merriment and laughter has been transformed into one of silence and reflection. All deck lights are out, all portholes

darkened, and in the hazy moonlight the dark outline of our escort, a British destroyer, is visible ahead. Most passengers are loth to retire to their cabins; many are reposing on deck and in the saloons, each one either wearing his lifebelt or having it by his side. The little ones have been put to bed with their clothes on and their little lifebelts by their side, and boat drill has already indicated the spot to which one must proceed in case of emergency.

The vessel hauled up her anchors soon after twelve, and, steaming, passed a British battleship. Cheers were exchanged, and the warship's band played "Home, Sweet Home." Slowly the — followed her escort out of the harbour.

Sailing orders arrived yesterday, and those who have elected to remain in these waters were transferred to a small steamer. Many of the refugees who left our ship go forth a second time to find another temporary home at Syra, Chios, Mitylene, or elsewhere, until the time comes for them to return to Constantinople or Smyrna. The sojourn on board has been a period of much merriment and gaiety, and the experience will have a lasting place in the memory of those who took part in it. The weather has been warm and springlike practically the whole time, rain having fallen only once or twice, and these conditions have contributed to making life on board all the more pleasant.

After the presentation of the famous Note, the — left her moorings at the Piræus and proceeded to —, where she took up an anchorage close to a British battleship. She was followed soon after by the floating "British Legation," which anchored close by, and later on by some British and French war vessels, Piræus harbour being left almost deserted save for a few Italian and French warships.

There are very few Greek vessels in the port; none have been allowed to enter—all are taken to — Bay or are running between the islands. — presents an animated scene with numerous warships and other craft, and it has been possible to land for walking exercise on the shore close by.

Christmas Afloat.

The Christmas festivities on board were probably among the most enjoyable ever spent by many of the refugees. On Christmas Eve carols were sung in the first-class music saloon, and the evening was spent in doing justice to the traditions of the mistletoe under most laughable conditions. There were three services on board on Christmas morning, and in the afternoon Santa Claus made his appearance and led the laughing children to the smoking-room, where a pretty tree laden with handsome presents awaited them. Contributions from the passengers defrayed the cost of the presents, and the children's faces testified to their happiness. The dining saloon was prettily decorated; turkey and plum pudding formed the menu of the day; and many of the company added to the general amusement by appearing at dinner attired in fancy costume. The dining saloon was a scene of much gaiety, and after dinner those in fancy costume, headed by the commander, walked through the second-class saloon and the steerage to wish all "A Merry Christmas." Singing and music made an enjoyable ending to a most novel Christmas.

The festivities closed with a very amusing theatrical performance, given on the evening of the 27th. It was a great success, and did credit to the authors and all those who took part. A revue in four acts, entitled "Concertinos," and written by Mr. G. Renwick, assisted by Mr. Thomas Miller, was acted. It was descriptive of the recent events in Athens and the embarkation on the steamer. Between the acts Miss Kettlewell delighted the audience with her graceful dancing, and solos on the piano by Corporal Taylor, and on the violin by our *maestro*, who was accompanied by Miss Rees, were much appreciated. A collection produced about £40, and was handed to the commander for some war fund.

[**An account of the experiences of the refugees on the voyage home will be published next week.]

LIST OF REFUGEES.

The following are the names and destinations of some of the British residents who have left Athens:—

CONSTANTINOPLE COLONY.	PROCEEDED TO:—
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Mountain	England
Mr. and Mrs. R. La Fontaine and family	Rome
Mrs. Jack Whittall	Rome
Mr. W. J. H. Whittall	Rome
Mrs. Edwin Whittall and two children	England
Mrs. Wilfred La Fontaine and children	Lausanne
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Maltass and Miss Maltass ...	Syra
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Maltass and family	Syra
Mr. and Mrs. H. Harty and family	England
Mrs. J. Campbell and children	England
Mrs. Chalmers and children	England
Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Tucker and family	England
Mrs. Jamieson	Syra
Miss O'Neill	England

Mrs. and Miss Wratistlaw	England
Mrs. Blair and children	England
Mr. N. Mumford	Syria
Mrs. Sofianos and two boys	England
Mr. G. Souvazoglou	England

SMYRNA COLONY.

PROCEEDED TO

Mr. and Mrs. Bird and family	Naples
Mr. and Mrs. R. Pengelly	Naples
Mr. and Mrs. A. Pengelly	Naples
Miss Doris Pengelly	Naples
Misses Jessie and Annie Pengelly	England
Mr. and Mrs. Rees and family	Chios
Mr. Charlton Whittall	England
Mr. and Mrs. J. Rose and child	Chios
Mr. Cook	Rome
Mr. Skidmore	Rome

ATHENS COLONY.

PROCEEDED TO

Mr. and Mrs. J. Barham	England
Mr. and Mrs. J. Robertson	England
Mr. and Mr. Baily	Rome
Mr. and Mrs. Meikle	Rome
Staff of Lake Copais Co.	Rome
Mr. and Mrs. Henderson and family	England
Rev. and Mrs. Gardner and family	England
Mr., Mrs. and Miss Finnis	England
Mr. Colson	England
Mr. Gordon Cooper	England
Mr. and Mrs. Lefroy	England
Mr. and Mrs. Pierson	England
Mr. S. de Bilinski	Syria
Mrs. Ford	England
Mr. Russell, sen.	England
Mr. Russell, jun.	England
Miss Russell	England
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson	England
Mr. and Mrs. Hasluck	Switzerland
Mr. G. Bowman	Syria
Mrs. Pilcher	Paris
Mrs. Alfred Grech and daughter	England
Mr. Kelly	England
Mr. and Mrs. Calfoglou	Paris
Captain Butler	England
Misses Moore, Rodier, Fraser, Lincoln, Roberts, Shakleton, Walker, Gough, Bois, Stocks, Julia Smith, Roswell Smith, Peacock, Hill, Flexman, Thynes, Hare, Wiles, Lemmon	England
Messrs. Ferguson, T. Miller	England
Mr. and Mrs. Eastwood and family	England
Mr. and Miss Chisolm	England
Mr. Consul Wilkinson	England
Mrs. Lough	England
Mrs. Merndrick and child	England
Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer	England
Mrs. Sargent	Corfu
Miss Hurry	Corfu
Mr. and Mrs. Stevens	Chios
Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton	Rome
Mr. O'Connor	Milan
Mrs. Cotterell and family	Syria
Mr. and Mrs. Simmonds and family	Syria

REMAINED IN ATHENS.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe
Mr. and Mrs. A. Walker and family
Mr. and Mrs. J. Walker and family
Messrs. P. and F. Barbour
Miss Barbour
Mr. and Mrs. Barnes and family
Miss Alison
Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson and family
Misses Jones, Kirk, Taylor, and Dodds
Mr. Simmons

[The Editor will be glad to receive—and to publish, if so desired—the present addresses of any former British residents in Athens.]

Photographs taken at Salonika by the Venizelist Ministry of War have reached London, and they prove conclusively that the Bulgarians have been firing into the Allied trenches on the Struma front where the bases of which were stamped with the Greek Army's inscription. It is evident that this ammunition is part of the war material handed over to the Bulgarians when the Greeks surrendered Fort Rupel and Kavalla to the Bulgarians.

Sofia reports state that General Jekoff and the Crown Prince Boris have paid a visit to German Main Headquarters, where they had a long conference with Marshal von Hindenburg. The Bulgarian Commander is reported to have "returned very satisfied as to the result of his visit."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

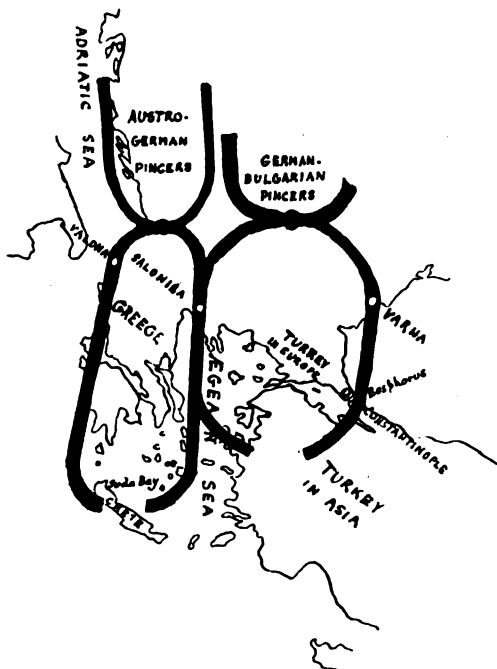
The columns of THE NEAR EAST are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST.

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

SALONIKA AND BALKAN POLICY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the current issue of *The New Europe* is an article entitled "The Importance of Salonika," in which the writer, dealing with the operations in the Balkans, observes that the Allies as a whole never had a plan at all, and even at this moment are only very slowly evolving one. He also complains that prolonged neglect has prevented the expedition from achieving much more than a negative success. As a close student of Near Eastern affairs for some years, I beg to join issue with the writer, and to affirm that the Allied policy, when rightly understood, is a sound one; that the expedition is justified even if it be no part of its function to make advances into the interior, and



that while it remains securely seated on Salonika it holds the key to the whole Balkan problem; and if this is to be regarded as only a negative result, then it is in negative rather than in positive results that success in the Balkans is to be sought.

It does not require the expert to understand the strategical system employed for the subjugation of the Balkan Peninsula. It is written large in history, and the Central Powers are not originating it. With a passage through Serbia secured, it may be regarded in two aspects. The one, which is calculated to give command of the Western area, is the descent of Austria-Hungary upon Salonika by way of Valona—a movement that has come to be regarded almost as a strategical maxim—and the other is the creation of what in political language is known as a "Big Bulgaria," by means of which control of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles may be gained and Constantinople occupied. The one is calculated to bring about the strangulation of Greece, the other of European Turkey, rendering both subject to the Germanic purpose. With the occupation of Valona and, so, command of the Straits of Otranto, and with a central seat in the Aegean that access to Salonika gives, the Dual Monarchy is virtually astride the Hellenic Kingdom, which at once becomes a threatened area liable to absorption in consequence of the natural tendencies inherent in every State to complete its coastline by encroachments upon an intervening area.

But Greece, so placed, is not only liable to incorporation; she is meanwhile exposed to the pressure of sea communications round her shores bridging the interval between the Adriatic and the Aegean ports which politically her independence separates. By this means her suffocation is compassed, and what is otherwise left to her of freedom is

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

destroyed by the fact that the establishment of sea communications round the Morea implies the loss of Crete and a Pan-German occupation of Suda Bay. In this way the finger is pressed upon her jugular, and, as Gibraltar has been said to divide France from France and Spain from Spain, so the occupation of the Cretan port by the Central Powers is calculated to divide Greece from Greece, and to place her separate existence at the will of others.

On the Eastern side of the Peninsula the same principle is set in operation; only where in the one case it was sought to employ Austria, in the other Bulgaria is the appointed instrument. A "Big Bulgaria" implies a Bulgaria with two coastlines, one on each side of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles—the one on the Black Sea and the other on the Ægean—just as a "Big Austria" (if we may coin the term in this connection) implies, as its necessary equipment for the work in hand, a port on the Ægean and a port on the Adriatic. With two coastlines thus acquired, Bulgaria, as the German pincers, stands in relation to Turkey-in-Europe as Austria-Hungary stands in relation to Greece. Constantinople, like the Hellenic Kingdom, becomes a threatened area, and, while unabsorbed, efforts to bridge the interval caused by the divided coastline are the inevitable result, and Pan-German sea communications tend to be set up between the Black Sea and the Ægean, with the consequent suffocation of European Turkey and the ultimate command of the whole naval situation in the Levant.

This is the strategy in the German offensive which the Allies have had to meet, and it so happens that by the occupation of Salonika they have been able in one stroke to counter both enemy movements. Accompanied by the Italian occupation of Valona, they have, by their hold on the Ægean port, rendered impossible the lateral move upon Constantinople which was an element in the Pan-German scheme of envelopment; and though, in the Eastern area, Bulgaria still retains her two seaboard, her place on the Ægean can never be considered effective while the Allies occupy Salonika; for, so long as they are established there, Bulgaria's jaw is broken and she lacks the leverage, even though German muscle lay behind, to close upon Constantinople and the Straits.

In this connection the tragedy of Greece is seen to lie in the detachment from these remedial measures which the pro-German leanings of her King have brought about. For were she acting in co-operation with the Allies, the removal of Bulgaria's place on the Ægean would be accompanied by the substitution of a Greek seaboard in its stead. Their desire to avoid collision with Greece is therefore undiminished; for the political cure for Balkan ills, brought about by the German invasion, lies in the creation of a Magna Græcia which shall comprise the whole Ægean littoral that is not left in Turkish or does not come into Russian hands, and if the future of Greece rests with M. Venizelos her hopes and ambitions may yet be realised. In any case, the key to the situation lies in Salonika, and the fact that the Allies are retaining a firm hold on it is not only proof of the existence of a plan, but it is evidence of the existence of the right plan.—I am, etc.,

London, January 15, 1917.

DE FACTO.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Fisher Unwin announces "Turkey and the War," by M. Vladimir Jabotinsky, a Russian special correspondent who has an intimate knowledge of Turkey. The author, we are told, considers the destruction and partition of the Ottoman Empire as one of the principal aims of the war.

Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall and Co. are the publishers of "Venizelos and the War," by Mr. Crawford Price. The book is described as "a sketch of personalities and politics," and is published at 2s. net.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton will publish to-day the Lord Kitchener Memorial Book. The price of the book is 3s. 6d. net, and all profits from its sale will be given to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund. Amongst the contributors to the volume are Lord Derby, Sir William Robertson, General Cadorna, General Joffre, General Sir W. R. Birdwood, and Mr. Arthur Henderson. General Joffre declares that "Kitchener deserves to bear for posterity the name of Organiser of Victory"; General Cadorna, commenting on his sureness of judgment, says that he "uttered the first authoritative words which revealed to the world, by the mouth of a foreigner, the special difficulties of the struggle on the Isonzo front"; and Mr. Henderson writes on "Lord Kitchener and Labour." One of the distinguishing features of the book is a very full pictorial record of Lord Kitchener's life.

Mr. Humphry Milford will publish in this country, for the Princeton University Press, a second volume of materials for a historical geography of Western Asia, "Early Egyptian Records of Travel," containing some texts of the XVIIIth Dynasty.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A GLIMPSE OF MOHAMMED V.*

A wide circulation should be secured by "Indian Ink," which Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Co., of Calcutta, have again published for the benefit of the Imperial War Fund. Its editor has given the place of honour to Sir Valentine Chirol's account of an interview with the present titular Sultan of Turkey in the late autumn of 1908. "Reshad Effendi," as he was then styled, knew that the imperial purple would soon be his; for the Young Turks had announced their intention of deposing Abdul Hamid. But he felt his incapacity to occupy the thorny throne, and displayed a childlike naïveté in the interrogatories with which he plied Sir Valentine for several hours. He is described as—

an elderly gentleman of somewhat heavy build, clad in the usual Turkish Stamboulina, or long, close-fitting coat, buttoned up to the neck. His stooping shoulders and shuffling gait told of a life of enforced inactivity. His face was tired and worn, as of one who had been through evil times; and it was heavy in repose, though withal gentle and kindly, especially when lit up, as it frequently was, with a bright smile—a smile of the eyes as well as the lips. He had all the well-bred courtesy common to most Turkish gentlemen, with an added touch of almost childlike simplicity and sincerity.

This word-portrait confirms the impressions made on the present writer by a close inspection of Mohammed V. after he had girded on the Sword of Othman. His deeply-furrowed countenance, his pendulous lower lip and weary eyes, revealed the results of thirty years' captivity; nor did all the splendour of the Selamlık avail to arouse him from the torpor in which he was plunged.

Reshad Effendi told Sir Valentine Chirol that he had not conversed with an Englishman since the distant days when Sir Henry Layard was Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, and he detained his visitor until midnight. Profound ignorance of the world was the keynote of his conversation.

He knew little more than the names of the leading figures in Turkish political life, and the one question that he repeated in regard to every one who was mentioned was, "Is he a good man? Is he a straight man? Could I rely on him to tell me the truth? I have so much to learn!" Or again, when we talked of the European situation, and the heavy war-clouds which were then darkening the horizon after Austria-Hungary's lawless annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Allah, Allah, there is only one thing I want in my time—peace and quiet; peace and quiet. War is such a terrible thing, and I have suffered too much all my life. My unfortunate country, too, I am sure, wants peace, quiet and contentment." . . . I found myself in the strange position of having to deliver a sort of elementary lecture about the condition of Turkey and her relations with foreign countries to the man who, as one could easily foresee, was shortly to be her Sovereign ruler. He was full of curiosity about Germany, a Power almost unknown in Constantinople when he was a young man, and about the German Emperor who, to him above all, was the friend and ally of his dread brother Abdul Hamid, and the partner, as it were, of Abdul Hamid's tyranny. Towards the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress his feelings appeared to be compounded of gratitude and fear. He owed to them the ending of his rigorous seclusion; but he realized, I think, that this strange body of forceful men, so few of whom, he said, were apparently genuine Turks or good Mohammedans, were not likely to lead him into the path of peace and quiet which he himself yearned to tread.

The Sultan-Elect was very loath to part with his visitor, and met every suggestion that the hour was late by ordering another relay of refreshments. When at length Sir Valentine Chirol took leave he carried away a signed and dated photograph of—

perhaps the strangest and most pathetic figure of his day, and the melancholy conviction that never was anyone less fitted to ride the whirlwind than this kindly and well-meaning gentleman—a child in knowledge and experience of public affairs, but aged in body and in spirit even beyond his years by a lifetime of suffering and fear.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Journal of the Manchester, Egyptian and Oriental Society, 1915-1916. (Longmans, Green and Co., 5s net.)
The Retreat from Serbia, through Montenegro and Albania. By Olive M. Aldridge. (The Minerva Publishing Co.)

*"Indian Ink: Being Splashes from Various Pens in Aid of the Imperial Indian War Fund." Edited by Everard Digby. (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink, and Co. Price one rupee.)

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from
THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),
16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I notice that during a discussion on a paper read at the Classical Association, at Leeds, the other day "an Army officer in khaki" asked whether this country now felt justified in withholding from Greece the Elgin Marbles. He had recently been in Greece and had noted the action "even now being taken by the Greeks in the restoration of their ancient monuments." That may be as it may be, and no one disputes the fact that the Greeks are paying much more attention to their priceless possessions than they did in Lord Elgin's day. But in view of what is happening in Greece at the present day it would be difficult to imagine a more inopportune suggestion than that of the "Army officer in khaki." I am not concerned to defend the removal of the Marbles, although the precautionary measure may have been perfectly justified at the time; but I am confident that they are being kept where they are not from any *cacoethes habendi*, but from a desire to preserve them for the edification of the world as a whole. The events of December 1 and 2 in Athens, it cannot be overlooked, render a general *émende* quite possible, when the Acropolis might be sacked with as great avidity as M. Venizelos's house. That would please the American tourist whom I once heard say "Well, I guess if we had this place in America, we'd level it up a bit and plant it out as a tea-garden," but no one else. Meanwhile, we can get back to the Greek oracle:—

Μὴ κίνεῖς Καμάριναν, ἀκίνητός γὰρ ἀμείνων.

A friend has been reading Mr. John Buchan's "Greenmantle," and his opinion of the book makes me want to go and do likewise; for he describes it as one of the very best and most exciting adventure stories he has ever read—and he is no mean judge. Moreover, it deals largely with a part of the world that still holds a fascination for me, the Baghdad-Persian frontier district. And it was in connection with Baghdad that my friend spoke to me of the book. For, it seems, Mr. Buchan somewhere mentions "the sewers of Baghdad." Now in my time, I am prepared to affirm, the City of the Khalifs certainly had no sewers at all, and I am wondering whether the "Young Turks," who, as we know, are rather keen on the introduction of such things, really have constructed anything of the kind. I seem to remember some talk of such an innovation, but I cannot trust my memory; and I cannot tell my friend whether Mr. Buchan has "slipped up." Can any reader help me? In any case, I doubt whether the introduction of sewers would be an improvement for Baghdad. The old city got along passably well without them when I lived there; though, to be sure, their absence had its drawbacks. And I fancy that the provision of a really satisfactory system would be anything but an easy matter, for technical reasons which need not be enumerated here; to say nothing of the prejudices of the Baghdadis.

In connection with this subject, it is a strange thing that many Eastern cities do manage to rub along with such freedom from epidemics, in spite of the absence of "all the latest sanitary improvements." Kerbellah and Nejef, for example, are—or were—perfect death traps, from the sanitary expert's point of view. Their water supply was hopelessly polluted; and, when I visited them, the condition of the streets and of one or two of the Khans I entered was about as unhealthy as it well could be. Both places have, of course, been visited many times by cholera and other epidemics, and the number of victims claimed is always considerable. But the mortality is usually greatest among the pilgrims and other visitors, and the townspeople themselves, who live their lives out amidst conditions that would reduce any self-respecting sanitary inspector to despair, seem to be absolutely proof against microbes, bacilli, and all the other terrors of which the patent medicine advertisements tell us such nerve-destroying stories. It is, I presume, a case of the survival of the fittest. If an infant born in Nejef or Kerbellah can stand the water of his native place, he is proof against any lesser danger!

Here is a heart-wail from the *Basrah Times*. It is a letter to the editor, dated November 23, and signed "S. S."—

Dear Mr. Editor,—I wish to cast no unworthy aspersions on a very useful Department, but history records it that an officer entered the presence of a Postal Official and said that he had come to make a complaint.

According to ancient custom he was handed paper and pencil, but he preferred to state what he had come to say; whereupon he complained that he had received no letters for over fifteen days at least. The Postal Official, looking upon him with benign scorn, said: "Probably nobody has written to you." "That's possible," replied the forlorn one, "but I've been

writing to myself," and, with a look of abject hopelessness, he left the office.—*Sic est Vita Mesopotamice.*

This looks like a deserving case for the attention of one of those young ladies who delight in writing letters to "Lonely Soldiers." But, alas! such charitable efforts have, I believe, been banned by the authorities.

I was pleased to read in last Saturday's *Times* that "a sharp drop in the price of eggs in the London market has been caused by the arrival of exceptionally heavy consignments from Egypt, America, and Canada." For I like my breakfast egg, and, indeed, am rather partial to eggs in any form—poached, boiled, fried, scrambled, curried, or in an omelette, an egg flip, or a custard; but lately, not being a millionaire, I have had to "go easy" on them. Now, however, I hope to indulge in an orgy; for, according to *The Times*, "on the whole, the prospects are that good new-laid eggs will be obtainable at from 2½d. to 3d. each, and cooking eggs at from 1½d. to 2d. each." The price of the "election egg" is not stated; but that is, after all, a matter of interest only to gentlemen who are anxious to earn £400 a year by the exercise of their vocal chords and their wits. What does interest me is the statement that "the Egyptian egg is small, but contains a very large yolk, and is excellent for cooking purposes." This bears out my own recollection of the youthful Nile Valley fowl, and makes my mouth water.

It is, by the way, a strange thing that eggs from the Near East usually are small. The Roumanian egg is tiny—almost as tiny as some that have been fetching as much as 4½d. in this country of late—I fancy, by the way, I must lately have come across some Roumanian eggs imported before (long before) the war. But that is another story, as Mr. Kipling says!—The eggs I used to buy in Egypt, when camping on the edge of the desert, were notably small, too; so were those I got in Baghdad and throughout Asiatic Turkey as a rule. But, then, so was the price. I remember that at Karieatain, in the Syrian Desert, we bought seventy-two eggs for the equivalent of 1s. 1½d.; and, of course, we were paying top prices, being "Franks," and therefore wealthy! But three of us managed to dispose of the six dozen between us at two sittings—a supper and a breakfast—and never felt any ill-effects. Perhaps the Egyptian eggs referred to by *The Times* are of the same diminutive size as those products of the oasis village. But even so they will be welcome, if only they are "good" and "new laid."

CORSAIR.

On Sunday the Greek colony in Paris assembled at the Greek Church for a "Te Deum" in honour of M. Venizelos. A Royalist had paid some twenty persons to attempt to create a counter-demonstration, but as fifteen of these were Venizelists the attempt proved abortive.

In a letter to the Rev. Harold Buxton, Hon. Sec. of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, the Archbishop of Canterbury writes:—"In view of the appalling sufferings which the Armenian and the Assyrian Christians are still enduring in such a degree as to call for the sympathy and aid of every Christian man and woman, I desire to express my approval of the renewal, during the coming spring, of the effort which was made last year to raise money in our churches and elsewhere for the alleviation of that dire distress. In many churches arrangements are already being made for collections on their behalf on Sunday, February 4, and I venture to hope on that or one of the succeeding Sundays there may be a widespread effort to alleviate distresses which are literally unspeakable. The money should be sent to the Secretary of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, 96, Victoria Street, London, S.W."

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE,
HULL.

**IMPORTERS of EASTERN and
MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCE.**

**SPECIALITIES: All Kinds of TANNING
MATERIALS & FEEDING STUFFS.**

Make Offers and send Samples.

EXPORTERS of U.K. MERCHANDISE.

CABLEGRAMS: KUYPERS, HULL.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style).	Julian. (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. Jan. 19	1917. Jan. 7	Friday	1335. Reb. I. 25	5677. Teb. 25
20	8	Saturday	26	26
21	9	Sunday	27	27
22	10	Monday	28	28
23	11	Tuesday	29	29
24	12	Wednesday ..	30 Reb. II.	Sebat. 1
25	13	Thursday	1	2

Monday is the birthday of Prince Nicholas of Greece, second brother of King Constantine, who was born at Athens on January 9, 1872 (o.s.).

Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Militza of Montenegro, the wife of the Crown Prince Danilo, who was born in 1880. Before her marriage the Princess was the Duchess of Mecklenburg.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, of the Roumanian Legation, has left London for the Continent.

Mrs. Austen Chamberlain, wife of the Secretary of State for India, gave birth to a son on Friday last at 9, Egerton Place. Mr. and Mrs. Austen Chamberlain have now two sons and a daughter; their eldest son Joseph was born in 1907.

Mrs. Buxton, wife of Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., gave birth to a son on Saturday at 12, Rutland Gate.

M. Denys Cochin, French Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has renounced the citizenship of Athens—which was conferred upon him last year—as a protest against the Athens Municipality having deprived M. Venizelos of his citizenship.

Madame Také Jonescu, the wife of M. Také Jonescu, formerly Roumanian Minister of the Interior, was much better on Sunday, and was able to see a few friends. She has since continued to make very satisfactory progress.

Mr. Balfour received M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, at the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

In the absence of Lord Cromer, who was confined to his house by illness, Lord Justice Pickford presided at a further meeting of the Dardanelles Commission at the House of Commons on the 12th inst.

General Sir John Maxwell was called as a witness before the Dardanelles Commission on Wednesday.

Sir Reginald Wingate has accepted the presidency of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John in Egypt, and Lady Wingate has consented to become the Patroness of the Joint Societies.

Bishop Gwynne of Khartoum, the Deputy Chaplain-General, who has just been awarded the C.M.G., has been twice mentioned in despatches during the present war. The Bishop has had a long experience of military work, having been Chaplain to the Forces at Khartoum before he was consecrated Bishop. It is impossible yet to give any details of his work in France, but those who know about it speak in no uncertain terms of all he has done

out there. The Bishop's great gifts of organisation, and his manner of dealing with men, have been as strikingly demonstrated in France as they were in the Sudan. To the Army in France his appointment as Deputy Chaplain-General gave the most unqualified satisfaction.

Mr. K. L. Reynolds, formerly headmaster of St. George's Boys' School at Jerusalem, is now working at an Armenian refugees' camp in Egypt.

Nurse M. O'Neill, who was well known in Constantinople, and who since the outbreak of war with Turkey has been carrying on her work in Athens, has now arrived in this country, and her friends will be glad to know that she will for the present exercise her profession here. Her addresses are:—The Nurses' Hostel, Francis Street, Tottenham Court Road; and c/o Mrs. Evans, Stoke-sub-Ham, Somerset.

A Greek military mission from Salonika, headed by General Lapathiotis, arrived in Cairo on Thursday of last week for the purpose of organising volunteers. General Lapathiotis called upon General Sir Reginald Wingate and General Sir Archibald Murray.

The following Army Order was published at Khartoum on December 24:—"Upon the retirement from the Egyptian Army of El Lewa W.S.R. May Pasha, the Sirdar wishes to record his appreciation of the excellent services rendered by this officer whilst employed in the Egyptian Army for a period of 17 years. El Lewa May Pasha held the important post of Assistant Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, for 15 years, and he carried out his arduous duties with marked ability and success. On behalf of all ranks, the Sirdar wishes El Lewa May Pasha every good fortune in his future career."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Under date of January 11, Reuter's Salonika correspondent reports:—M. de Billy and Lord Granville, respectively the French and British Diplomatic Agents accredited to the Greek Provisional Government, have arrived, and the former has already visited M. Venizelos. The arrival of the diplomatic representatives is hailed with much satisfaction among the Greeks adhering to the National Movement.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to appoint Mr. George Russell Clerk, C.B., C.M.G., to be an Acting Counsellor of Embassy in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service. Mr. Clerk, who was born in 1874, entered the Service in 1898, and was appointed an Acting Third Secretary in 1901. Among the appointments he has held is that of Assistant in the Agency at Adis Abeba (1903-1907), and of Acting First Secretary at Constantinople (1910-1912). He was granted an allowance for knowledge of Amharic in 1905, and another for knowledge of Turkish in 1911, and was made a C.M.G. in 1908 and a C.B. in 1915.

The *Gazette* also announces the appointment of Mr. Claromont Percival Skrine as H.M.'s Vice-Consul at Kerman.

M. Radovitch, the Montenegrin Prime Minister, has tendered his resignation to King Nicholas.

Mr. Albert Phillips, for many years Greek Consul in Birmingham, recently resigned on account of disagreement with the policy of the King of Greece. He has, says the *Jewish Chronicle*, received a letter from M. Blitry, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Greek National Government, asking him to become the representative of that Government in Birmingham, and has decided to comply with the request.

The King has approved of the appointment of Mr. Addison E. Southard as U.S. Consul at Aden, and Mr. Antonio Cassar Torregiani as Peruvian Consul at Malta.

The Salonika Press Bureau announces the appointment of Mr. Sachtouris as Diplomatic Agent in Egypt and Consul in Alexandria for the Provisional Government.

The *Sudan Times* reports the following appointments and transfers:

Kaimakam H. J. Huddleston Bey, M.C., Officer Commanding Camel Corps, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi R. F. White has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam whilst commanding the Equatorial Battalion.

Mr. E. J. S. Hall, Sudan Civil Service, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

The following British officers have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted as follows:—

Captain Vere H. Fergusson, Scottish Rifles, to the Equatorial Battalion.

Captain Arthur W. D. Bentinck, Coldstream Guards, to the 9th Sudanese.

Captain Robert A. Colville, Cameron Highlanders, to the Sobat-Pibor District.

Major J. Stevenson-Hamilton, Reserve of Officers (6th Dragoons), has been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Lieutenant J. D. Mathews, Royal Artillery, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to Artillery for duty.

Kaimakam D. C. Percy Smith Bey, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Equatorial Battalion, has been transferred to be Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, vice Kaimakam C. A. Barker Bey.

Mr. Doherty, Superintendent of Police at Omdurman, has been appointed Commandant of Police, Red Sea Province. The *Sudan Times* states that it is probable that he will be succeeded in Omdurman by Mr. Martin, Assistant Commandant of the Khartoum Province Police.

OBITUARY.

DR. JOHN CROPPER.

Dr. Cropper (Temporary Lieutenant, R.A.M.C.), who was drowned in the sinking of the hospital ship *Britannic*, was well known to many readers of *THE NEAR EAST*, as, although his home was in England, he paid many prolonged visits to Palestine, as well as to Persia and Uganda. For some four years (1895-1899) he worked in the Church Missionary Society, in charge of their medical work in Acre, Palestine, but later he left their regular service and went to the Near East as a volunteer helper for the Church Missionary Society.

He suffered all his life with "hay fever" when in England, and used to escape this troublesome complaint by going abroad every summer. Dr. Cropper was a man of many accomplishments, breezy enthusiasm, and various hobbies. His latest hobby always seemed to absorb his whole thoughts, and many of his friends will recall his energetic way of expatiating upon the newest subject of his own pre-occupation of thought and work. He did useful work in ophthalmic surgery and in the investigation of malaria in Palestine, and published a number of interesting papers on medical subjects.

He was educated at Charterhouse, at Trinity College, Cambridge, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and held the degrees of M.A., M.D., B.C. He was also J.P. for Monmouthshire, his home being at Mount Ballan, Chepstow. He was fifty-two years of age, and leaves a widow and three children.

Before joining the R.A.M.C. he worked for some months as assistant surgeon to the Red Cross in France.

Brigadier-General Lord Binning, elder son and heir of the Earl of Haddington, died last Friday at his father's East Lothian seat. Lord Binning, who was born on December 24, 1856, was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and joined the Royal Horse Guards in 1880. He served in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, and was present at the battles of Tel-el-Kebir and Kassassin, and the taking of Cairo, for which he re-

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C., OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East, and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs.

Intending Students are invited to apply at once to the undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

ceived the medal with clasp and the bronze star. He also took part in the Nile Expedition (two clasps) and the Hazara Campaign, receiving the medal with clasp and being mentioned in despatches. He commanded the Royal Horse Guards from 1899 to 1903, and retired from the Army in 1907. In 1888-89 he was A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India. He was created a member of the Royal Victorian Order in 1902, and a Companion of the Bath (Military Division) two years later. He married, in 1892, Katherine Augusta Millcent, daughter of Mr. William Severin Salting, and leaves two sons and a daughter. The elder son is the Hon. George Baillie-Hamilton, who was born in 1894, and is a lieutenant of Dragoons.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, on Tuesday afternoon, the hour at which the funeral took place at Tynningham.

The death has occurred at Bath of Major J. Llewellyn Evans at the age of ninety-four. He was in the Indian Army on the Bombay Staff Corps, and served in the Mutiny and the Persian Gulf Expedition. He was Acting Quartermaster-General when his health failed, and he retired in 1860.

Major Alan Gordon McNeill, M.C., Royal Engineers, has died of wounds received on the Western Front on January 10. He was thirty-two years of age, and the fifth son of the late John McNeill, of Great Western Terrace, Glasgow. He passed out of Woolwich into the Royal Engineers in July, 1903, and had promotion in April, 1906; he received his captaincy in July, 1914, and was given the rank of major in November, 1915. Major McNeill was employed with the Egyptian Army from February, 1913, until the outbreak of war. He had served with distinction in the war, and his name was in the Birthday Honours List of last June among the awards of the Military Cross.

Captain C. C. B. Ward, North Staffs Regiment, died of wounds on January 11, aged twenty-five. Captain Ward was for some years resident in Smyrna and in Patras. At the outbreak of the War he was in the H.A.C. and became second lieutenant in the East Yorkshire Regiment in November, 1914. He went to Suva Bay in September, 1915, being attached to the North Stafford Regiment, and remained there until the evacuation, being also present at the evacuation of Cape Helles. Proceeding to another front he was wounded in April, and on December 19 he received the wounds of which he died. He was educated at St. Paul's School, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Ward, of Chiswick.

The death, on service, is announced of Captain Henry Thomas Richard Somerset Wright, Manchester Regiment, attached Egyptian Army. He obtained his commission in 1903, when he was nineteen years old, was promoted in 1907, and in June, 1914, was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army. In December of the same year he was promoted Captain.

In a letter dated December 20, a Cyprus correspondent writes:—The death in action on the Somme is announced of Second Lieutenant Alfred Sherwood Cleveland, of the Sherwood Foresters, eldest son of Dr. R. A. Cleveland, Member of the Legislative Council, and Chief Medical Officer, Cyprus. The deceased officer was born at Nicosia, Cyprus, on December 6, 1897, and was educated at St. Paul's School, Nicosia, Stubbington House, Fareham, and Epsom College. He entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in 1914, and was gazetted to his regiment the following year. Proceeding to the Western Front in France on September 1, 1916, he was wounded in a front line trench on October 16, 1916, and died the same day.

Sergeant John Smith Parkinson, a survivor of the Balaklava Charge, died last Friday in his eighty-fourth year. He enlisted in the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own). For nearly two years he was engaged in the Crimea, and was present at the Battle of Alma, in the Charge of the "Six Hundred" at Balaklava, at the Battle of Inkerman, and in the siege of Sebastopol.

EGYPTIAN ACCESSION HONOURS.

On the occasion of the anniversary of his accession, the Sultan of Egypt has conferred the following honours:—

ORDER OF THE NILE, SECOND CLASS.

Ismail Hassanein Pasha, Under-Secretary for Education; Mohamed Shukri Pasha, Under-Secretary for Justice; Gaafar Wali Pasha, Under-Secretary for the Interior; Sir George Macauley, Under-Secretary for Railways and Telegraphs; Mr. John Langley, Under-Secretary for Agriculture; Lieut.-Col. Blakeney, Deputy General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, N.T.; Borton Pasha, Postmaster-General; Lewa Hopkinson Pasha, Commandant of the Alexandria City Police; Mr. H. W. Halton, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal; Ahmed Talaat Pasha, Procureur-General to the Native Tribunals; Mr. Molesworth, Public Works Ministry; Dr. Comanos Pasha, the well-known Cairo practitioner; and Mr. R. Abdy, of Alexandria.

ORDER OF THE NILE, THIRD CLASS.

Mr. W. A. E. Coxon, inspector of mines; Mr. W. B. Trelawney, director of the Government Press; Mr. R. V. Wild, sub-director of direct taxes; Mr. C. Barton, sub-director Comptabilité Générale; Mr. W. Swainson, inspector; Mr. J. Monteith Furness, director of the Khedivial School; Dr. R. G. Kirton, chief medical officer, Prisons Department; Mr. W. H. McLean, chief municipal engineer; Dr. MacCarthy Morrogh, Public Hygiene; Mr. F. P. Walton, director of the Sultanieh School; Mr. W. Ross Taylor, substitute of the Sultanieh Council; Mr. G. Darussy, Secretary-General of Antiquities; and Mr. Ernest Shearer, School of Agriculture, Gizeh.

ORDER OF THE NILE, FOURTH CLASS.

Mr. A. J. Bell, foreman in the Locomotive Department; Mr. S. C. Foster, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. J. W. Macaldan, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. James Addie, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. E. H. W. Callendar, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. A. Holden, Ministry of Finance; A. Wood Bey, Ministry of Finance; Kaimakam Royle Bey, Coast Guards; Kaimakam Dowson Bey, Coast Guards; Kaimakam Peacock Bey, Ports and Lights; Kaimakam Trelawney Bey, Port Officer of Port Said; Mr. J. J. Jelf, Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Mr. W. B. Shearer, Polytechnic School; Mr. T. A. Chinn, Sultanieh School; Mr. J. F. Burrill, Abbassieh School; Mr. J. B. Peacock, Tewfikieh School; Mr. A. Miller, Veterinary Service; Mr. N. D. MacNaghten, Ministry of the Interior; Mr. R. Wellesley, Ministry of the Interior; Mr. Monfront, parks and plantations; Dr. D. C. Haywood, Public Hygiene; Dr. Cannoni, Quarantine Board; Kaimakam Randall Bey, Cairo City Police; Bimbashi F. H. Teall, Cairo City Police; Bimbashi C. A. Furness, inspector of police; Sagh. John Philip, Cairo City Police; Sagh. W. L. Muir, Alexandria City Police; Sagh. E. T. Waller, captain of the Alexandria Fire Brigade; Mr. F. Hughes, Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. A. T. B. Carter, Irrigation Service; Mr. J. Hindmarch, Irrigation Service; Mr. M. Slater, Public Works Department; Mr. G. Legrain, Service of Antiquities; Mr. G. Wingfield, Public Works Department; Mr. A. W. Wylie, Gharbieh Drainage Service; Mr. R. C. Moser, Highways and Byways; Mr. H. Knox Shaw, Physical Service; Mr. L. C. Hayward, Public Works Department.

ORDER OF THE NILE, FIFTH CLASS.

Mr. R. W. Clethers, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. F. Henning, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. A. Boudon, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. J. Cruickshank, Egyptian State Railways; Bimbashi D. R. Tweedie, Coast Guards; Mr. W. K. Marr, Irrigation Service; Mr. F. Gordon, Irrigation Service; Mr. D. Mackenzie, Tanzim.

THE RANK OF BEY, SECOND CLASS.

F. Williams Bey, Egyptian State Railways; F. Woods Bey, Egyptian State Railways.

On Sunday, the Orthodox New Year's Day, a *Te Deum* was sung at the Greek Church, Bayswater, for the success of the Greek National Triumvirate—M. Venizelos, Admiral Condouriotis, and General Danglis. The Archimandrite officiated at the service, which was held at the request of the Greek, Russian, Rumanian, and Serbian colonies in Paris and London. Among the large congregation were M. Gennadius and M. Stavridis.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BUXTON.—On January 12, at 12, Rutland Gate, S.W., the wife of Noel Buxton, M.P., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

CAMPBELL—DEVONSHIRE.—On January 9, at Cairo, Egypt, Evan Roland Campbell, Lieutenant Royal Sussex Regiment, youngest son of W. Middleton Campbell, of Colgrain, Dumbartonshire, and Fen Place, Sussex, to Antoinette Priscilla Vulliamy, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Devonshire, of Maadi, Cairo.

DEATHS.

KELLY.—On January 9, at 96, Fellows Road, N.W., after a very brief illness, Lilius, wife of R. Talbot Kelly, R.I. Funeral at the Crematorium, Golder's Green, on Friday, the 12th, at twelve o'clock.

LOGIE.—On January 12, at 17, Station Road, Cambridge, Louisa, daughter of the late John Littledale (of Dublin), and widow of Donald Logie, formerly Consul-General and Judge of the Supreme Court of Constantinople, in her eighty-sixth year.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.),
Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.55; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1917.

CONSTANTINOPLE AND AFTER.

The destinies of the Near East are too closely linked with the understanding between Great Britain and Russia to allow the death of the Russian Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, who played so prominent a part in bringing about that understanding, to be passed over in silence in these pages. Three years after Count Benckendorff came to London the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 was signed. It marked the tentative efforts of the two countries to overcome mutual suspicion and mistrust. Thanks to the personality of Count Benckendorff and the devotion of Viscount Grey to the cause of universal peace, the Convention, halting and inadequate in itself as it was, prepared the way for a steady improvement in the relations between Great Britain and Russia, until the Entente ripened into the Alliance of 1914, with, as we believe, such profound effects in store for Europe and Asia. Left to itself, the Agreement of 1907, which achieved so little for the country that seemed to offer the best *milieu* for an Anglo-Russian *rapprochement*, might indeed have been provocative of fresh misunderstanding; but the loyalty of the two protagonists in London to the cause of closer co-operation triumphed over all obstacles. The crowning touch to Count Benckendorff's work came in the Pact of London, at once a pledge and earnest of the stability of the Alliance, which has since shown itself proof against all the disintegrating influences of a long struggle. His efforts, it is true, would have availed little if they had not been supported by the Russian Government at home; but in the light of all that has happened during the last two or three years, the British public will readily acknowledge the advantage derived from having in this country an Ambassador whose genuine wholeheartedness for the promotion of Anglo-Russian friendship must have been a formidable obstacle to German influences in Russia. Before he died Count Benckendorff had the satisfaction of seeing the seal placed on that friendship in the way that, above all others, would convince his own countrymen of the wisdom of the policy for which he stood. The Tsar could justly say in a Rescript to his Ambassador that, in devoting all his efforts to the continuation and development of friendly relations between Russia and the United Kingdom, he had manifested a true understanding of the interests of Russia. But the Russian people, being better able to judge achievements than tendencies, are now in a position to realize the concrete advantages of the Anglo-Russian friendship, and, when Constantinople is theirs, will not forget, we will hope, the names of those who brought them within reach of their goal.

The death of Count Benckendorff is the greater loss because, at a time when the internal situation in Russia is so difficult to understand, it is the more essential that Great Britain should be able to rely upon one whose judgment and policy had been proved long enough to inspire implicit confidence. One point only emerges from the bewildering sequence of changes in the Russian Government, and that is the firm resolve of the nation to carry on the war to its appointed end of victory. For the rest, we seem to be in the presence of a gulf between the Government and the people which is almost incredible in the presentation of it that

reaches this country, in view of the common determination to win the war. Two months ago, in the Duma, it was said of the Government of the day that, while the whole Russian people was united and ready for any sacrifice which would bring victory, it had lost faith in the ability of the existing authorities to achieve that victory, "the more so as all the men who had deserved the nation's confidence were systematically dismissed from the Cabinet." It would be expected that the changes in the Government, consequent on this bold speech, would lead to the instalment of those leaders who were trusted by the people; but Prime Minister has followed Prime Minister, and still there seems to be no assurance that the reactionary régime is at an end. To Russia's Allies, it may be thought, it matters little through what stages her domestic politics pass so long as the Alliance holds good and the will to victory is there. In the main this is so, and there is no suggestion of the least uneasiness. But the experience of every country teaches it that its best effort is only possible when Government and people are at one in their concentration upon the war, and it is evident that Russia's contribution to the joint cause, tremendous as it has been in the past, will be still more effective when all domestic misunderstandings have been cleared away.

Great Britain's understanding with Russia, it is to be hoped, will not be restricted to the situation immediately connected with this war. In 1907, as we have seen, very cautious steps were taken towards establishing a community of purpose where all was conflict before. The war has brought about a truer appreciation of the real interests of the two Powers, while strengthening the bonds of sympathy between them. If the new understanding is to be put to the wisest use, we shall see a careful and skilfully directed attempt made to extend its influence beyond the confines of the Balkans and Persia. A correspondent in *The Times* dwells upon the possibility that a transcontinental Empire from Antwerp to Shanghai will be Germany's reply to the decisions of the Paris Conference. The occupation of Constantinople by Russia, the restriction of Turkey to Asia Minor, and a change in the ownership of the Baghdad Railway ought effectually to prevent the realization of such a scheme. But the warning should not pass unheeded. It serves to remind us that Anglo-Russian interests march from the North Sea or Baltic to the Pacific, and that, unless the peace imposed by the Allies on the Central Powers eliminates for many years to come the feverish striving of Germany after world-dominion, we must expect her insidious efforts to be directed against any country in which she has not been definitely forestalled. The restoration of the balance of power in the Baltic in Russia's favour will come within the scope of peace terms, and can be effected in different ways, which it is not necessary to specify here. In the Balkans the settlement which can now be decided upon without reference to the Central Powers must pay far more attention to elements of permanency than to past or present prejudices. But it is in Asia as a whole that the chapter which begins with Constantinople can find its most fitting end. Germany, we may feel confident, will be ready to fish wherever the waters are troubled. The best protection that the Allies can have will be to remove as far as can be done all possibility of future misunderstanding. In the Middle East and the Far East there is scope for clear-cut arrangements which will be to the advantage of all concerned. Japan as the ally of both Russia and Great Britain here enters the picture, and we can conceive no greater deterrent to German intrigue than to be confronted with a complete understanding between these three Powers. Preliminary work to this end may be begun now, although it can only be brought to fruition after the war. The programme before the Russian and British Governments is thus a heavy one, and will call for long-sightedness, driving power, and the closest sympathy. If, as seems possible, Count Benckendorff's place is taken by M. Sazonoff, then on the foundation the former helped to lay we may look forward to the rapid construction of the complete edifice.

THE BALKANS.

By H. M. Wallis.

III.—THE BREAK-UP OF THE WINTER.

By the end of February one has grown used to winter and begun to enjoy thoroughly the white expanses of snow marked by the feet of hare, and, occasionally, in covert, with the broad, five-toed seal of badger, and the narrower pad of fox. The winter birds, few and hungry, are still with us; most seem birds of prey—short-eared owl, buzzard, and harrier, constantly on the make for a meal. Of course, farm work is at a standstill, but the hard-beaten roads, roughened with foul old snow, are in constant use. Village produce is moved into town, cotton taken down from the uplands to the ginning mills, timber drawn, and so forth—chiefly women's work, the women marching lightly ahead of the trudging oxen, crocheting as they walk, always busy.

Then one day there is a smell of rain in the air, and within a few hours the drains are running full, and the bigger culverts, built to accommodate the spring floods, are pouring down to the flooding rivers. The snow holds out wonderfully; there is a lot of it, and it takes a deal of melting; but it goes at last, piece-meal. The ground beneath is still too hard for the share, however. The bare, brown mountain sides show golden in patches with crocus. There are acres of ground near the Black Sea covered with the purple sprouts of peony, a fine blood-red flower with a great yellow tassel in its centre, single, of course, and scented.

Then come the first of the spring birds, new sorts of lark, two sorts of starling, ours and the unspotted purple Sardinian starling. Outside the shore-ice on the Danube fleets of swan are sailing, and a little later flamingo and pelican arrive, also crane. It is a strange sight to behold from the train, as it crawls across the Karnabat Plains at daybreak, a vast flock of crane, tall, bluey birds, just alighted from their night's journey, and dog tired, so weary that they will hardly take wing, but walk out of the way of the engine, lifting and floating for a few yards, and pitching again in ranks.

"In a week we will get the ploughs to work," say the women, "but the ground is still too wet." By mid-March they are at it tentatively, hardly daring to tackle the land with a bone in it yet. Afar, across the enormous levels between the Rhodope and the Balkans, where the eye travels on from one line of ancient tumuli to another—one has counted seventeen great grave mounds from a single point of view, and some were very lofty and distant—one sees the little pair-ox ploughs going, each with its driver between the stilts, and one in three of them is a woman, discernible from a mile or more by the glint of her scarlet apron. No Bulgar will wear colour.

More migrants arrive, wheatear and stonechat, swallow and stork, and the small, red-backed kestrel, which builds behind the wooden shutters of houses in Adrianople.

Presently the snow has entirely withered away on the level, and out come the tortoise and small green frogs from their underground hibernations. By the beginning of April the wonders of a southern spring are in operation along the sides of the south-flowing Maritza, and it is growing warm at Salonika. But up at Sofia, and still more so in Upper Serbia, there may be returns of hard weather and heavyish falls

of belated snow. The little ring-necked turtle-doves, parasitic all over the East, are back in flocks in every garden, but among the mountains the first cuckoo flits north across desolate snowfields, and the purple ibis finds no open swamp, and probes the snow with his long, curlew-like bill.

It is treacherous going, even if one is convoyed by a native. The mud exposed by the melting snow is worse than anything I have ever encountered elsewhere. It was a disconcerting experience to slip up on greasy yellow brick-earth and find it impossible to arise without help; for hands went in to the elbow, and feet over the boots. Lose the track and your carriage sticks, no encouragement will get a move upon the horses.

But by the end of April the winter is over everywhere except among the Rilo glens, and as Rilo is ten thousand feet high, one must concede him leave to have a weather of his own.

Here, then, you have the climate of the Balkan region, the conditions of a continental area, wholly unlike our home weather, and worthy of study and respect. The summer heat will be found as hot as Lombardy; the winter cold as deadly as the frosts of Southern Russia; communications few and evil, fuel scarce and local; the population stubborn and proud, as becomes a nation of small freeholders. They were kind to me, and it is hard to believe that it was necessary for us to be killing them, or they us. Between four and five months I dwelt and travelled among them, an unarmed stranger, and was always civilly and frequently kindly treated, and never defrauded of a sixpence. Whether in a big hotel, a little public, or a rough rest-house beside the rails, one could always, by night or by day, feel as safe as in one's bed in England, and as little call to lock the door! One incident and I have done. Shortage of trucks compelled me on one occasion to leave nearly one thousand sacks of flour beside the railway track in a wildish country. Some were laid on sleepers and sheeted, some put into an open-ended shed, some in a neighbouring public-house. It was rained on, covered in by snow, exposed for ten weeks to the vicissitudes of the winter, and to the tender mercies of passing troop-trains of hungry soldiers, and the needs of a neighbouring village—since burnt—of two thousand souls. But when at last I re-sold my convoy, it tallied out to the last sack, and I was paid in full. But these were Bulgarians, who, I am told, are dishonest, treacherous, and generally outside the pale of pity.

"THE TURANIAN CONQUEROR."

Addressing a meeting of the Victoria Working Men's Club at Kew on Wednesday evening, Colonel Sir Mark Sykes said that the keystone of the German arch lay in the maintenance of communication between Berlin and Constantinople. This was the first step towards the realization of the great Berlin to Baghdad ambition. The next steps which animated the German ideal were—Berlin to Calcutta and Berlin to the Cape by land. This lust for power was based on the immorality of Prussian policy. Prussia inspired a curious kind of enthusiasm into that mass which was by insidious processes driven into the position of enthusiastic slaves. To the Prussian came by natural attraction the Hungarian and the Turk—the two races which believed in dominion by violence. The Turk, who in the last ten years had thrown back to the primitive Turanian Conqueror, was not content with dominating, but was now engaged in exterminating the Armenian, the Syrian Christian, and the Arabs, and was even now beginning to bully the Jews. The Turk had overthrown Islam as Prussia had overthrown Christianity. Prussia had replaced God by Thor and the Cross by his hammer. The Turk had replaced Mohammed by Oghuz and Allah by the "White Wolf" of the primitive Turks. No belief was to be placed in that cloak of chivalry under which in exceptional cases the Turk tried to hide his abominable acts. He might treat General Townshend well; but how was he treating the thousands of Indians and Englishmen in his hands? If it were possible that the Teuton-Turanian federation of violence could win this war it would be twenty generations before mankind regained its liberty.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

GREAT AGE
AND
BOUQUET.



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Exodus from Bucharest.

On Tuesday *The Times* published a moving account of "The Flight from Bucharest," by its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula. In spite of the German advance, and many aeroplane attacks, public tranquillity remained undisturbed, says the writer, "and when on November 4 the authorities received the news that the enemy had crossed the Danube, had established himself at Zimniza, and was advancing on Rosiori, some six hours' journey by rail from the capital, no intimation of these serious tidings was conveyed to the population. As a consequence, the train conveying the Diplomatic Corps and a certain number of invited and uninvited persons took its departure in comparative quiet, although the station was already densely crowded with refugees." But when the departure of the diplomatists became known a state of panic ensued, which was increased by the arrival of some military officers, who promptly took measures for the removal of their families.—

A *saute qui peut* followed, and violent scenes occurred at the railway station, the doors of which were guarded by cordons of soldiers. Revolvers were discharged at the troops, who were ordered to charge with fixed bayonets; the number of the casualties has not been revealed.

Fabulous prices were paid for country carts and other vehicles by those who despaired of reaching the trains, but the bulk of the refugees set out on foot, carrying with them a portion of their *penates*; many were compelled by fatigue to abandon their burdens, and the main roads leading east and north were strewn with objects which had been dropped or thrown away. The greater portion of the British colony were enabled to leave, thanks to the efforts of the Rev. Mr. Cullis, the British chaplain, who, though remaining himself at his post, induced the Government to facilitate their departure.

A friend who contrived to reach Ploesti in a peasant's cart, for which he paid £10, came thence to Jassy by train. Another arrived here in a train composed of sixty carriages which was only partially fitted with the Westinghouse brake; on a sudden stop being made the brakeless portion of the train "telescoped," and several persons were killed or injured. Another train derailed three times on the journey.

Roumania—and Beyond.

Writing on "The Great War," in the *Saturday Review* (January 13), Brigadier-General F. G. Stone expresses the opinion that "Germany has the strongest political reasons for pressing on to complete the conquest of the rest of Moldavia."

Her military occupation of the whole of Roumania in so short a time—in the event of successfully crossing the Sereth and conquering the whole of Eastern Moldavia—would be a dramatic reply to the Entente rejection of her insolent peace proposals. We may reasonably assume that the complete conquest of Roumania will, therefore, take precedence of all other interests in any other theatre of operations, and that nothing will be allowed to deflect one iota of the military energies of the Central Powers from this objective until it is accomplished in its entirety; in the meantime no help can be given to the Bulgarians in Serbia and Greece.

The Central Powers will, however, by no means have a walk-over in Northern Moldavia, says the writer; and more recent events show that his prophecy is likely to prove a correct one. He continues:—

The offensive against Roumania was, undoubtedly, in the first instance, an economic offensive from which great material results were anticipated; these anticipations have scarcely been realised up till now, partly owing to the prompt measures which were taken to destroy the whole machinery of the oil fields, and to remove supplies and ammunition into the interior of Moldavia; and partly owing to the fact that the anticipations were unduly sanguine—for, while it is true that every cultivator produced more than was necessary for his own requirements, and that after providing for export there was still more than a sufficiency to keep 7,000,000 of people in comfort, it is evident, nevertheless, that what constitutes a huge surplus for 7,000,000 people does not go very far when it has to be divided between 140,000,000.

After discussing the possibility of an invasion of Bessarabia, and describing the geographical features of that region, General Stone concludes a most interesting article as follows:—

The chief outstanding factor in Germany's grandiose scheme is the attitude of Austria-Hungary; signs are not lacking to show that the economic condition of the Dual Monarchy is so serious that it may at any time begin to exercise an influence on the operations in the field; there is also another feature in the Austro-Hungarian attitude, which is rapidly becoming more significant, and that is the apparent determination of the Emperor not to allow his country to become absorbed in the German Empire: if it is indeed the case that he has a clear vision of what the realisation of the Kaiser's pan-German scheme of an empire stretching from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf will mean for Austria-

Hungary; if he fully grasps the fact that any Austro-Hungarian ideals, rights, ambitions, or sentiments which are inconsistent with the fructification of the Kaiser's plans will be ruthlessly swept aside or put out of the way by methods known to German diplomacy, then indeed it may be expected that if the prosecution of the war into Bessarabia in furtherance of the North Sea to the Persian Gulf policy involves greater sacrifices from Austria-Hungary than the Dual Monarchy can conveniently bear, the Emperor will make it perfectly plain to the Kaiser that the consolidation of the Austrian position in regard to Serbia is of more interest to him than the capture of Odessa. In this case Falkenhayn's army might not be long in coming to King Constantine's aid, and—well, we should know where we are as regards Greece!

An Ambitious Scheme.

In an article entitled "Germany's Eastern Lure," the *Nation* (January 13) takes a somewhat pessimistic view of the situation. "We have," it says, "witnessed recently several Allied plans brought to nought one after another; and at length we reach a point where the whole Eastern Front becomes involved. There were several feasible lines of defence for our Allies, and there is still the line of the Sereth and one of its western tributaries which might form the basis of a dependable flank. But the capture of Foczani has practically ended any stand on 'the Sereth lines,' and it can serve no useful purpose to minimise the effect of this success." The article continues:—

The Sereth lines are, of course, not the line of the Sereth. Foczani, which is one of the three places along the fortified "Sereth lines" with a half-ellipse of works facing northward, actually lies south of the Putna, a tributary of the Sereth. But it was one of the pivots, if not the chief pivot, of the defensive lines which are named after the river. Its fall means that there will be a corresponding readjustment towards the West. Another stretch of the Moldavian mountain line will be untenable, and our Allies will to that extent find their left flank in danger. There can now be little doubt that the enemy will try to cut their way across the Sereth, and perhaps the Pruth, towards Odessa and the Black Sea ports. It is not that they will gain any strictly military advantage or any great material assistance from such an advance in itself. Their main aim will look further ahead. Their objective will be to force back the whole Russian line, perhaps to the extent of capturing Petrograd. The development of such an ambitious scheme offers no chances similar to that which confronted Mackensen in his 1915 campaign against Russia. . . . But a continued advance on this flank must compel the Russians to fall back.

"Athens Under the Terror."

Under the above title, the *Morning Post* publishes (January 17) a letter received by its Paris correspondent from a friend who has lived many years in Greece and Turkey. The writer begins by saying:—

These are dark days in Athens. We Britishers are safe on board the ships in Piræus harbour, but it is a veritable reign of terror for the Liberal Party ashore, who are being hunted down, arrested, and man handled with a fury that shows no abating as the days go by. Numerous prominent Venizelists succeeded in escaping to the ships in the nick of time, but many more were less fortunate. Beginning with Mayor Benachi and General Coraka, a large number of higher public officials, University professors, lawyers, merchants, bankers, manufacturers, journalists, officers, and civilians are under arrest, charged with the set formula: "High treason, lèse-majesté, murder, shooting from windows, propagating sedition, harbouring traitors, possessing firearms," etc. The old gang of spies and informers who formed the King's "Special Safety Service" in the balmy days of the Skouloudis-Gounaris Cabinet have foregathered again from the provinces, whither they had been scattered by the Allies' Note of June 21, and are once more at their dirty work. To be known as a Liberal is enough to bring these bloodhounds down upon any man, however inoffensive.

He proceeds to refer to the rioting and lawlessness of the so-called "Reservists" equipped out of the Government armouries, and specially mentions that "in most cases the outraged patriotic feelings" of these atrocious cowards "compelled them to finish by looting each house attacked, and thus to-day thousands of citizens find themselves stripped of money, clothing, utensils, and all portable goods by these high-minded patriots." It is to be hoped that at the final reckoning these "Reservists" will be made to disgorge their ill-gotten gains, and receive the punishment they so richly merit.

We are then given two typical instances of the proceedings of the "Royalists." The first is that of an American citizen of Greek origin, who—was seized by "Reservists" on the second day (December 2) outside his house near the Acropolis and hustled off to the infantry barracks, after being lightened of his pocket-book containing £140, was brought before a colonel, who ordered his guards (with a significant wink) to take him off to the "Prefecture." But to the man's dismay he found himself being marched off in the opposite direction, namely, towards Goudi. On the way he was mocked openly by passing patrols, as well as by his own guards, as going to swell the ranks of the "unknelled, un-

coffined, and unsung," and they had already passed to the last houses into the fields when a mounted messenger galloped up with an order to the squad to bring the prisoner back to barracks, it having finally come to the colonel's ears that he was an American citizen. And at the barracks, after producing his passport, he was released.

American citizenship, it seems, was worth something to this gentleman! The second case is justly referred to as "a peculiarly atrocious" one. It is that of "a well-known Greek surgeon of Alexandria, Dr. Canellis, a Cretan by birth, who had done distinguished field ambulance work in the Balkan wars, and who had come back to Greece in response to the mobilisation decree of September, 1915." His past service to his country, however, did not save him from the fury of the mob.

Merely the fact of his being a Cretan and a friend of Venizelos was enough for the King's butchers. His house was first riddled with volleys, then he was arrested and dragged off under a storm of blows and kicks, in which he received a dangerous wound on the head and had both arms broken by bayonet and bullet wounds. He was kept in this suffering state, half insensible, for three whole days, until finally even the *Procureur* in charge of his case had to admit that there was not the slightest evidence against him and he was discharged, an utter wreck. He was taken to a hospital for two days and then mercilessly turned out by order of the Director (who was a patriotic Royalist) "to complete his cure at home"! He was brought back almost naked to his home, which in the meantime had been sacked and plundered by the "Reservists," who, in their "high-souled exaltation" (a choice expression used by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in defending them to foreign critics) had carried off everything—money, clothing, household utensils—down to the baby's shoes!

King Constantine's Responsibility.

The writer concludes with some most interesting references to King Constantine's share in the sorry business. How far his Majesty is a tool in the hands of the military party he (the writer) has, he says, no means of judging; but he is encouraged in "mediæval delusions" regarding his own importance and his own authority by the flatterers and schemers who surround him, who have their own ends to further.

It is therefore quite possible that this cabal, for whose cleverness his moderate intellectual equipment is absolutely no match, has already got the reins firmly in hand, and that he is by this time under their control, though he is not allowed to perceive it. This, however, abates not one jot of his own personal responsibility; for he has always been ready for such unconstitutional courses. For a free Press he has ever had, and expressed, the greatest aversion. All men who disagree with his own preconceptions he hates with a perfect hatred. As he hates M. Venizelos to-day, he hated Greece's other great statesman, M. Tricoupis, in his day. Tricoupis fell from power because of his interference, and died in exile of a broken heart. M. Delyannis, though M. Tricoupis's life-long rival, once said of Constantine that he "would one day drench Greece in blood." The Military League of 1909 drove him from Greece, as the cause of the country's military disorganisation. M. Theotokis, M. Rallis, M. Gounaris, and other politicians, who are to-day flattering him, criticised M. Venizelos sharply for his reinstatement in the Army. And only M. Venizelos, in the teeth of the universal prejudice against the exiled Crown Prince, brought him and his brothers back from exile, and his political genius opened the road to rehabilitation and renown for him and his family. And now this is M. Venizelos' reward!

The last sentence quoted is: "If the Allies tolerate this situation much longer they may safely count on losing all their friends in Greece and the East."

Italy and the Near East.

Sig. Raffaello Piccoli contributes to the *Sunday Times* an article on "The Rome Conference: Italy's Role in the War," which is worth careful reading. Dealing with Italy and Greece, he writes:—

The divergence between Italy and the Allies on the subject of Greece, which gave rise to so much comment, often of a very unfair kind, against Italy, was mainly due to the fact that Italy is not one of the Protecting Powers, and had no reason to interfere in Greek internal affairs as long as the other Powers insisted in dealing with Greece in that capacity. The last Note to Greece, while embodying all the requests made in the former Notes of the Protecting Powers, treats the whole matter as a problem of political expediency in relation to our strategic position in the Balkans; and this is naturally the common ground on which all the Powers could not fail to agree.

A fact to which the English Press has made no reference was the presence in Rome of General Sarraïl. General Sarraïl expressed to General Cadorna his admiration for the Italian troops fighting under him in Macedonia, and for their commander, General Pettiti; and the two soldiers discussed with Generals Robertson and Liautey the whole military situation. It is evident that Greece knew that in the event of non-acceptation of the Allied Note there would have been no doubts and no delay in the course of action to be adopted.

The Germans, says the writer, knowing that they can do no more on the Western front, "will certainly aim

their next blow in the South-east, against the Allies in Macedonia, or against Italy."

They can now be assured that they will not find that front unprepared, and also that in the same way as England's military frontiers are to-day in Flanders and France, so Italy's military frontiers extend now from Switzerland to the Ægean. Italy is fully prepared to meet the enemy on this ground, and she is determined to have her full share in the sacrifices leading to the common victory. And the country is tranquil and hopeful under the terrible strain. She sees at last that the value of her efforts and the justice of her aspirations are fully recognised by the Allies, and she puts all her trust in the men who are now at the head of the Allied Governments.

Articles to Note.

"Germany's Policy in the Balkans," by Frank Fox, in *Land and Water* (January 11).

"Greece as a Republic" (An interview with Mr. John Mavrogordato), in the *Daily Graphic* (January 13).

"Austria and Central Europe," in the *Nation* (January 13).

"Roumania and the West," by N. Iorga, in the *New Europe* (January 11).

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND

FOR BRITISH TROOPS,
15, ALDFORD STREET, MAYFAIR.

PATRON.

MAJOR H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.C.
PRESIDENT.

COLONEL THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.

CHAIRMAN.

COLONEL THE LORD LAMINGTON, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF CARNARVON.

COMMITTEE.

THE COUNTESS OF DONOUGHMORE.

THE VISCOUNTESS MIDLETON.

THE LADY EVELYN FARQUHAR.

THE HON. MRS. FREDERICK GUEST.

LADY MAUDE.

MRS. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

MRS. HOLDSWORTH.

THE EARL OF DESART, P.C., K.C.B.

SIR HUGH BARNES, K.C.S.I.

SIR LESLIE PORTER, K.C.S.I.

M. P. GRACE, Esq.

C. GREENWAY, Esq.

PERCY C. SIMMONS, Esq., L.C.C.

HON. TREASURER.

SIR EDWARD S. HOPE, K.C.B.

HON. SECRETARIES.

MRS. HAMILTON GRACE. MISS MEIGGS.

ASSISTANT HON. SECRETARY.

MRS. BLAIR.

BANKERS.

MESSRS. COUTTS AND CO., 440, Strand, W.C.

HON. AUDITORS.

MESSRS. PRICE, WATERHOUSE AND CO.

THE COMMITTEE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT FURTHER LIBERAL DONATIONS WILL AT ONCE BE FORTHCOMING TO ENABLE THEM CONTINUOUSLY TO DESPATCH THE "COMFORTS" WHICH ARE SO URGENTLY NEEDED BY THE BRITISH TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NOT LESS THAN £50,000 WILL BE REQUIRED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR THE PURPOSE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THIRD LIST UP TO JANUARY 10TH, 1917.

"Lloyd's," collected by C. E. Heath, Esq., at	£873 10 0
John S. Phipps, Esq.	300 0 0
Mercers' Co.	210 0 0
Mrs. John S. Phipps	200 0 0
Drapers' Co.	105 0 0
Messrs. Mann, George and Co.	105 0 0
Messrs. Hull, Blyth and Co.	100 0 0
W. R. Grace, Esq.	100 0 0
F. Lane, Esq.	100 0 0
Scottish Teachers' War Relief Fund	100 0 0
Willard Straight, Esq.	100 0 0
North-Eastern Marine Engineering Co.	100 0 0
Grocers' Co.	100 0 0
Eastern Telegraph Co.	100 0 0
Mrs. Holdsworth (f.dn.)	100 0 0
Officers of Inland Waterways and Docks	64 15 0
Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co.	52 10 0
Howard Morley, Esq.	52 10 0
Union-Castle Mail S.S. Co.	52 10 0
Frank Fremlin, Esq.	50 0 0
Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds	50 0 0
Messrs. Walter Duncan and Co.	50 0 0
Eastern Bank, Limited	50 0 0
Messrs. Alex. Laurie and Co. (London)	50 0 0
North's Navigation Collieries	50 0 0
Earl of Dartmouth	50 0 0
Otto Beit, Esq.	50 0 0
G. W. Carver, Esq.	50 0 0
£42 2s.—Collected by Col. Edwin Perkins in Southampton and Bournemouth.	
£26 5s.—Messrs. Glover Bros., Messrs. Lambert Bros., Russian and English Bank, Messrs. Turner, Brightman and Co., Shadford Watts, Esq.	

(Continued on next page.)

- £25.—Earl of Ancaster, Messrs. Bass, Ratcliffe and Gretton, Messrs. Barclay and Co., Messrs. Bellis and Morcom, British Residents in Guatemala, Messrs. Glenfield and Kennedy, Messrs. J. and C. Harrison, Sir John Jackson, Limited, Arthur James, Esq., M.V.O., R. T. Morris, Esq., William Miles Moss, Esq., Royal Society St. George (Uitenhage Branch), Shanghai Branch of Overseas Club, F. C. Stoop, Esq., Messrs. Smith's Dock Co., Sungkai Chumor Estates, Lieut.-Gen. Hon. Sir F. Stopford, K.C.V.O., Mrs. Spencer, W. L. Thomas, Esq., Lady Wantage.
- £21.—Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, British Bank of South America, Messrs. Hills Bros. and Co., Messrs. Macandrews and Forbes, Merchants Bank of Canada.
- £20.—Sir Matthew Arthur, Bart., Anglo-Malay Rubber Co., J. C. A. Baird, Esq., Dowager Countess Roberts, Rubber Estates of Johore, Messrs. James Spencer and Co., Leslie Urquhart, Esq., Mrs. Renshaw.
- £15 15s.—Messrs. Sanderson and Co.
- £15.—Mrs. Jex Blake, Miss Jessie Dow, Earl of Eldon.
- £10 10s.—Beldam Packing and Rubber Co., Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.S.I., George Croll, Esq., Messrs. Peter Dixon and Son, Earl of Durham, K.G., Gearock Ropework Co., Sir Edward Hain, Messrs. Livett, Frank, and Son, Joseph Macandrew, Esq., Stewart Margetson, Esq., Messrs. George Scott and Son, Nathaniel Spens, Esq., J. Cathcart White, Esq., Armourers and Brasiers Co., Salters Co., Messrs. John Yates and Co., Robert Gladstone, Esq.
- £10.—Mrs. Armstrong, Sir Ian Heathcoat Amory, Bart., Bukit Rajah Rubber Co., Messrs. Brownlee and Co., Mrs. H. L. Bischoffsheim, Lieut. F. L. Brayne, Messrs. Clapham Bros., Cambridge Scientific Instrument Co., Sir Malby Crofton, Bart., J. F. Campbell, Esq., R. A. Druce, Esq., Lord Digby, Mrs. Edmondson, Martin Erdmann, Esq., Sir Richard Glyn, Bart., Messrs. E. Green and Son, C. Lethbridge, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Luke, Mrs. Mackinnon, John McAndrew, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheimer, James A. Padday, Esq., Pataling Rubber Estates Syndicate, Admiral and Mrs. Riddel, Seaport Selangor Rubber Estate, Eustace A. Smith, Esq., Mrs. Squires, Seafeld Rubber Co., A. Whiting, Esq., Sir William Younger, Bart., Mrs. K. F. Dickson, Mrs. A. C. Lewin.
- £6 6s.—Misses Bowen, W. J. Potts, Esq., and Friends.
- £5 5s.—A. C. Allen, Esq., F. P. Barney, Esq., G. Cobb, Esq., E. Mumford Preston, Esq., Mrs. A. D. Geddes, Messrs. R. Hood, Haggie and Son, Mrs. Hall, Messrs. Isaacs Bros., Son and Co., Messrs. Lindsay, Pembroke and Co., Arthur Lucas, Esq., Edward Penton, Esq., A. J. Shashona, Esq., Messrs. F. Steiner and Co., David R. Sassoon, Esq., Miss Sanders, Ocean Oil Co., James Weston, Esq., Miss M. A. Wiles.
- £5.—Mrs. Anstruther, Mrs. Allcroft, Anchor Line, Anonymous, L. T. Carmichael, Esq., Mrs. Banning, Duke of Bedford, K.G., Messrs. Andrew Barclay, Sons and Co., James Brodie, Esq., Rev. J. H. Burroughs, Mrs. W. J. Courtauld, Mrs. Carter, Miss M. Clarke, Mrs. Chaworth-Musters, Messrs. James Dougall and Sons, Mrs. Dingwall, A. S. Dixon, Esq., Mrs. Dyer, Messrs. Edmund Greenwood (Manchester), Mrs. Seymour Grenfell, Lady Gray-Hill, Miss Horrocks, Mrs. Hugh Hoare, Mrs. Hurle, Mrs. de Courcy Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hoare, Hon. A. Holland-Hibbert, Mrs. Jackman, Lieut.-Colonel Johnstone, Mrs. Geoffrey Lubbock, Mrs. S. Margetson, Miss M. W. Morcom, Lady Henry Nevill, E. Roger Owen, Esq., Colonel Douglas Proby, Miss G. Scholfield, Mrs. Sandbach, Mrs. Thornycroft, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Walker, H. Wesley-Segin, Esq., Mrs. C. E. Wood, Sir Charles Welby, Bart., Mrs. Waldron, Miss A. M. Whidborne, Leslie Wilson, Esq., Mrs. Martin, Alfred S. Marriott, Esq., Messrs. John Munn and Co., Mrs. Brodie of Brodie, Mrs. S. V. Coote.
- £4 11s.—Col. J. Davidson.
- £4.—Mrs. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. de Rougemont, "An American."
- £3 14s.—Mrs. W. D. Daunt.
- £3 3s.—Misses Archer, Mrs. Blathwayt, Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart., Dr. and Mrs. Humphrey, Messrs. E. Lazenby and Sons, Alex. McAndrew, Esq., Miss Florence Mosley, Col. Sir Thomas Marshall, K.C.B., Mrs. Nicholas, Howard Kitchener Smith, Esq., St. Gabriel's College, Sidney Steel, Esq., Miss Brett.
- £3.—Mrs. Arnison, Mrs. Bennett, Lady Edith Cotes, Mrs. Deas, Earl of Ducie, Mrs. Fairlie, Hon. S. Ormsby Gore, W. Greenhill, Esq., Mrs. A. A. Mercer, Mrs. David Wauchope, Mrs. White.
- £2 11s.—Offertory at St. Clement's Church, Sandwich, Kent.
- £2 10s.—Mrs. Owen.
- £2 2s.—"Anon." Mrs. W. G. Crane, Mrs. Bushell, W. J. Brown, Esq., Sir W. H. Bailey and Co., Mrs. M. S. Beddome, Messrs. Adam Brand and Co., Mrs. Duckworth, Frank Evershed, Esq., Herbert M. Gibson, Esq., Miss Virginia Hanscom, Archibald Henderson, Esq., William L. Jeffrey, Esq., Col. Sir Duncan A. Johnston, K.C.M.G., Mrs. Herbert Locock, Capt. A. C. Mitchell, R.E.T., Hon. John Mansfield, Mrs. R. Mercer, "M. B. G.," Mrs. Nathan, Henry K. Nisbet, Esq., Miss J. M. Redpath, Mrs. Sutton Sharpe, Messrs. David Someck, Miss M. E. Smith, Gerard W. Smith, Esq., Mrs. C. N. Stephens, J. G. Taylor, Esq., United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Mrs. J. E. B. Wilson, Mrs. James Weston.
- £2.—"Anon." (per Sir C. R. McGrigor, Bart.), General Black, J. G. Bond, Esq., Mrs. Colbeck, Mrs. Drayson, Mrs. Millington Drake, Miss M. M. and Miss E. M. Davies, Hon. Mrs. W. Farquhar, Marchioness of Graham, Miss Anne E. Hodgkinson, Mrs. Hussey, Col. Hon. Henry Lowry-Corry, Mrs. Leoffler, Countess of Mansfield, Mrs. Millin, Rev. E. P. Sketchley, Mrs. Stibbard, Mrs. Thorowgood, Miss Upcher, Mrs. Watson, C. S. Watson, Esq.
- £1 14s.—Mrs. Sands-Clayton.
- £1 11s. 11d.—Francis E. Balleine, Esq. (further donation).
- £1 11s.—Richborough Football Ground (collected at the).
- £1 10s.—Mrs. Crane, Mrs. St. Hill Maudsley, Miss K. B. Locock, Robert Thomas, Esq., and Sons (Philip and Geoffrey).
- £1 9s.—Miss Helen Browne.
- £1 5s.—Cavalier Club.
- £1 1s.—Mrs. Reiss, Mrs. Harker, "A. A.," Misses Briscoe, R. C. Barker, Esq., F. Bellamy, Esq., Miss Brooke, William Braund, Esq., Mrs. Dacres Cunningham, Mrs. George Dreydsale, Rev. R. S. Dewing (further donation), "Edwins Hall" (collected by Mrs. J. W. Henley), John Evans, Esq., Mrs. John Evans, Miss M. Fox-Male, Mrs. Garman, Lord Francis Hervey, Lady Hirtzel, Mrs. Kingsbury, Messrs. D. King and Son, Mrs. Campbell Laverton, Mrs. Charles Leslie, Miss Mann, Lady Mersey, E. McA. Moir, Esq., Mrs. Noakes, H. Rayner, Esq., Messrs. Joseph S. Sassoon

and Co., Messrs. John Thompson, Mrs. H. Tribe, Rev. Canon Wilson, D.D., Lewis Woolfe, Esq.

- £1.—Miss F. Allen, Anon., Mrs. J. N. Bagnall, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Bolton, Capt. Bower, Mrs. Burstall, Mrs. Bath, R. J. Burrows, Esq., A. H. Coffin, Esq., Hon. Lady Cunliffe, Col. J. R. Cowie, Miss Carleton, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Gray, Miss E. D. W. Hodges, H. W. Hamilton Hoare, Esq., Miss Hutchison, S. H. Imry-Smith, Esq., Mrs. James, Mrs. La Terrière, Mrs. Liddell, F. K. L. P. "in mem. E. S. M.," Mrs. Malcolm, A. Merceville, Esq., Mrs. May, Hon. Mrs. Muir Mackenzie, Miss Mary Neild, George F. North, Esq., Mrs. G. North, Mrs. Orr, Miss Owens, Miss Pelham, Major A. B. Pollok (7th Hussars), Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Stokoe, Miss A. E. Sellon, "A Thank Offering," Miss Vipan, Mrs. Wijk.
- 10s. 6d.—Nessim Dungoor, Messrs. Mees, Denham and Co., Rev. W. E. Spencer.
- 10s.—Anon., Miss Elenor Smith, J. N. Clarke, Esq., Mrs. Daun, Miss Duff, Miss Zena M. Dewing, Miss Heron, Miss L. and Miss H. Hawker, Mrs. Joy, Mrs. E. C. Leveson-Gower, Miss J. Leake, Miss Martin, Miss Agnes Pownall, Lady Phillimore, Isabella Marchioness of Sligo, Miss Satow (further don.), Miss C. Troughton, Mrs. C. F. Williams, Miss N. Walmsley.
- 9s.—Miss Martin.
- 6s. 6d.—J. Alwyn Goodall, Esq.
- 5s.—Mrs. Baillie, Mrs. Burdon, Mrs. J. J. Dick, Mrs. Elles, Miss G. Farnam, Alfred G. Harrison, Esq., Miss H. P. Ind, Messrs. G. and A. Kale, F. H. Macdonald, Esq., S. B. Pearson, Esq., Miss Penfold, W. H. Powell, Esq., Miss M. Rivaz, Mrs. Rathbone, Lewis Sandy, Esq., jun., Matthew Walker-Knott, Esq.
- 3s.—E. and F. Bance, J. B. Meggitt, Esq.
- 2s. 6d.—"Sympathy," Anon., Mrs. de la Bortandee, Mrs. Crozier, Miss H. F. Commins, Mrs. Goskar, Mrs. Knight, Miss Grace Mills, Miss Peirce, Miss Richardson.
- 2s.—Mrs. S. Pain, F. Savage, Esq.
- 1s. 6d.—"Two Sisters."
- 1s.—Mrs. Quick, Mr. and Mrs. George Reiche (weekly).

COLLECTED BY MR. JOHN T. CARGILL

FOR THE LORD PROVOST OF GLASGOW.

Col. the Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E.	£25 0 0
The Right Hon. the Lord Provost	25 0 0
Burmah Oil Co., Limited...	250 0 0
Mr. John T. Cargill	250 0 0
Wm. Denny and Bros. and Denny and Co.	100 0 0
Donaldson Bros., Limited...	100 0 0
P. Henderson and Co.	100 0 0
Irrawaddy Flotilla Co., Limited...	100 0 0
Jas. Finlay and Co., Limited	100 0 0
Milne and Co.	100 0 0
Mr. D. W. T. Cargill	100 0 0
Mr. Jas. W. Murray	100 0 0
Mr. W. J. Chrystal...	100 0 0
Mr. T. Ogilvie Mathieson...	100 0 0
Mr. David McCowan	100 0 0
Mr. John Reid	100 0 0
Mr. John Ross	100 0 0
Gow, Harrison and Co.	50 0 0
Mr. R. W. Adamson	50 0 0
Mr. T. Cuthbert Stewart	50 0 0
Mr. F. C. Gardiner...	50 0 0
Mr. W. G. Gardiner	50 0 0
Mr. R. A. Murray	50 0 0
Mrs. J. T. Cargill	25 0 0
Mr. Campbell Martin	20 0 0
Mr. J. G. Chrystal	20 0 0
Miss Allison H. Cargill	10 0 0
Amount hereby acknowledged...	£7,791 9 11
Previously acknowledged	10,904 5 10

Total ... £18,695 15 9

The Committee are authorised to state that they are working in conjunction with Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, and with the approval of the War Office.

Cheques should be made payable to the MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND, and sent to the Hon. Secretaries, 15, Aldford Street, Mayfair, and crossed "Coutts and Co."

A Berne telegram states that over 1,000 enemy guns have been despatched from the Roumanian front back to the workshops. Up to the present the Roumanian campaign is said to have accounted for the entire output of the German munition factories for two months.

Under date of January 11 the *Times'* special correspondent with the Serbian Army reports:—"The Serbian authorities have received authoritative information to the effect that all Bulgarian conscripts of the 43rd Class—i.e., those aged seventeen—were summoned to the Colours last month, also that all men in Bulgaria hitherto exempted owing to physical unfitness or other causes have been called up to present themselves before the recruiting commissions, and with few exceptions have been enrolled.

Mr. S. E. Backhouse, the chief agent of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, writing from Tiflis to the secretary of the fund, sends some interesting information with regard to the sorely tried Armenian people. He states that the 20,000 Armenians who recently had to retreat from the region of Van back to the Russian frontier are now in dire distress in the neighbourhood of Erivan and Alexandropol. He continues: "I should suggest that not less than £5,000 should be spent on this work during the winter. Could you make a special appeal to cover this expenditure?" Mr. Backhouse also reports that the Kurds are making a regular business in aiding the Armenians to get through into Russian territory—for payment, of course. "This work is being carried on in the district of Erzincan, where about 1,000 refugees have recently been received at a cost of between one and two Turkish pounds a head. A similar number were recovered in the Mush district before the changed military situation made the continuance of the work there impossible."

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

How much gold is there in Egypt? I had an interesting conversation yesterday with a prominent City man who has a great experience of the Land of the Nile, and he declared that the accumulations were considerable, and that an attempt should be made to bring it into the Empire exchequer. And he is right. Egypt is enjoying much prosperity just now. Where other units of the Empire have incurred grievous losses through the war, Egypt has gained, and it is only right and just that appreciation of this fact should be shown by investment in what we all hope will be the great Victory Loan of the war. I realise how difficult it is to induce people to take a correct perspective in these matters; but the Government ought certainly to embark on propaganda work in this matter. I cannot think it would fail if the right methods are employed.

So far as I know at present very little has been done in Egypt in regard to the loan. Of course, the days are early—there is nearly a month to run; but there is nothing like being in time, and it is undesirable to incur unnecessary delay in such a matter. I suppose the banks will do something to push the loan among their customers; but there is a case for strong official action, and while there must be no suggestion of coercion, persuasion must be used up to the last possible limit. I shall soon expect to hear that the British Chamber of Commerce, many of whose members have gained so much profit in war transactions, and through war conditions, are moving in the matter. The Chamber have always been to the fore in all good work, and are not likely to permit this new opportunity for patriotic work to pass unheeded.

Some very interesting facts—and fancies—have been published regarding Turkish finance during the week. I may call attention to the special article published elsewhere in THE NEAR EAST this week on the same subject. From a German source we learn that "the Turkish Government have withdrawn the privilege of a note issue granted to the Imperial Ottoman Bank." Although the I.O.B. has its head office in Constantinople, it is really an Anglo-French institution, and its operations are now carried on under conditions which naturally preclude business with Turkey or alien enemies. The reason given by the Turkish Government for the withdrawal is that the administration of the bank is in the hands of aliens. The privilege of a note issue is said to have been "transferred to the Administration of the public Debt," which, of course, is now conducted in German and Austrian interests."

The enemy does not say, however, what is the greater and more important fact, both from his point of view and our own, that the outstanding notes of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Turkey command a premium. This fact speaks for itself, does it not?

"Turkey's bid for full sovereign rights, reported briefly in the papers some time

ago (writes a correspondent) is not merely a political act intended to show the world at large, and more particularly neutral States, that the Ottoman Empire is in a position to throw off tutelage. As such it is of no value whatever, because a Hun tutelage of the very worst kind does exist, and consequently Turkey is not a free agent, Germany being directly responsible for Turkish "policy." In these circumstances, the Allies are free to recognise as many of the political alterations involved as suits the future map of the Near East and our relations with the Ottoman Empire, and can promptly discard those which are contrary to our object and aims in continuing the war to the bitter end.

"However, apart from the political bluff of the recent *Irâde*, the full terms of which have not been published, there is the financial aspect, and I should not be at all surprised to learn that the real object, the very backbone of Turkey's bid for sovereignty, is essentially financial. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will be aware that no financial question in the whole world is so complicated, so intrinsically complex, as that of the Ottoman Empire. To such an extent is this true that the experts acquainted with the ins and outs of Turkish finance can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

"Now, with one stroke of the pen, the Young Turks, under the German-Austrian régime, have demolished this intricate fabric, and left us, the Allied creditors (mainly Franco-British), much where an unsecured bankrupt leaves his creditors. This is a grave matter. Presumably the control of the Debt Commission has been abolished *pro tem.*, and more chaos reigns than has been the case since the war began. Moreover, the administration of the debt since Turkey began hostilities in 1914 having been entirely in Austro-German hands, it is more than probable that one of the enemy's objects in getting the Turks to declare their sovereignty now, after having been bullied and mismanaged by the Kaiser's minions for two years, is to prevent the unmasking of their misappropriation of funds belonging to us by throwing the entire blame on the Turks.

"We must not allow ourselves to be fooled by any such manoeuvre. The principal criminals are, and remain, the Germans, and it is they who will have to be held responsible for the payment of sums owing to us. We must not forget this when the time comes for a settlement in full. It will be the German attempt to lay as much of the blame for the existing welter of financial crimes committed in Constantinople since November, 1914, at the door of the Turks, and I think that the *Irâde* in question is a first step in this direction. We must not be deceived. An expert commission will have to go carefully into the Ottoman finances when hostilities cease."

Meanwhile, a special telegram to the *Matin* from Zurich states that "it is confirmed by a semi-official Note from Berlin that a Germano-Turkish treaty was signed on January 11 at Berlin. On the admission of the German papers Turkey has consented that the reorganisation of her whole economic system shall be effected by a

special German mission. 'That is how,' cynically says a new Stuttgart journal, 'we work for the liberation of peoples and nationalities.'"

The recent news that another German commerce raider (or raiders) has broken through the blockade is disquieting, in the memory of the "Moewe" depredations of last year; but apart from the temporary inconvenience caused by the loss of valuable and important cargoes, the effect on the progress of the war will be negligible. Up to the time of writing, eight vessels appear to have fallen prey to the pirate; but it is impossible at the moment to speak definitely regarding the fate of the crews. More than 200 men have been landed, and it is stated that 400 others have been sent off, presumably to the Fatherland, in two prizes.

Most of the shipping companies affected are well known in Near Eastern ports. T. and J. Harrison have lost the "Dramatist"; the unfortunate Moss Company, the "Minieh"; the Ellerman Lines have lost the "Netherby Hall," and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company the fine steamer "Mount Temple," of 9,797 tons. The most serious loss falls to the White Star Line in the "Georgic," a ship of over 10,000 tons, and Lamport and Holt's steamer, the "Voltaire," 8,618 tons, is also among the pirate's victims. It may be presumed that the enemy raider is being hunted out, and that before long she will be accounted for. On the whole, notwithstanding our heavy losses in mercantile shipping, matters might be worse than they are. Meanwhile British trade is still booming.

The committee of the Organizers' Clearing House, of Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W., write to point out that they "have reason to believe that there is in the country a supply of talent and energy available for useful work which at present is either unable to find an outlet for its capacity or is misapplied. The need for perfecting and assisting existing organisations is generally admitted, and there is evidence on every hand that the volume of new work to be undertaken is destined to increase." The objects of the Clearing House are then given in brief outline; but beyond the fact that the circular is signed by the Earl of Chichester, Earl Percy, Mr. F. C. Whitbread, Mr. A. E. Owen, and Captain Percy Creed, I know nothing of the organisation, and must wait for further information before commenting on its activities.

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

The Financial Situation in Turkey.

(FROM OUR FORMER FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT IN TURKEY.)

In addition to the excellent *résumé*, published not long ago, by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, of the report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt for the financial year March, 1914—March, 1915, it is now possible to examine more closely the causes which brought about a decrease in the various revenues administered by the Debt Council. These causes throw an interesting sidelight on the conditions prevailing in Turkey during the first four months of the year, November, 1914, to March, 1915, and it is now possible to form some idea of what the effect on these revenues will have been since then.

The preface of the report of the Council is very tactfully worded, but the full meaning of certain events can be read between the lines. The fact must not be lost sight of that although Turkey only entered the war on November 11, 1914, the Ottoman Army was mobilized on August 3, the Stock Exchange was closed and a moratorium declared on that date. This means, among other things, that the fiscal disorganization of the country commenced about that time.

On October 1 the Customs duty was raised from 11 per cent. to 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, thus raising to 7 per cent. the surtax, which is encashed by the Debt Administration.

Revenues Held Over?

As stated by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, no bonds were amortized during the second half of 1914-15, and only about 15 per cent. of the half-yearly coupon was paid. It is very unlikely that this situation has been modified up to date and, therefore, the revenues that are being encashed are probably being held over for a settlement of outstanding coupons and sinking-fund purposes after the war.

Whilst the writer has no definite knowledge on the subject, in view of past experience it is likely that considerable sums of this money have been temporarily advanced to the Ottoman Treasury to help them in their present difficulty.

During the period under review the Ottoman Government do not appear to have made any serious inroads on the Debt's revenues as a whole (except some £T168,000 represented by the failure to pay the £T114,000 substituted for the Eastern Roumelian Tribute, the £T129,000 from the surplus of the tobacco tithe, and the £T25,000 half-yearly instalment of the Tumbeki revenue, which sums are not likely to be forthcoming during the present year either) beyond a sum of £T40,735, representing the value of salt and sacks requisitioned by the military authorities.

The Salt Monopoly.

Coming to the revenues themselves we find that the principal source of revenue, the Salt Monopoly, decreased by £T233,178, equal to 21 per cent., and the provisional surtax on this revenue decreased by £T119,275, or nearly 25 per cent.

The causes contributing to this falling off were, partly, the purchase by merchants of large supplies at the end of the financial year 1913-14, instead of the beginning of 1914-15; the difficulties of working the salt pans in the Smyrna-Aivalik district, due to the emigration "en masse" of the population, the requisitioning of transport for the Army, the closing of the Dardanelles, the restriction of sales to prevent a "corner" being made in this commodity, and the small production of salt due to mobilization and the bad weather, which hampered the operations.

With regard to the export of salt, the year had promised well, for, in addition to supplying salt to India and Bulgaria, the Administration had obtained orders in Greece and Rormanian, and, as the result of a mission to the Far East and America, was in correspondence with various houses in the Malay States, Philippine Islands, Canada, and the United States with a view to placing contracts for

the sale of salt. The war, however, put a stop to all these export operations.

Stamps and Spirits.

The stamp revenue showed a falling-off amounting to £T115,039, or over 27 per cent., compared with the preceding year. This was entirely due to the economic situation arising out of the war.

The spirit revenue and its surtax fell 45 per cent. and 42 per cent. respectively. This was due to more than one cause. One was the loss of territory resulting from the Balkan war, whence a considerable revenue was obtained owing to the population being chiefly non-Moslem. Other reasons were the emigration of the Greeks, who are the chief producers of wines and spirits, from certain districts, the conditions arising from the war, such as the restriction of sales, etc., and the ravages of mildew and phylloxera in the vineyards of Thrace and the province of Aidin. It is a significant fact that the number of wine manufacturers in Turkey fell from 56,616 in 1913-14 to 8,123 in 1914-15.

The export of wines from the two principal provinces which between them represent 85 per cent. of the total export, namely, Smyrna and Beyrout, ceased after the declaration of war owing to the rigorous blockade of the Mediterranean littoral, which completely paralysed the commerce of Beyrout and Smyrna.

On the other hand the province of Adrianople, which was not so much affected by the blockade, increased its exports to countries with which communication was still possible.

The fishery revenues, which started the year well, fell off by 13 per cent., chiefly owing to the war, which led to the calling to the colours of a large number of fishermen, the lack of means of transportation, the prohibition of export and the emigration from the sea coasts.

The decrease of £T40,413, or 49 per cent., in the silk revenue was not entirely due to the war, as considerable damage had been done to this industry by heavy rains and other unfavourable climatic conditions in Anatolia.

The Customs surtax fell from £T1,061,580 to £T614,867, equal to 42 per cent., and that, in spite of the fact that the tax was raised by 4 per cent. from October 1, 1914. This diminution is, of course, one of the direct results of the war.

The Outlook.

From the bondholders' point of view a decrease of 50 per cent. or more in the revenues ceded to them may be expected, but Turkey is a country of quick recuperative power, especially under a proper administration, and the international financial interests in that land are so considerable that it is not very likely the bondholders will be allowed to suffer to any considerable extent. Nor must it be forgotten that the reserve fund of £T2,000,000, specially created to meet any unexpected falling-off in the revenues, is represented by sound investments, geographically distributed over some 15 different countries. Whilst the nominal value may have depreciated and the payment of coupons been suspended in many cases this is probably only temporary, and after the war the reserve fund will still be a valuable asset in the hands of the bondholders to make good to a certain extent their loss of revenue.

One interesting result of this review of the position of the revenues assigned to the bondholders is the conclusion it points to of the general financial situation of the Ottoman Empire. The Debt revenues reflect very closely the other revenues of the State, and if these showed a decrease of nearly 34 per cent. when the war was only four months old, it is certain that the other revenues showed a similar decrease. Since then the condition must have become appreciably worse. The full effects of the mobilization and consequent decrease of productive power, the stringent blockade and the loss of territory in Armenia, Mesopotamia and Arabia, must

have had a paralysing effect on the revenues of the country, which, at the best of times, showed an excess of expenditure over receipts and was still suffering from the consequences of the Balkan war and the territorial losses on that occasion. Against this, however, must be set the fact that no country in the world can get along better without money than Turkey. If the money is not forthcoming the soldiers and officials have to go without it and manage as best they can, and requisitioning takes the place of purchasing.

Turkey's Position.

With arms, munitions, and a little money supplied by Germany, with unpaid troops and officials, and with commandeered food supplies and transport, the Turkish Government can get along better than more highly organised States. The result to commerce, however, is much more disastrous, and ruin and emigration must have brought the country economically to a very low ebb indeed.

In short, from the bondholders' point of view, the situation is not too hopeless, and whilst Turkey may be most anxious for peace for political and economic reasons, the lack of funds will not prevent the Government from carrying on the war as long as their allies dictate. Lack of money has not prevented Turkey from waging war in the past and is not likely to do so in the present instance.

RUSSIAN OIL PROSPECTS.

The fuel question in Russia is a serious one for two principal reasons:—First, the shortage of labour; and, second, the disorganisation of the transport services. The former, says the *Financier*, has led to considerable difficulties in organising the output of coal in Russia's principal coal basin, the Donetz, and the latter has made the deliveries of coal, notwithstanding the praiseworthy efforts of chiefs of departments, very irregular. What is called the private consumer, of course, as distinct from the consumer who works on behalf of the national defence, has been the principal sufferer. The scarcity of coal had as a result the greater output of petroleum in Russia's principal oil region, Baku. But, although there is an appreciable advance in that region—where, however, the old fields do not show up well—the output for the year has not been as great as might have been expected. No doubt the wells were pressed as far as possible with the means at the disposal of the owners.

There is a feature in the recent experience of the oilfields that calls for prompt Government assistance, both at Baku and Grosny, and no doubt other oilfields as well—that is, the shortage of metal goods for fitting up new wells or deepening old ones. The scarcity of the goods referred to is very great, and, unless the remedy be applied promptly in the form of sufficient supplies of the goods required, there is pretty sure to be a reduced output at Baku and Grosny in the near future, and it will only be possible to maintain the level of delivery by extra pressure on wells that are at present showing no signs of exhaustion. The decline that is in view, whilst not affecting the reserves of petroleum in the district named, may for a time give a misleading idea of the oilfields and lead to the false impression that the oilfields are becoming exhausted quicker than is the case. On the other hand, with a rapidly-growing population, and a still more rapidly-growing industry generally, the demand on the part of the community for petroleum and its derivatives it appears must certainly have the effect of making the price very high over a protracted period of time.

ALEXANDRIA PROPERTY SALE.

On December 26 the sale of Mr. Emin Karam's large house at the Carlton Halt at Ramleh took place in the Mixed Courts. The house and grounds comprise 36,128.85 square *pics* of land, and, in addition to the main residence, there are a number of other buildings, such as stables, conservatories, hothouses, etc. The upset price was £E10,000, in addition to the expenses of the sale. The purchaser was Mr. Jacques Karam, who purchased the property at £E12,000, not including the expenses of the sale. This property was sold under an enforced expropriation of the landed property of Mr. Emin Karam and of Mrs. Marie Karam, *née* Sursock.

EGYPTIAN TRADE.

Remarkable Increase in Exports in November.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 26.

The Customs returns for November show a marked swing round of the balance of trade in favour of Egypt. During the month imports amounted to £2,405,621, as against £1,787,213 in the previous November. whilst the figures for export were £6,048,584 and £3,276,832 respectively. The totals for the eleven months are, in imports, £27,199,317, as compared with £16,692,314 last year, and £25,054,508 in 1913, and, in exports, £30,065,021, as compared with £22,562,823 a year ago and £26,566,995 in 1913.

The principal imports during November were: rice, £31,251—all from India; flour, £34,704—a decrease of £16,623; all came from the British Empire (Great Britain, India and Australia), but a sign of the times is the fact that whereas this year only 24,000 tons have been imported during the same period of 1913 no less than 182,000 tons were brought into the country; raw sugar, £132,033—an increase of £29,076 and all from Java; coffee, £29,762—£27,477 from Brazil and the balance from India; petroleum, £47,484—all from the United States; stationery, £88,044—about double that of last year (it is noteworthy that of this £69,635 was represented by writing, packing, and printing paper and cardboard, and that Norway and Sweden sent half of this and Holland about 20 per cent.); coal, £233,681—£47,340 more than in November, 1913 (£199,036 from Great Britain and £34,589 from the United States), but it is to be noted that the quantity was 20,324 tons less, and that compared with the same period in 1913 the total quantity imported this year is 685,884 tons, or 45 per cent. less; natural indigo, £43,773—all from India, and five times what came in the previous November; matches, £45,546—nintenths from Sweden; chemical manures, £129,974—the fact that to date only 24,724 tons, costing £363,157, as against 63,674 tons valued at £599,126 in 1913, have been imported indicates that agriculture must have suffered this year both from shortage in quantity and also from price; textiles, £899,417—an increase of over 50 per cent. on last November (the chief item was cotton tissues, £577,688, of which Great Britain sent £435,289, Italy £132,930, and Spain £7,527, whilst the next important were cotton threads, £62,481—of which India sent £39,168, Italy £9,896, and Great Britain £9,700); sacks, £46,204, all from India, and ready-made linen and millinery, £46,995, of which Great Britain sent £10,431, Japan £17,285, France £6,218, Italy £4,422, and Spain £5,590; metals and worked metals, £80,234, of which Great Britain sent £61,326.

Under exports the chief items were: eggs, £51,037—four times the quantity that went out in the previous November; cotton seed, £147,108—half the amount of last year, but a decrease of more than 50 per cent. in quantity; cotton-seed cake, £54,746; wool, £17,744—double the previous November (Great Britain took all the exports of these items); raw skins, £42,012—of which £13,016 to Great Britain, £13,798 to the United States, and £10,672 to Greece; cereals, £56,444—a decrease of about 50 per cent. (£22,292 to France—mostly rice and lentils, and £11,271 to Greece); refined sugar, £16,827—£12,743 to India and £2,740 to Greece; pure alcohol, £17,472—double of last November, practically all to France; cotton, £5,553,472—Great Britain took 46 per cent., the United States 28 per cent., Russia 10 per cent., France and Italy each 4 per cent. (the value was more than double that of the previous November, but the quantity was only 52,133 cantars more).

Tobacco imports during the month were £69,062, about what they were a year ago; practically all came from Greece. Cigarettes exported came to £23,332, a little less than the previous November, but the trade for the eleven months is slightly up.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

Traders throughout the market have continued to experience a very disappointing demand, and no relief is in sight in the way of a larger turnover. There is no confidence whatever in current values, and buyers seem determined to limit their purchases as much as possible.

The Government, through the Board of Trade, has recently made inquiries as to speculative dealings in raw cotton futures in the Liverpool market, and, although the restrictions relating to the Egyptian section have been withdrawn, the members have been requested by the directors of the Association to take no part in transactions except with people who are directly interested in the cotton business.

The fluctuations in futures have been erratic and uncertain. There is a little uneasiness with regard to the outlook for next season's American crop owing to deficiency of rain in Texas.

Piece goods for Egypt have again attracted very little attention. The offers mentioned in sized goods have been too low. Fancies have only moved off in retail lots. Although fresh business in scarce, shipments to Egypt continue on a free scale. The offtake for India remains poor. Dealers on the other side are working off old contracts without giving out fresh orders to make.

There has been no activity for China, although there are expectations in some quarters of a revival of demand after the New Year celebrations in the Far East towards the end of this month. Occasional sales have been mentioned for Java and for the West Coast of Africa.

The position of manufacturers is not so strong as a month ago, but many makers have still plenty of work to go on with. Spinners of yarn have found no relief, and other lists are steadily running down, the production of the spindles not having been sold.

American wefts have been more freely offered, and the margin is nothing like so encouraging as a month ago.

Some inquiry has been about in bundles for India, but very little has been done.

Egyptian spinnings have not attracted much attention, but late rates are fairly well held.

COTTON SPECULATION.

The following circular, issued to the members of the Liverpool Cotton Association over the signature of its president, will interest cotton shippers in Egypt:—"His Majesty's Government, being strongly of the opinion that during the war it is undesirable for members to accept orders from persons not engaged in the cotton business, has requested the directors to urge members to confine their business to clients directly engaged in the cotton trade, and even from this source not to accept large future orders. The directors feel sure that members will loyally comply with the wishes of his Majesty's Government, and so obviate the possibility of legislation being introduced which would interfere with free trading in this market."

A telegram from Constantinople to Amsterdam says the Turkish Government has approved the statutory regulations in respect of the National Ottoman Bank and the appointment of Herr Victor Weil as general director and Djavid Bey as first president. The bank will shortly open in Stamboul.

Officers who have purchased and used Messrs. Hazel and Co.'s new web equipment for use in the field speak of it in the highest terms, and many orders have been received from officers at the front. It is much more useful than the rank-and-file equipment usually issued in the field.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA PROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

TRADE NOTES.

Liquidation.

Notice is given of the appointment of Mr. F. H. Russell, of Cairo, to be receiver of the estate and business in Egypt of Alfred Wiesendanger, deceased, with instructions to liquidate the business, taking such steps as may be necessary in the Special Court for Germans and Austrians in Egypt to obtain letters of administration of the estate.

Licences to Trade.

Notice is given that the following persons have been granted licences to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain:—Vascotto Bey, Ildo Valdo, 7, Rue Racottis, Camp de César, Alexandria; Vascotto, Ubaldo Ildo, 7, Rue Racottis, Camp de César, Alexandria; Penoff, Athanase Georgheff, 16, Rue Mahmoud Pacha el Falaki, Alexandria.

Concession.

The French *Journal Officiel* of December 16 contained the text of a decree, dated December 4, granting to a British company a concession for the working of certain iron ore mines in the Department of Constantine, Algeria. An annual royalty of 40 centimes (about 4d.) per metric ton of ore is payable to the Algerian Government, and the proceeds will be devoted, in part, to promoting the study of the mining industry in Algeria.

Openings.

The British Consul at Cairo (Mr. A. D. Alban) reports that a local Italian firm of buying and commission agents desires to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of Belfast fronting linens, cambrics, sheets, etc., with a view to obtaining the representation of such firms in Egypt or the sole rights of selling their productions in that country. This firm states that Belfast linens are now in considerable demand in Egypt, and claims to be in a position to find an outlet for large quantities of these goods. United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned, desirous of being represented at Cairo, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Miscellaneous.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that British goods arriving at Melilla, Morocco, in transit for the French Zone, with certificates of origin and manufacture bearing the visa of the French Consul at the place of origin, will be allowed to enter the French Zone. In the case of consignments of British goods received at Melilla, not in transit, which are opened up there and sold in smaller parcels for transmission to the French Zone, the Melilla Chamber of Commerce will, on production of the certificates of origin and manufacture covering the original consignment, issue the necessary certificates as it does in the case of French goods. The certificates issued by the Chamber will then have to be sent to Malaga for the visa of the French Consul.

Tenders.

The *Boletín Oficial* of the Spanish Zone in Morocco announces that tenders will be received up to February 16 at the Secretariat of the "Junta de Servicios Locales," Tetuan, or in the Morocco Section of the Ministry of State at Madrid, for the construction of a market in Tetuan at an estimated cost of 175,000 pesetas (about £7,000 at par). The market building is to be erected on a site in the old grain market, and on the portions of the area not occupied by the market place other buildings are to be erected. The market place, which is to be built in the Moorish style of architecture, must be covered in, and from 100 to 110 compartments must be provided, ranging in size from four to eight square metres, all having marble or artificial stone counters, and the walls faced with white stones or tiles up to a height of 2½ to 3 metres. The floor is to be of cement grooved tiles, and the drain pipes of stone-ware. A preliminary deposit of 1,000 pesetas (about £40 at par) is required to qualify each tender.

PRODUCE REPORT.**Currants.**

LONDON, January 18.

The market has shown moderate activity during this week, and a fair amount of business has been done at late rates. The prices for all qualities are steady, but if the news just to hand that the Allies' demands have been accepted in their entirety by the Greek Government is confirmed, the tone of the market may be easier, as with the raising of the blockade further shipments may be expected in the near future.

Sultanas.

The market is very quiet, but prices are firm, especially for Afghanistan fruit, which is quoted dearer.

Figs.

There has been a better demand, and prices are again up. Spanish are quoted 52s. to 56s. and Greek 58s. to 60s.

Dates.

There has been a moderate demand during the week, with small business done, mostly in Persian, at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet, London-Calcutta being quoted, spot and afloat, at 104s., with Jan.-Feb. at 104s. 6d. Bombay ordinary: Jan.-Feb. is offered at 105s., with no buyers.

Rapeseed is dull. Ferozepore, Jan.-Feb., is quoted at 90s. 6d., and Toria ditto 93s. 6d., to Hull; brown Cawnpore, afloat, to London, 88s. 6d. Cotton-seed has been quiet all the week: London-Egyptian, Sakelarides, spot, is quoted at £18 10s. per ton, but with little business done at that figure. Rangoon beans are steady: Spot were sold to-day at £41 10s.; new crop, May-June, at £34; and June-Aug. at £33 12s. 6d. Lentils are in good demand at 38s. to 39s. per 100 lbs. Mustard-seed is in moderate demand, offering at 26s. to 32s. per cwt.

Oils.

Linseed oil is steady; spot pipes, landed, sold at £50 5s., and barrels ditto at £51 5s. Rape oil is in better demand, and firm; ordinary brown, naked, spot, offered at £54, whilst English, refined barrels, at £57 to £59. Cotton oil has been quiet this week: Crude, spot pipes, are quoted at £49 10s.; and barrels, sweet, at £58 to £60, as to make, but with little doing for all kinds.

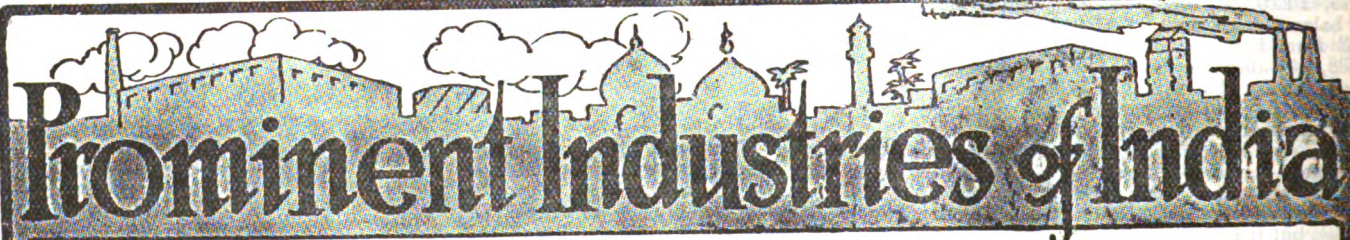
Oilcakes.

Linseed: There has been a remarkable absence of demand, which has caused unusual inactivity in the market, and quotations are more or less nominal, although holders would probably be willing to accept less. Best London makes are quoted at £19 5s. to £19 10s.; while American, westerns, are offered at £18, and East India seed, pures, at £18 to £18 10s., to arrive.

Cotton.—Egyptian cakes, on spot, are plentiful, and, with other quantities afloat, prices have been affected, and are now 10s. to 12s. per ton lower. Quotations are £15 10s., ex ship, and £15 15s. ex quay; whilst English makes are £15 17s. to £16, ex mill.

GERMANY'S WOOL FAMINE.

In the opinion of Australian members of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, the effect of shortage of wool on Germany staying power has not been sufficiently appreciated in this country. In ordinary times Germany was a large buyer of supplies from Australia and Argentina. She was able to seize valuable stocks of the material in Antwerp, and probably also in the French textile district surrounding Lille; but otherwise there can have been no replenishment, except what may have come from Turkey. Without information as to the quantity that the Near East could afford, it does not seem likely that Australian and South American imports can have been replaced. Yet in the meantime there is a great demand for the material for clothing so many millions of German and Austrian troops. The exhaustion of stocks and any interference with the limited supply through the Balkan route would make winter campaigning in 1917-18 a very unpromising prospect, and the influence of wool is, therefore, not to be overlooked in connection with peace overtures.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Naxos Emery.

The adhesion of several islands in the Greek Archipelago to the National Government at Salonika has been announced, and one of these is Naxos, famous for the excellent quality of its emery, which will henceforth be used only in the service of the Allies. Naxos is the largest of the Cyclades islands, with an area of 164 square miles, and a population of 15,000 inhabitants. Emery is a State monopoly in Greece, and the revenue from it is assigned to the International Financial Control. Only selected mineral is allowed for export. Naxos emery has frequently been found mixed with that of Asia Minor, the value of which is one-third that of Naxos, and for obvious reasons vessels carrying it used to make a point of calling at Naxos on their way to complete the cargo taken at Smyrna. British manufacturers were officially advised, some time ago, to insist on a consular certificate of origin being furnished with every consignment. The Greek Government, in order to restore to Naxos emery its former reputation, besides the rule that only selected emery should be exported, prohibited the consignment of emery from the ports of Liana and Montzouna, which are near the mines, but too remote to permit strict observation. For the product of these districts a depot was established at Syra, where the same price, about £4 10s. per ton, is charged as for that obtained at Naxos. Owing to the extensive use of emery, in various forms, in the manufacture of munitions, enormous quantities of the mineral are required, and as nothing can be obtained from Asia Minor, and the American is in limited supply, and of about the same quality as that of Asia Minor, the security of Naxos emery for the exclusive use of the Allies is a matter of much importance.

Mines in the Greek Archipelago.

Apart from emery, there are good openings for business in connection with minerals throughout the Cyclades islands, the development of which has been neglected chiefly through lack of capital. Nearly every island of the Greek Archipelago contains more or less mineral ores of different kinds, but more particularly iron and manganese, which might be worked with advantage now that such minerals are in demand. Several syndicates have been formed for the purpose of working the islands, but very few achieved practical results. Inefficiency of management and want of capital neutralised the efforts of most of them.

A Boiler-scale Preventer.

The serious consequences of scale in steam boilers are well known. Many scale preventives have been placed on the market at various times; but, so far, few of them have proved successful. One of the latest is of American origin. It is a compound called the Navy Standard Boiler Compound, which has been used, according to authoritative reports, with considerable success in the prevention of corrosion and scale in steam boilers. The constituents of the compound are sodium carbonate, trisodium phosphate, dextrine, or starch, and a tannin compound such as cutch. The sodium carbonate prevents chemical reaction and renders the solution non-corrosive; the tannic acid throws down the scale, and the trisodium phosphate prevents priming. It is stated that in one case when the compound was used the tube replacements were reduced from 171 per month to nothing. There was no scale in the boilers, which were absolutely clean. Equally successful results have been attained when the water used contained solid matter varying in amount from 5 to 231 grains per gallon.

Co-operation of Manufacturers.

A very interesting and timely discussion was opened by Mr. A. P. Fleming last week

at the Engineers' Club, Manchester, on industrial research. If we are to compete successfully in export markets, he said, it was necessary that our research should develop on co-operative lines. The general outline of the plan developed some two years ago for the formation of national research in this country was well known, and whilst it was not necessary to discuss in detail the lines on which this national effort could best proceed, it was clear that some means should be taken to try and secure co-operation of manufacturers in similar industries, and to conduct a great deal of research through trade associations. These efforts could hardly be successful unless backed up largely by the manufacturers themselves. For many reasons research, to be most effective, must be carried out on extensive lines, and from a matter purely of economy it was not possible for each individual firm to expend the money necessary for this. To achieve this co-operative working, not only must manufacturers be prepared to forego some of the strong individualistic tendency that had been characteristic of the past, but also steps must be taken to educate the growing worker, since every advance in manufacturing refinement would involve corresponding progress on the part of the worker.

House Refuse for Fuel.

At the recent National Economy Exhibition at the People's Palace, in London, there was an exhibit showing the various steps in the manufacture of fuel from house refuse by a process of which a London municipal engineer is the inventor. By a simple process of crushing, pressing and impregnating, it is claimed that an excellent fuel can be produced from what has hitherto been waste material, which in many districts, at home and abroad, disfigures the landscape and causes a considerable nuisance. The cost of the necessary plant, and also the production of finished fuel per ton, will, of course, depend upon the output desired. Speaking generally, the cost per ton would not, it is said, exceed 7s. 6d. (including all charges), and the fuel could be sold at a cost which would not only cover cost of production but also show a considerable profit, while, in addition, the cost of present methods would be saved. It is claimed that local authorities, by the adoption of the process, would secure, among other results: (1) Disposal works would be central and so save cost of carriage; (2) refuse would be converted as received, and could be stored without any nuisance arising for any length of time, and used as and when required; (3) the receipts from the sale of the fuel would more than cover the cost of conversion; (4) cost of present methods would be obviated entirely; (5) the request "Burn your refuse and so save your rates" would be brought home forcibly to householders; (6) local authorities would set a real example of national economy.

This new process will undoubtedly be of great interest to municipal authorities in many districts throughout the East, where the disposal of house refuse is not only a question of expense but a vital problem of public health, for it is well known that refuse has often been proved to be the cause of epidemics during the hot season.

BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The 155th meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association was held at the offices, 15, Cross Street, Manchester. It was mentioned that as a result of the representations made by the Association the Egyptian Government have again called the attention of ginners to the presence of pieces of twine and other foreign matter in bales of Egyptian cotton, and the ginners have been requested to do everything possible to avoid pieces of hemp and string being mixed with the cotton.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Sir Edward Sassoon has been elected a director of the Eastern Bank, Limited.

Mr. Thomas Ashley Sparks, manager of the Cunard and Anchor Line Agency in New York, has joined the board of directors of the Cunard Steamship Company.

An Alexandria message of January 15 states:—"Last week's arrivals of cotton seed totalled 3,420 tons, and shipments were 7,500, leaving stocks in hand at 131,620 tons, compared with 77,920 a year ago."

From January 1, 1916, to December, 1916, the export of eggs from Egypt totalled 144,539 cases, as compared with 140,690 cases in the corresponding period of last year. Each case contains 1,440 eggs.

The *Sudan Times* learns that two of the highest officials of the Sudan Government are shortly proceeding to England in connection, it is believed, with a great enterprise for the development of the Sudan.

At an extraordinary general meeting, held on January 17 at the offices, Old Jewry, of Reuter's Telegram Company, the Hon. Mark F. Napier presiding, the resolution passed on the 29th ult. for winding up the company voluntarily was unanimously confirmed.

During the period from January 1 to December 28, 489,662 tons of coal were shipped to Alexandria, as compared with 670,175 tons in 1915. Of this quantity, 132,512 tons were Welsh, 45,662 Newcastle, 40,647 Scotch, 60,587 Yorkahire, and 210,254 other qualities.

According to a Swiss telegram to Rome, 500 German engineers have arrived in Roumania for the purpose of working the oil wells which have fallen into the hands of the enemy. Attempts on the part of Austria to associate herself with the German enterprises were repulsed. Some Hungarian journals timidly remark that Germany alone is dominating Roumania, while her allies are kept at a distance.

The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior has issued an official notice to the effect that "a man for whom the police had been looking for many weeks past has now been found, and it has been satisfactorily shown that in no respect can he be considered a German spy. He is a Greek subject, born at Smyrna, and is in the service of Messrs. Ralli Brothers at Calcutta. An officer of the R.A.M.C. has certified that he knows the man well, and has declared that there is nothing against him. He has consequently been released."

FIRE DISASTER AT ALEXANDRIA.

The *Egyptian Gazette* gives the following details of the fire which occurred recently at Alexandria on the German prize ship Quarta, 1,824 tons, which was loading a cargo of 40,000 cases of benzine, when the fire broke out in No. 2 hold. The contractor who was entrusted with the loading of the ship is a well-known native contractor named Hamed Ismail, surnamed "Jackson." He had over 200 labourers for the job, but the number of men became less and less with the progress of the work, and when the disaster took place there were only sixty-one native labourers and three British West Indians on board.

Thirteen of these made a leap for the quay and escaped, but thirteen others received serious burns and were sent to the Government hospital, after receiving first aid medical treatment at the hands of the British medical officers in the western harbour.

Twelve dead bodies were conveyed to the Government hospital, another body being sent for interment on Thursday. The other bodies have not been recovered.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLA-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 50 to 4,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 75.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABI.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 1066.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan."
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

RESTRICTED TRADE.

Further List of Banned Firms in Egypt.

(Continued.)

The following additions to and removals from the list of firms and persons not resident in enemy territory, with whom trading has been prohibited, are contained in a proclamation by the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, published in the *Journal Officiel* of December 18, 1916:—

JAPAN.

Erneko, K., 126 Yamate-cho, Yokohama.
Kimura, K., Shimo-osaki, Tokyo; Kimura Shoten, 4 Honkawaya-cho, Nihonbashi, Tokyo; Kosaka, K., 154 Yamashita-cho, Yokohama.

LIBERIA.

Castelvi, Manuel; Comercio Español.
Exposite, Felix.
Gonzalez, Justo; Gumera, Salvador Serra.
Harmon, S. H., Junior.
Peinate, Augustin.
Valle, Arsenio.

MOROCCO.

Azulay, Solomon David, Alcazar.
Benchetrit, Moses, Tangier.
Cohen, Aaron S., Tangier.
Meier, Max, Tangier; Mora, Juan, Larache; Mora, Ricardo, Tangier.
Sananes, Samuel A., Tangier.
Thum, R., Larache.
Villalta, Dr. Arcadis, Arzila.

NETHERLANDS.

Adler and Oppenheimer, N. V., Prinsengracht 379, Amsterdam; Amsterdam Import Kantoor, Koningsplein 14, Amsterdam.
Calkoen and Company, Rokin 92-96, Amsterdam.

Esslerk Limited, Gelderschekade 21; Witte Huis, Wijnhaven 3; and Koningsteeg 1, Rotterdam.

Fortuin Hzn., A. J., Keizersgracht, 372, Amsterdam.

Goldmuntz (Joe, Paul, Max, Romi, Leon and Michel), Amsterdam and Scheveningen.

Haersolte, H. Van, Goudscherijweg 91a-95, Rotterdam; Haller, C., Vondelstraat 152, Amsterdam; "Hollandia" Textiel Maatschappij, Enchede.

Klostermann, Bernard, Willemsparkweg 181, Amsterdam.

Nederlandsche Maatschappij voor Overzee Commissiehandel, Weesperzijde 89, Amsterdam.

Orenstein and Koppel, N. Z. Voorburgwal 227, Amsterdam; Ouden, J. H., den Watergraafsemeer, and Frederiksplein 45, Amsterdam.

Pols Pz., H. van der, Clemensstraat 60a, and Wolphaertstr. 2a, Rotterdam; Praag Sigaar, S. van, Keizersgracht 137, Amsterdam.

Roemer, van de, and Company, Hondiusstraat 10b, Rotterdam.

Swartberg, Leon, and Company, Vijverhofstraat 147a, Rotterdam.

Wouden, G. van der, Keizersgracht 203, Amsterdam.

Ykel, D., Frederiksplein 12, Amsterdam (formerly of Hoogendijk 112, Zaandam).

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

Altmann, A. H., Bandoeng, Java.
Beerman, W., Sibolga, Sumatra.
Garlich, O. E., Bandoeng, Java; Go Beng Hin, Batavia; Guan Joo and Company, Medan.

Han Kiem Goan Merk Hiap Siang Boo, Macassar; Heymans van der Douwer, H. M. R., Samarang.

Joe Gan Tjang, Macassar.
Lay Kum Sun Denties, Macassar; Liese, J. E., Batavia; Lim Kang Tjoean Merk Lek Tjoan Liong, Batavia.

Meelhuijsen, J., Sourabaya; Meer, S. van der, Medan, Sumatra.

Nio Tjong Long (alias T. L. Nio), Macassar.

Petersen, H., Samarang.
Sandel, D., Medan, and Palembang.
Tan Hok Sok, Macassar.
Wytman, A., Medan, Sumatra.
Zeitlin, A., Palembang.

NORWAY.

Bröchner, August, c/o Alfred Michels, Toldbodgaten 11, Christiania.

Clausen, C., and Company, Grubbegate 8, Christiania.

Falkum Lys and Saepefabrik (Proprietor A. Johnsen), Skien.

Hammer and Lindstad, Raadhusgaten 20, Christiania; "Haugar" Hermetikfabriken, Hangesund; Hjelte, C. J., Tordenskjoldsgate 11, Christiania.

Juul, Niels and Company, Kongensgt. 2, Christiania.

Larsen, Gerh. L., Skippergt. 20, Christiania.

Melbye, H. C. A., Kongensgt. 31, Christiania; Michels, Alfred, Toldbodgaten 11, Christiania.

"Nöitral" A/S., Stavanger; Noreng, Helge, Tomtegate 10, Christiania, and Frederikstad.

Rieber, G. C., and Company A/S., C. Sundtsgt. 29 and 35, Bergen; Riebers Filial A/S., O. Tryggvg. 6, and Fjordg. 46-48, Trondhjem.

Schimmelpfeng, W., Auskunftei, Prinsensgt. 12, Christiania; Stensrud, Einar, Skien.

Troye, Johan, A/S., Nordnesgt. 11, Bergen.

Wiencke, A., Bygdö Allé 9, and Behrens-gate 7, Christiania; Wiencke, Hermann, Tordenskjoldsgade 2, and Behrensgate 7, Christiania.

PERSIA.

Ghaffar Bonakdar, Ispahan; Ghafer Itadieh, Ispahan.

Intadaliéh, Ispahan.

PERU.

Modenesi, Fernando, Lima.

Umlauf, B., Lima.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Azevedo, Ibo.

SPAIN.

Ballester, Eugenio, Barquillo 26, Madrid; Bonitz Hermanos (La Perseverancia Oxide Factory), Callejon de Reboul, Malaga, and Pelusa near Malaga; Burmester, Franz Ferdinand, Arenal 60, Vigo.

Cardona, Amador, Calle Victoria, Vigo; Curbelo, José Diaz, Las Palmas, Grand Canary.

"Diario Malagueño," Malaga.

"Echo de Galicia," Corunna.

Graf y Hohl, Adolfo, Calle de Mariana Pineda 14 and 16, Madrid.

Langen and Company, Paseo de Gracia 73; Calle Diputacion 258, Barcelona; and Hortaleza 17, Madrid; Lewin, Benito, Apartado 210, Bilbao; and Chalet Urguyo, Las Arenas.

Pfluger, Johan, Las Palmas, Grand Canary.

Rautenberg, Guillermo, Calle Marqués de Cubas, Madrid; Ribot, Miguel, Plaza de la Merced 2, segundo, Barcelona.

Schaefer, Dr. E., Pasaje de la Paz 10 bis, Barcelona; Serra, Joaquin, Plaza Hurinera, Reus, and Plaza Olozaga, Tarragona; Siderurgia y Maquinaria Extranjera, Calle Martinez Cubells 10, Valencia.

Visconti Morati, Francisco, Alicante.

SWEDEN.

Artberg, Eskil, Birgerjarlgatan 6, Stockholm.

Eknér, Albin, Surbrunnsgatan 6, Gothenburg.

Gotthardt, Herman, Jörgen Kocksg. 4, Malmö.

Japanska Magazinet, Birgerjarlgatan 6, Stockholm; Johannsen, Nikolai, Skeppsbron 13, Stockholm.

Kjellberg, J. A., and Sonner, O. Hamngatan 19, Gothenburg.

Malmö Korkfabriks (A/B), Friisg. 6, Malmö; Moser, Eugen, Odeng. 22, Stockholm.

Nordiske Gummifabrik A/B, Trälleborg. Prytz Theimport, Kungportsplatsen 2, Gothenburg.

Schlasberg, Henning and Company, Landskrona; Seiden, H., Vallingatan 37, Stockholm; "Standard" Industri (A/B), Gustav Adolf's Torg 15, Stockholm; Sveriges Forenade Konservfabriker (A/B), Hamngatan 2 and Gårda, Gothenburg.

VENEZUELA.

Baralt, A. Miguel, Maracaibo; Belloso V., Jesus, Maracaibo.

Dalla Costa, Ventura Bertran, Ciudad Bolivar; Dubue, A., Maracaibo.

Garcia Dalepiani, M., Ciudad Bolivar.

Juncal, Fernando, Ciudad Bolivar.

Marry, José Ventura, Maracaibo.

Núñez, Pompilio, Ciudad Bolivar.

Pineda and Ojeda, La Guayra.

Ramirez, Ismael, San Cristobal; Ramirez, José, Ciudad Bolivar.

Valentiner, Behrens and Company, Caracas; Puerto Cabello and La Guayra.

Willson Cook, W., Maracaibo and San Cristobal.

Removals from List.

BRAZIL.

Vianna, Elyseo, Rua 15 de Novembro, Pernambuco.

CHILE.

Vargas, Leonidas, Antofagasta.

ECUADOR.

Heinert, Leonard, Guayaquil.

MOROCCO.

Atergan, David, Larache.
Benizri, Rafael, Larache.

NETHERLANDS.

Dam, C. W. H. van, and Company, Rivierstr. 7a, Rotterdam.

Goldschmeding, G. A., Kalverstraat 56, Amsterdam.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

Cultuur Maatschappij Pasoemah, Batavia; Cultuur Maatschappij Plaboean Batoe, Batavia.

Neumann and Company, Batavia.

Technische Bureau Sunda, Bandoeng.

PERSIA.

Sadie, Afshar, Yezd.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Da Souza, Luiz Moreira, Palma; Ibo and Porto Amelia; De Sousa, Bismark, Palma; Ibo and Porto Amelia.

Habib, Jacob, Porto Amelia; Palma and Ibo.

Ismail Juma, Porto Amelia; Palma and Ibo.

Mozambique Whaling Company.

PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA, PORTUGUESE GUINEA, FERNANDO PO AND RIO MUNI.

Perez y Mora, Fernando Po.

SPAIN.

Navarro, Salvador (Sucesor de Navarro y Capo), Rambla Capuchinos 8 and 10, Barcelona.

Salvador Hermanos, Falcó 10, Castellon.
Valls, Hijos de Magin, Barcelona.

SWEDEN.

Abrahamsson, Runö, Kungsträdgårdsg. 4, Stockholm.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Bunge, Mauricio (of Maclaren and Gentles, Inc.).

URUGUAY.

Bonino, E., and Schroeder, E. A., Misiones 1467, Montevideo.

A BRITISH LIST.

The following names appear in a British Order in Council:—

Removals from List.

GREECE.

Export Society, Piræus.
Herzog, M. L., and Company, Salonika.
Savopoulos, Styris and Company, Rue Notara 67, Piræus; Senegal, A., Patras.

MOROCCO.

Benchetrit, Moses, Tangier.
Cohen, Aaron S., Tangier.
Lordjman, Haim (Jaime) V., Tangier.

PERSIA.

Hosseinyeh, Magasin, Tehran.
Kaikhosrow, Rustam and Sons, Kerman.
Serushian, Kerman.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For advertisement rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Land Bank of Egypt.

The following is a translation of the report of the directors presented at the ordinary general meeting of shareholders, held in Alexandria on December 5, 1916:—

We have pleasure in presenting the report for the year ended September 30 last. As we anticipated in our last report, the improvement in the condition of Egypt, made manifest in the autumn of 1915, continued throughout the whole year; the arrival in the country of contingents of Allied troops has brought with it considerable extra revenue, which has partly made up for the deficit arising from the poor cotton crop. The high prices of cotton maintained during the year, which were again increased at the commencement of the new season, has had a satisfactory effect on the company's receipts. Our financial condition enabled us to transfer funds to Europe for the service of our debenture coupons, on terms which left us a fair margin of profit. Our mortgage business, which has been suspended since the beginning of the war, has consisted mainly in consolidating and regularising certain old loans. It was only at the end of the season that we were able to undertake, on a small scale, the consideration of certain proposals which appeared specially attractive as regards the security offered. The total of our mortgage transactions up to September 30, 1916, amounts to £E3,535,160.760. Although our cash receipts were far higher than those of the previous year, owing to the credit restrictions imposed on the fellah by prevailing circumstances and the necessity of meeting with a reduced yield the higher expenses connected with cultivation, our arrears have increased from £E404,931,908 on September 30, 1915, to £E448,314,438 on September 30, 1916. The financial year now commencing leads us to hope that our arrears will decrease appreciably during the ensuing campaign; we propose to increase and to maintain at 10 per cent. the special provision created last year under this head. As in the case of the payment of annuities the liquidation of the property forming our estate has been affected by current events. The company's property on September 30, 1915, consisted of about 2,842 square feddans, 31,980 pics of building land, representing altogether a value of £E144,930.764. During the year 685 square feddans, 2,334 pics were sold for £E58,937, yielding a profit of £E3,446.019. Further appropriations have brought our account on September 30 last to about 3,813 square feddans, 132,136 pics, of the value of £E207,679.719. Earnest efforts have and are still being made in order that the sale of our land be effected on the best possible terms. After having omitted from our profit and loss account such interest as, for various reasons, we considered the collection doubtful, the profits of the year amount to £E299,820. Deducting from this sum the expenses of the past year, including general expenditure, stamp duties paid to French Government, interest falling due during the year, and the various establishment charges, there remains a balance of receipts over expenditure of £E123,975.100. We propose to set aside the sum of £E53,738.955 in the manner following: (1) Provision for amortisation of debentures, premiums, and charges, £E12,545.028; (2) provision for risks on annuities to be collected (a sum sufficient to raise it to 10 per cent. of the arrears) £E4,378.263; (3) amortisation of expenditure of the estate, on the construction of premises, office furniture, and commission on mortgage loans, £E6,315.674; (4) provision for risks on loans, £30,500.000. The net balance of £E70,236.145, to which is added the balance from the year 1913-14, will allow of the distribution of a dividend of 6s. 6d. per ordinary share, and of £1 2s. on the founders' shares. We have maintained intact the special provision of the sum of £E50,036.471 for risks made in last year's balance sheet; its definite use under the various headings of amortisation will be made as soon as circumstances allow. In view of the prolongation of the world crisis created by the war, your directors deem it advisable to guard against various eventualities which

might affect the general economic and financial situation, notwithstanding the satisfactory results of the past year and the favourable prospects of the cotton season of 1916-1917. It must not be forgotten that the year follows two hard years for the Egyptian fellah, owing to two consecutive bad harvests, the one marked by very low prices, the other by a notable decrease in the yield of cotton.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1916.

ASSETS.	£E.
Cash in hand at bank.....	18,769.377
French National Defence Bonds.....	65,191.750
Four per cent. Debentures (Fourth Series).....	191,081.262
Securities held in respect of statutory reserve.....	53,494.756
Less Amortisation.....	9,795.256
Short Loans.....	43,699.500
Loans on mortgages.....	18,374.528
Purchases of property.....	3,302,227.686
Distribution of the price of properties purchased by third parties.....	232,933.074
Annuities in Course of Encashments.....	119,237.375
Former years.....	3,654,398.135
Current year.....	214,026.828
Interest due by overdue annuities.....	234,287.610
Mortgage debtors for interest acquired and not due.....	448,314.438
Properties acquired by ex-appropriation.....	42,160.816
Office premises.....	1,144,873.389
Less amortisation.....	159,977.011
Sale of properties not yet completed.....	207,679.719
Sundry securities held on deposit.....	26,231.499
Advances on mortgages to be collected for account of third parties.....	47,985.074
Sundry debtors.....	5,507.852
Amount owing by sequestrator.....	22,636.922
	60,452.220
	6,793.742
	£E5,019,253.845

LIABILITIES.	£E.
Capital.....	975,000.000
Bankers.....	4,621.576
Long loans.....	98,418.480
Reserve and provisions—	
Reserve fund.....	241,312.500
Statutory reserve.....	53,383.109
Provision for redemption of debentures and expenses.....	51,326.991
Provision for bad and doubtful debts.....	63,054.546
Provision for redeemable annuities not yet converted.....	44,831.443
Provision for sundry risks.....	50,036.471
Debentures—	
Type 3½ per cent.....	931,933.425
Provision for recovery.....	9,319.334
Type 4 per cent.....	2,826,255.236
	3,767,507.995
Less premiums and charges to be recovered.....	584,423.039
Sundry deposits—	
Provisional stoppages on loans.....	5,435.909
Dividends, coupons, and debentures payable.....	5,290.880
Dividends, coupons, and debentures, but not reclaimed.....	39,082.633
Sundry creditors.....	68,495.020
Creditors for mortgaged loans not completed.....	22,636.922
Interest owing, but not yet due.....	34,506.157
Interest encashed relating to next year's account.....	269.849
Net balance from profit-loss account.....	72,466.484
	£E5,019,253.845

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

EXPENSES.	£E	£E
General expenditure.....	14,023.773	
Directors' fees.....	911.625	
Stamps on shares and debentures and sundry expenses.....	15,620.696	
Interest on debentures.....	138,314.616	
Sundry interest.....	5,801.366	
		174,672.076

PROVISIONS.	£E
Provision for debenture amortisation, premium and charges.....	12,545.028
Provision for redemption of doubtful annuities.....	4,378.263
Provision for risks on loans.....	30,500.
Provision for loss on doubtful debts.....	1,172.915
Provision for loss on expenses on property.....	313.039
Provision for loss on mortgaged short loans.....	4,205.935
Provision for loss on furniture account.....	1,556.200
Provision for loss on premises.....	240.500
	54,911.870
Net balance.....	72,466.484
	302,050.430

RECEIPTS.	£E
Interest on mortgages, short loans, sundry interests and repayments.....	278,557.013
Sundries.....	21,263.078
Balance from year 1913-14.....	2,230.339
	£E302,050.430

Egyptian Salt and Soda Co.

The following were the proceedings at the seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders, held at Alexandria, on Friday, December 22, 1916:—

Mr. Choremi, chairman of the Board of Directors, presided. The accounts, directors' and auditors' reports were taken as read.

The chairman moved the adoption of the accounts and directors' report to August 31, 1916. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Laecaris, put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The chairman then moved that a dividend be declared of 12½ per cent. per annum payable January 2, 1917. The resolution was seconded by Dr. Milton, put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The chairman then moved that Messrs. Choremi and Milton, retiring in accordance with the articles of association, be re-elected directors. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Lowe, put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The chairman then moved that Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co. be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year at the usual remuneration. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Debourg, put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The meeting then terminated.

The minutes of the extraordinary general meeting, held at the same place and on the same date, were as follows:—

Mr. C. Choremi, chairman of the board of directors, presided.

The chairman moved the following resolution: "That the articles of association be altered in manner following: Article 92 shall be cancelled and the following article substituted therefor, namely: The remuneration of the directors shall be the sum of £2,000 (two thousand pounds) per annum which sum shall be divided among them in such proportions and in such manner as they shall agree, or in default of agreement equally."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Baerlocher and carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES.

Currant Monopoly.

Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants.—Notice has been given that a general meeting of the bondholders of this company will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, on January 29, 1917, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, passing as an extraordinary resolution pursuant to the provisions of the second schedule of the trust deed the following resolution, namely:—

"That this meeting of holders of the 5 per cent. sterling bonds of the Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants secured by trust deed dated June 3, 1910, hereby assents to the annual redemption of the bonds being held on February 1 in each year instead of August 1—the next redemption, which would have taken place on August 1, 1917, to take place on February 1, 1917—and to the rights of the bondholders against the company and its property being modified accordingly, and hereby authorises and directs the trustees to concur with the company in the necessary amendments in the said trust deed to give effect to the foregoing."

Meetings.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.—An ordinary general meeting will be held at the registered office at Cairo on Monday, January 22.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 23 tons; Hurgada, 1,635 tons.
Baku Russian.—79,600 poods.
European.—82,900 poods.
Russian.—49,000 poods.
European Oilfields.—86,000 poods.
Bibi Eibat.—50,933 poods.
Black Sea Amalgamated.—20,863 poods.
Maikop Pipeline.—64,681 poods.
Maikop Combine.—16,393 poods.
North Caucasian.—592,277 poods.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 299.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	289	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Albania and the War	300	Notes and News	305
The British Exodus from		TANGIER TO TEHERAN	296	Greece's Lost Opportunity ..	306
Greece	291	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	307
Lepers in the Sudan	291	"Alice" in the Balkans ..	297	Germany's Credit System ..	307
Cyprus	292	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	298	Produce Report	308
Syria (via Cairo)	293	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Engineering Notes	309
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		The Levant Company's		Company Meetings	310
The Yemen	294	Records.. ..	295	Company Notes	311
Family Life in Egypt in		Jemal Pasha's Syrian Record		On 'Change	312
Roman Times	301	(Mr. A. Séfi)	295	Stock and Share List	312
		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	303		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Russo-Roumanian stand on the Sereth continues, with a certain amount of give and take at various portions of the line. On January 21 the enemy reported the capture of Fundeni, which with Focsani and Galatz are the main points in the lower section of the Allies' position. But the strength of this part of the Sereth consists mainly in the marshy stretches which flank it at intervals. It remains to be seen whether the severity of the present winter will affect this feature of the terrain—and in whose favour. The enemy are clearly seeking for the weak spot in the defence, but so far do not appear to have found it. A success gained by the Bulgarians, who threw a detachment across the St. George's arm of the Danube Delta, was short-lived. Within twenty-four hours a Russian night attack seems to have accounted for the whole force, and the German *communiqué* admits that the north bank of the stream has been abandoned.

Perhaps the significance of the Russo-Roumanian stand can best be gauged from the attempts of the German Press to explain it away. In the first flush of Mackensen's onward sweep from Bucharest it was confidently predicted that the Sereth line would prove of little value to the Russians, who would be forced back to their own frontier behind the Pruth. But the subsequent rate of progress has fallen short of the earlier expectations, and it has been discovered that the marshy ground along the Sereth has been of particular advantage to the defenders. Fortunately the resistance of our Allies seems to be as strong in the north as it is in the south, and if they can continue to hold the extremities of the line, they may yet upset von Hindenburg's plans. Reports of the movement of enemy troops in various directions suggest that the demands of other fronts have penalised von Mackensen just at the time when he was encountering the first real resistance on the part of the Russo-Roumanian forces.

Greece is showing, like an equally childish prototype, that, though when she is bad, she is horrid, when she is good, she is very, very good. Most optimistic reports are now being forwarded from Athens. The transfer of troops and artillery is said to be proceeding satisfactorily, Venizelists are being liberated, and even the fire-

eating Royalist Press is adopting a more reasonable attitude. It is evident that all elements of the population are actuated by a feverish anxiety to see the blockade removed. The relative part played by this factor and by the realization that the Central Powers were unable to afford Greece any practical support in a collision with the Entente must be left in doubt. But the fact remains that the exercise of pressure has brought about the change, not any fundamental alteration in the disposition of King Constantine and his Ministers. For this reason nothing can be left to chance, nor ought there to be any relaxation of the hold that the Allies have on Greece by virtue of the blockade, until full reparation has been made and the necessary guarantees for the future have been given. If the Allied officers entrusted with the task of supervising Greece's measures of compliance have been chosen from among those who were the victims of the outrages of December 1 and 2, we may feel some confidence that the programme of the demands will be carried out to the letter.

A report that search is being made for an Englishman who left his house in Athens on December 1 in company with two Frenchmen, and has not been seen or heard of since, suggests that the full story of all that official Greece has to atone for has not yet been published. The actual course of the military events of that day are still obscure; but it will not be overlooked that the saluting of the flags in a public square in Athens is an act of reparation more frequently imposed on barbarous or semi-civilized communities than on a civilized State. It is claimed that the result of the military movements now being carried out will be that only 3,000 troops will be left north of the Isthmus of Corinth. The only possibility of a hitch in the proceedings seems to be in connection with the dissolution of the Reservists' League. Its members have been allowed to have things their own way for so long that they do not take kindly to the relapse into insignificance. Here, however, the blockade is a useful reminder that discretion is the better part of valour. The number of Venizelists who have been imprisoned and will have suffered personal injury or loss is considerable. In these circumstances the work of the Mixed Commission which is to assess the indemnities to be paid to these victims of their fellow-countrymen's intolerance and savagery may well be prolonged beyond the duration of the work, if it is carried out thoroughly.

While the Allies are settling these affairs with the Greek Government, at whose head the pistol has still to be levelled, the British Government has been able to negotiate a friendly deal with Greek shipowners. On the principle that they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, can be relied upon to take a sounder view of international affairs, no objection seems likely to be raised by the shipowners themselves to the arrangement. It is understood that all suitable steamers are to be chartered, but that a sufficient number will be left to ply for the country's needs. Needless to say, the terms offered by the British Government are exceedingly generous. Perhaps before the blockade comes to an end King Constantine and his Ministers will have occasion to reflect on the rosier path that would have been opened up for the country as a whole, if they had accepted the Allies' overtures in the first instance in the spirit of the Greek shipowners, who now have held before them the prospect of nothing to do beyond drawing regular profits. In the place of a prosperous country King Constantine is confronted with a depleted Treasury and a nation divided into two hostile camps. No present amenities on the part of the Greek Government towards the Allies will affect the estrangement between the Venizelists and the rest of the people. The feelings of the former as they return from prison to their pillaged homes can well be imagined. Their reckoning with their political opponents will have to be taken up at the point where the Allies leave it.

The steady pressure on the Turkish positions at Kut has been continued, with the result that the right bank of the Tigris from the Shatt-el-Hai down stream has been cleared of the enemy. Turkish reports admit the withdrawal, and, as they lay stress on the intensity of the British bombardment, we may hope that the conditions are now favourable for the full use of the immense superiority that the Expedition has in artillery. On January 20 an air raid was carried out on Baghdad, which is just over a hundred miles from Kut. The objective was the Turkish munition factory situated in the citadel. Six 100-lb. bombs, it is stated, were dropped on and around the factory; but the official *communiqué* attempts no estimate of the damage done, and does not even conclude with the customary formula that the airmen returned in safety.

Rumour has been interesting itself with the fate of the 4th Greek Army Corps which, after surrendering itself to the Bulgarians and Germans, was removed to Görlitz, to be the guests of the Emperor for the duration of the war. As if to refute the statement that the Greeks were taking part in the attack on the Allies the German Press entertains its readers with an account of a function given in the Corps' honour by the German-Greek Association on January 11. The circumstantial evidence thus supplied of the presence of the Greek troops in Görlitz may be satisfactory to the Germans, but it makes short work of the Greek protest to the German Government against the kidnapping of the Corps, and entirely disposes of King Constantine's statement that the Corps commander had acted without authority. Other proof of the falseness of this claim has been supplied in Greece itself, but the confirmation of it by events in Görlitz is of interest. The German-Greek Association is under the personal patronage of Queen Sophie of Greece. If the Greek Army Corps were officially in disgrace, it would hardly be possible for the Association to arrange festivities in its honour, to be attended by a representative of the Greek Legation in Berlin. We are compelled, therefore, to accept the German version that the troops are still in Görlitz, and there is no room for doubting that, as brave warriors, they prefer to act up to the spirit of their Sovereign's instructions.

Further fighting in Tripoli has to be regarded as an offshoot of the world-war. The fresh rebellion against

Italy is stated to have been inspired from Turkey and assisted by Turco-German funds. It has signally failed. Finding that the rebel forces were advancing to attack Zuara, the Governor of Tripoli on January 15 sent out a column to engage the enemy. Fighting began the following day, and, continuing until the afternoon, ended in the complete defeat of the rebels. The pursuit was at once taken up, and on January 17 a second engagement was fought at Agilah. Once more the tribesmen were routed, and the Italian forces were able to return to their base.

A curious point is raised in the *New Europe* by Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, who challenges the reliability of the correspondence that has reached the *Morning Post* from Budapest since the outbreak of the war. He has satisfied himself that an examination of the references to the Hungarian Press and to Parliamentary speeches shows that the quotations are frequently incorrect, and he places the communications on a level with a variety of forgeries associated with the Hungarian Government. Only one interpretation, Mr. Seton-Watson avers, can be put upon the communications. "They represent a deliberate attempt to mislead public opinion in England into supposing that Hungary is hostile to Germany, and is merely awaiting overtures from the Entente Governments to enter into separate peace negotiations; whereas, in reality, the Magyars have been from the first, and still are, the mainstay of Berlin, and are as determined as ever to maintain and, if possible, to extend their hegemony over the subject races of Hungary and the Balkans." There can be no question, Mr. Seton-Watson points out, of the perfect good faith of those who are responsible for publishing the communications. So far as we are aware, the *Morning Post* has not yet replied to the challenge. At best Mr. Seton-Watson's evidence is negative, and there may be other explanations of phenomena which he marshals so ably to support a preconceived idea. Even if the *Morning Post* should have been victimized, we cannot help thinking that more good than harm will have been done—that is to say, that the danger of anyone being misled on the lines suggested by Mr. Seton-Watson are small, while the advantage of a first-hand example of the Hungarian Government's propaganda work, if this should prove to be a case, would be considerable.

The Balkan correspondent of *The Times*, in a message from Jassy, states that the residence of M. Take Jonescu in Bucharest is reported to be totally destroyed and a black flag hoisted over the ruins. His villa at Senla, it is added, has been plundered. If these reports should prove true, we hope that the Allied Governments will make a point of seeing that adequate compensation is secured for one who has deserved well of the Grand Alliance. M. Take Jonescu's fearlessness in espousing the cause of the Allies at a time when neutrality seemed the only safe course for Roumania was well known to the Germans, and it is typical of their methods of warfare that they should have picked out his property for special destruction.

The speedy acknowledgment of the good work done by the British forces in Egypt in the rapid clearance of the Sinai Peninsula will give general satisfaction. Congratulatory telegrams have reached the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Archibald Murray, from the King and from Sultan Hussein, and he has received the honour of the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George. We are particularly glad to note also that the good work done by the Australian troops has not been overlooked. General Chauvel becomes a Knight Commander of the same Order "in recognition of his distinguished services in the field." Not the least encouraging feature in the situation is the fact that the War Cabinet in congratulating Sir Archibald Murray add: "The operations have not only resulted in clearing the enemy from the peninsula, but promise you further successes in the future." The realization of this forecast will be watched with special interest.

THE BRITISH EXODUS FROM GREECE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT LATELY IN ATHENS.)

January 14.

The exodus from Athens reached its final stage yesterday, when 180 of those who embarked at the Piræus landed at an English port after having experienced a most trying journey across the Continent.

The port to which our "ark of refuge" conveyed us was reached about noon on Monday, the 8th, forty-eight hours after leaving Keratsini. The second day was slightly rough, and most of the ladies were "*hors de combat*"; but the next day was fine, and as harbour was approached two Allied destroyers joined our escort and took up positions on either side of the —, and a trawler ahead of the British destroyer piloted the way.

As soon as we arrived the British Consul and several naval officers from British warships came aboard, and the afternoon and evening were occupied in viscéring passports and arrangements for landing the following day. British bluejackets transferred all the baggage from the ship to the quay, where each passenger saw that his effects were put into the right van. The landing took place after lunch on the 9th, and at 2.30 the special train left amidst cheering for the commander and officers of his staff who remained behind to follow the next day.

The French capital was reached about seven o'clock on the 11th. Some fifty of the party remained there. The special train for Havre left that evening, and on arrival at the French port on Friday morning the British military took charge of the party and conducted them to the Y.M.C.A., where a welcome breakfast was served. The whole of that day was spent there, the greatest kindness and attention being shown us; and the embarkation aboard the Channel steamer was carried out under the supervision and with the assistance of the military. At our port of disembarkation the military authorities had prepared for the arrival of the party, and after all formalities had been carried out and the baggage had been claimed a special train conveyed the refugees to London.

The long journey across the Continent proved most fatiguing in the absence of sleeping- and dining-cars, and the struggles to obtain something to eat at the various stations were alike strenuous and amusing. The station buffet keeper, assailed by scores of hungry refugees, would find his stock of provisions gone before he could recover his surprise, and amidst his gesticulations the train would steam away. And the same would be repeated at the next stoppage.

The party was in charge of Commander Brier, R.N.; and Nurse Lockyer, who had been engaged on the — to attend to the sick, continued on duty in the train.

There was a general expression of deep gratitude for the kind attention and thought which had been shown to the party from the time of embarkation until arrival in England.

The refugees have been conveyed from Athens to London free of any charge, the only expense they incurred being for their food on the Continent.

Everyone is grateful to Sir Francis Elliot and the Staff of the British Legation for their unfailing kindness on all occasions, and for their constant readiness to help and advise. Thanks to Sir Francis's forethought and consideration, and to the kind attention of the Naval officer in charge and his staff, the refugees have been spared much expense and discomfort, and have probably travelled in greater comfort and safety than any other party of refugees in this war.

On leaving Athens the Constantinople refugees carry away many pleasant reminiscences of the sympathy of kind friends during their two years' sojourn in that city, and one will also never forget the kindness and assistance always readily given by the American Legation and Consulate in the Greek capital.

LEPERS IN THE SUDAN.

(BY OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

Anyone who visits Khartoum must be struck by the number of unpleasant beggars who roam the streets asking alms. Many of these are lepers who, from inability to earn a living, are compelled to beg for their sustenance; and not unnaturally they congregate in considerable numbers in the capital town, where there is a relatively large number of people who can afford to give to the unfortunate. The total number of lepers in the Sudan is not great, but they are scattered all over the country, and, though they are to some degree concentrated in the three towns of Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North, there are individual cases to be found almost anywhere. The problem of their disposal is not so simple as might appear at first sight. It is clearly desirable to collect them into one centre, and to provide them with the necessary means of sustenance and with such employment as they are capable of. There is only one form of employment that is common to the whole Sudan, and that is the simplest form of cultivation. Many of the lepers would no doubt be capable of cultivating if they could be provided with the necessary land and seed and implements, but, unfortunately, they do not all know the same method of cultivation, and the system that would be necessary in the place to which they would be relegated would be known to only a small proportion of them. Difficulties of language also would be considerable, *e.g.*, there is a fairly large number of lepers amongst the Nuba, and their various dialects are quite unknown and not always mutually comprehensible. Some sort of control would be necessary, and would be extremely difficult with so mixed a population, and the very fact of removal from their own people would encourage many to try and break away and return to their old country. So far, although there is a small settlement in the extreme east of the Sudan, the difficulties have proved insurmountable.

The problem still remains, then, to deal with the relatively large proportion that drift into the larger towns to live by begging. These are more or less of a kind, and vary only in the degree to which they are afflicted with the disease. A very small settlement has been maintained at Omdurman by voluntary contributions, and a movement has been set on foot to enlarge this into a place big enough to accommodate the bulk, if not all, of the unfortunate victims of this scourge who are to be found in the vicinity. It is to be hoped that the movement will be crowned with success, as the appearance of the public thoroughfares at the present time is sadly marred by these beggars, whose chief claim to compassion is to expose their sores in order to touch the hearts and the purses of the passers-by. Unfortunately the Sudan has no rich endowments, such as the "Evkaf" of other Moslem countries, on which to draw for the purpose, and the movement has to rely on private charity alone, which in these days is very hard worked already for all the various funds resultant on the war.

NEAR EASTERN COINS.

At a meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society on the 18th inst. Mr. G. F. Hill described some of the Greek coins acquired by the British Museum during the last two years. Sir Arthur Evans, he said, had presented a rare Syracusan silver coin, which is thought to allude to the peace congress held at Gela in 424 B.C. Fine portrait coins of Demetrius I., King of Macedon, of Antiochus I., King of Syria, and of Orodes III., King of Parthia (of whom the only other extant coin is in the Berlin cabinet), were also described, as well as a coin of a king of some State in Asia Minor, who calls himself Attalus the (God) Manifest, who does not seem to be otherwise recorded. A valuable series of coins of ancient Arabia and Ethiopia, Mr. Hill added, had been acquired from the collection of the late Colonel W. F. Prideaux.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

CYPRUS IN 1916.

(By OUR CYPRUS CORRESPONDENT.)

A Tranquil Year.

Official reports deal with financial years, and retrospects are not available till long after each year has passed. A brief survey of the past twelve months shows once more that Cyprus, like Egypt, has—thanks to British rule—enjoyed complete tranquillity, while the neighbouring mainlands of Syria and Asia Minor, separated only by narrow seas, and still under Turkish domination, present a spectacle of misery and degradation which the enforced subjection of Turkey to Hun influence has aggravated instead of relieving. Syrians, as well as Armenians, have learned the meaning of German *Kultur*.

The year has passed without the least sign of disturbance. There has been no friction between Greek and Turk. The attitude of the Turkish community has been, as always, completely loyal. The Provost-Marshal has had but few and trivial cases to deal with. A few Turks were arrested, but in general there has been no manifestation of disaffection; and martial law, as in the two preceding years, has not interfered with the liberties of the people.

The Island's "Bit."

As regards the war, the island has quietly "done its bit." Several members of the British community have joined the Army, and some—all young men of good promise—have laid down their lives for the Empire. The Chief Commandant of Police, Major Gallagher, D.S.O., has rendered good service. Others, out of regard—perhaps too rigidly enforced—for "the exigencies of the Service," have been refused permission to join. As Mr. Bonar Law stated in the House of Commons last October, H.M. Government did not consider that the extension of the Military Service Act to Malta and Cyprus would be useful.

The island has provided mules, donkeys, and muleteers to the Army at Salonika, and gifts of fuel from the forests have been despatched to Egypt. A convalescent camp on Mount Troödos offered a welcome refuge to many wounded soldiers. At — a large and well-ordered internment camp holds some thousands of Turkish prisoners. A few French aeroplanes flew over the island, and gun-firing was heard on a few occasions.

From a material point of view the island has derived some profit from the war. The sale of animals and island produce at high prices, and the employment of a large number of Cypriots of different classes, at substantial rates of pay, have helped. On the other hand, Cyprus, like most other countries, has inevitably felt some of the adverse consequences of war. The prices of many necessities have risen to abnormal rates, and many have suffered privations. Some classes—e.g., those connected with shipping—have experienced hardships. Officials with small salaries have felt the pinch, and have petitioned Government for relief. The Greek Press, generally prone to attribute blame to Government for all that goes wrong, and to show little, if any, gratitude for benefits received, has grumbled, lectured the Government on its duties, and accused it of want of foresight in providing for the needs of the people.

A large number of Cypriots have emigrated to Egypt, France, and the United States, but in many cases they have jumped, according to their own accounts, out of the frying-pan into the fire. The Greek community has watched with mixed feelings the distractions of Hellas and the suicidal strife of factions. The balance of feeling has inclined strongly towards Venizelism and intervention on the side of the Allies against Bulgarian encroachments. The principal local event was the election of a new Archbishop, Kyrillos, who has many excellent qualifications for the position. There is reason to hope that he combines with a genuine insight into the needs of the island Church a determination to deal with them in a prompt and practical manner.

Agricultural Development.

To expect any wide or rapid development of agriculture in any of its branches is, under present circumstances, still hopeless. But the hard-working Agricultural Department has continued its uphill work, under the Director, Mr. W. Bevan, with good results in several directions. These are largely attributed, as might be expected, to the advisory work of travelling officers. Pests have been fought. Good

work has been done at four new sericultural stations, and instruction has been given in cheesemaking and agriculture. Some successful shows have been held, and cattle-breeding has been encouraged. The year, however, has not been a very happy one for agriculturists. Exceptional heat in critical months had disastrous effects on cereal crops, fruit trees, and locust beans.

As the year closed, rain came in time to relieve a situation which for the agricultural classes throughout the island had become one of great anxiety.

The Forest Department, with its limited grants and staff, worked energetically, under Mr. A. K. Bovill, one of the most experienced of Government officials, whose work, it may be said, embraces a variety of duties besides those of the State Forests.

The Medical Department, under Dr. R. A. Cleveland, C.M.O., has maintained its well-established reputation for good all-round work in the interests of public health, including the anti-malarial campaign, as advised by Sir Ronald Ross, in various parts of the island.

Public Works.

As regards public works, every year shows a steady record of useful work. The Director, Mr. (now Captain) Nicolls (who has taken over important military duties in addition to his own), ably seconded by Mr. W. Williams, has continued the excellent work by which the island is being transformed from a wild and roadless province to a state which enables Cyprus at last to rank as one of the most civilized "rocks" in the Mediterranean and Near East.

The Commissioner of Papho, Major G. Bayly, has directed the police during the absence of Major Gallagher, D.S.O. Reference has been made to the good order maintained throughout the year. The multifarious duties assigned to this excellent force have been efficiently carried out by both mounted and foot branches.

The work of the Law Courts, which have been such a godsend and object-lesson to Turk and Greek alike, has impressed its salutary influence upon the people. Cypriots of all classes render ungrudging tribute to the benefits that British justice bestows. The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, can regard the results of another year with satisfaction.

The Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council, whose term expired in 1916, has had but little to occupy its attention during the war. Three Mohammedan and nine non-Mohammedan members were elected, out of twenty-four candidates, to sit in the new Assembly. Some new blood has been introduced, and several well-known figures disappear, at least for a time.

Education has progressed under the guidance of Canon Newham, whose tact and long experience are fully appreciated. But various reforms, which may be looked for in happier times, remain in abeyance. The rudiments of agriculture are taught in elementary schools, and many village masters attend courses conducted by the Agricultural Department.

Mining operations have been continued by the American Company, and when the war ends shipments of ore should be largely increased.

The High Commissioner can, no doubt, regard with satisfaction a year of peaceful progress, and the people, of whatever nationality, may be profoundly grateful for the good fortune which has given them for nearly forty years the benefits of stable rule and justice.

The classes at the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, Finsbury Circus, were opened last week with about forty students, a number which it is expected will be considerably increased. Most of the students have joined the Japanese section.

According to the German papers, the Turkish Government has sent a Note to the neutral Powers respecting the Entente's reply to the peace proposal, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, in a message dated January 21. The Note, which is similar to those of the Central Powers, comments on the British Protectorate in Egypt, the annexation of Cyprus, the occupation of Tripoli by the Italians, and the proposal to give Constantinople and the Sea of Marmora to Russia.

We have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons a set of most effective postcards that has just been added to their "Oilette" series. It is entitled "Æsop's Fables Up-to-Date," and the six pictures comprised in it are reproduced direct from paintings by Francisco Sancha, a well-known Spanish artist, who hits off most neatly German pretensions and aims in the great war. The skill with which the German Crown Prince and his august papa are caricatured is very marked. In one subject, "The Wolf and the Stork," the unhappy Turk (in the part of the bird) is introduced; in another, "The Tortoise and the Eagle," Bulgaria, as the tortoise, is just beginning a nasty fall, and looking, naturally, somewhat anxious. The other subjects are: "The Fox and the Grapes," "The Dog and the Shadow"—an extremely clever bit of satire—"The Hare and the Tortoise," and "The Hen that Laid the Golden Eggs." The cards are issued in various languages, and they will almost certainly be highly popular in all countries save those of the "Central Europe" block.

THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT

may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locoums, Halwa,
Bamias, &c.

Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 28.

The following are some further extracts from the information communicated to *Al Mokattam* by the Syrian refugee whose arrival I reported in my former letter.*

The two distributing centres from which the Lebanese draw their supplies are Muallakat Zahle, in the Bekaa, and Tripoli, Syria. As a proof of the acuteness of the distress prevailing in the land, this informant cites the enormously high prices of certain articles of prime necessity. Thus oil was selling, at the time he left, at 32 piastres (about 5s.) the oke; olives, 13 piastres; coffee, 96 piastres; sugar, 87 piastres; and petroleum at 16 Turkish pounds the case of two tins! Although the point is not mentioned, it is legitimate to assume that this rise in prices is not caused solely by the scarcity of foodstuffs, especially in the case of home-grown products, but is probably due in part to the great depreciation of the paper currency. What seems to have aggravated matters is Turkish maladministration and bad organisation. At one time the supply of flour was suddenly cut off from Beyrout, and the majority of the inhabitants were left for about a week without bread.

The Lebanon Administration.

As regards the administration of the Lebanon, it is said that, although the old system is still maintained, yet great changes have been effected in the personnel, which has now a considerable admixture of Turkish officials. The Lebanese gendarmerie has been practically cleared of Christians, and their non-Christian substitutes wear now the Turkish uniform, and are mainly entrusted with patrolling the coast near Sidon. The total number of Turkish soldiers in the Lebanon is said to be not more than 2,500, most of whom are distributed along the coast between Beyrout and El Salamun. The headquarters of this garrison are at Bikfaya and Batroun. In Beit Shebab a school has been opened for the teaching of Turkish, German, and Arabic, especially to those who wish to volunteer in the Turkish Army.

It seems that two Druses of the Lebanon who have given themselves body and soul to the Unionist cause are mainly responsible for this interference of Jemal Pasha in the internal affairs of the Mountain. It is said that one of them, an officer in the Lebanon militia, had, on the occasion of the first attack on the Canal, toured parts of the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon, as well as Hauran, on a propaganda of voluntary recruitment, and succeeded in forming a corps of about 3,000 volunteers. Later, however, when these volunteers found that they were being led to do actual fighting on the front, and not patrolling duty on the coast, as they had been led to believe, they started deserting, and only about a hundred of them were left when they arrived at Beersheba. At first the Ottoman Government accorded privileged treatment to the Druses; but eventually it put pressure on them in the same way as it had been doing on the Christians, so that many of them fled to the Hauran, which is in a state of rebellion. The people of that region, who on more than one occasion have known how to assert their independence, have refused to give up their arms, and even to allow part of their grain produce to be sent to the neighbouring markets, as they used to do before the war; and they are now said to be taking up a strong position of defence in their mountain, where some of the Bedouin in the vicinity have joined them. These are said to have carried out some raids on the Turkish forces stationed near by, and to have captured no inconsiderable amount of arms and ammunition, as well as provisions and camels.

Adherents of the Grand Shereef.

When the Grand Shereef proclaimed his independence, almost all the Bedouin of Syria declared themselves on his side, and Jemal Pasha then tried to revenge himself on the settled tribes in Julan, Ajloun, and El Ghor, who, however, quickly abandoned their settlements, some seeking refuge in El Leja, and the rest wandering as far south as the Hejaz to join the Shereef's men. Jemal Pasha then ordered the burning of their settlements and of their crops and the carrying away of their cattle.

The trains between Beyrout and Damascus are reported to be running very irregularly. Wood is used as fuel, and is mainly supplied by the pine groves of El Metn district, the most wooded part of the Lebanon. The wood contractor is said to have made a fortune out of this business, as a few others did on the flour and petroleum monopolies. It is satisfactory to learn that the Government did not commit any high-handed action in connection with its fuel requirements. Such olive and fruit trees as have been actually supplied as fuel were voluntarily cut down by their

owners, who were anxious to get money at any cost to meet their immediate needs.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 1.

The following are some items of information gathered from persons arrived last month from Syria.

"Prosperity!"

In Beyrout, following the German method of misleading public, and especially neutral, opinion, by covering the misery in the provinces with a display of prosperity in the towns, the Turkish Government is said to have laid out wide streets through the old and overcrowded city, and to have paid the owners of the expropriated property in paper money, re-selling the surplus against payment in gold. Under Government auspices, also, a group of wealthy persons formed a syndicate for carrying out a scheme involving the building of a grand Casino Hotel, and the laying out of a sports ground, with pavilions, etc.

One of the refugees, in confirming the almost total lack of drugs, imparts the interesting information that, according to official correspondence received from Germany by the Turkish military authorities, the latter have been informed that not only is it impossible to supply the drugs asked for, but that requirements in Germany itself can hardly be met. This informant, who is a merchant of standing, further states that no goods from Germany have been received in Syria. Owing to the lack of drugs, there have been numerous cases of deaths among sick soldiers. It seems that, owing to this lack, the dearth of doctors, and poor feeding, the spread of diseases has been specially favoured; but the heaviest toll has been exacted by typhus fever, which is said to have played greater havoc than cholera. All accounts agree as to the prevalence of famine, wholesale deaths from hunger, the enormous rise in the price of foodstuffs, and the bad quality of the bread, which is said to consist of a mixture of barley, vetches, and a small proportion of wheat. The price of this darkish kind of bread is said to be 17 piastres per oke in Damascus, which has always been known to be the cheapest town in Syria. The distribution of bread is made in the following fashion: The Government has allotted to each quarter (Haret) two ovens, whither the people repair with tickets. The utmost confusion and disorder reign there, and after waiting for hours, persons sometimes get one-fourth of the quantity indicated on the ticket.

The condition of Palestine in this respect is said to be a little better than that of Syria.

The Government used at first to allow one piastre to the dependent family of the soldier exceptionally called to the Colours by the new law, but they have lately stopped even this meagre allowance, a fact which has further contributed to the distress of the population.

Jemal and the Druses.

It was rumoured, at the time the traveller I quote from left Syria, that Jemal Pasha was recalled to Constantinople to give account of his gross misdirection of affairs in Syria. It is further said that on the occasion of the Kourban Bairam feast neither he nor Tahsin Bey, the Vali of Syria, nor the Military Commandant was present, as all three had to proceed to Hauran to try to pacify the Druses. The best and last means they thought of resorting to was liberal grants of money, but even this did not induce these people to part with one bushel of their carefully-stored grain.

The death sentence passed on a number of notables, including members of the Majliss and former high officials, is said to have been commuted to exile, with all their families, into the interior, where the worst treatment is meted out to them, while their property has all been confiscated.

All the buildings round the Ommeyad Mosque are reported to have been demolished; but the Tomb of Saladdin has been spared, the authorities, no doubt, fearing to incur the high displeasure of the Kaiser, who, on the occasion of his historic speech there, paid such a high tribute to the great Arab leader.

MONTENEGRO.

Any interested in the commercial and general development of this country together with all that its rehabilitation and replenishing after the war will entail, are invited to communicate, in confidence, with

"Major," c/o Messrs. Stilgoes, Solicitors,
24, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.

* See THE NEAR EAST of January 12, p. 245.

THE YEMEN.

In view of the events occurring in greater Arabia it may be of interest to recall briefly the past history of the Yemen, which province has apparently now joined the Shereef of Mecca in the movement against the Turks, and also to give a short description of this little-known country.

The inhabitants of Arabia, or rather the more southern Arabia, the Arabia Felix, now known as the Yemen, were, according to Genesis x. 30, the children of Joktan, who was descended from Shem. Among these children are found the familiar names of Ophir and Sheba. The next Biblical reference to this land is in Ezekiel xxviii. 21-24, which, in referring to the riches of Tyre, runs as follows:—

Arabia, and all the Princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs and rams and goats: in these they were thy merchants. The merchants of Sheba [the Sana of to-day] and Raamah, they were thy merchants; they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices and with all precious stones and gold, Haran and Canneh and Eden [possibly Aden], the merchants of Sheba, Asshur and Chilmad were thy merchants. These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue cloths, and brodered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords and made of cedar, among thy merchandise.

The chief Joktanite kingdom of Arabia was the Yemen, founded by Yaarub, the son of Joktan, and known in Biblical times as Sheba, whose queen paid the celebrated visit to King Solomon. The inhabitants of Sheba were the classical Sabaei of whom the principal family was that of Himyar, one of whom founded the more modern kingdom of the Himyarites, who ruled over the Yemen and Hadramaut till 525 A.D., when the dynasty was overthrown by an invasion from Abyssinia. During the Abyssinian domination many of the people became Christians under the influence of their conquerors. Later, however, the country became a Persian Satrapy, and the people reverted to idolatry and to the Jewish faith.

In 628 A.D. the Persian Governor of the Yemen embraced Islam, and since then it has been a purely Islamic country, which has yielded in importance to the northern province of the Hejaz, in whose borders the holy places of Mecca and Medina are situated. The inhabitants are a hardy and independent race, who claim that their language is pure Koranic, and over whom the hold of the Turkish authorities has been very slight even at the best of times. Among them, indeed, revolts and internal warfare seem almost a normal state of things.

Geographically, Hogarth places the Yemen at the bottom of the list, as the least known of the regions of the Nearer East. "Fully half the southern peninsula," he says, "has not been seen by any European eye, and most of the other half only by ill-equipped or disguised travellers passing covertly along main caravan tracks."

Roughly, the country may be divided into two districts, the Red Sea coastal region, known as the Tehama, a belt of desert stretching from the sea to the foothills of the mountains of the interior, and the fertile uplands of the interior itself. The Tehama, which the writer visited in 1912, is a real desolation, barren, stony and sandy, the vegetation consisting of a few low shrubs, water practically unobtainable, and heat excessive. The chief port of this province is Hodeidah, from which a railway was projected to connect it with Sana, the capital of the Vilayet. A few hundred tons of material were brought, but are now rusting on the beach, as the project was abandoned.

Mocha, on the coast south of Hodeidah, has lost much of its importance as a trading centre, though the excellent coffee which bears its name was still, previous to the outbreak of war, largely exported from Hodeidah.

Very few foreigners have succeeded in visiting Sana, which is supposed to be not far from the site of the Queen of Sheba's capital. The strength and prosperity of the Yemen are all concentrated in the uplands back from the coast where the climate is more equable and rainfall abundant. Whilst on the coast the writer was told wondrous tales of fruit-gardens, corn-fields, coffee plantations, and flourishing villages which existed on the highlands.

The Yemen Arabs appear to be a fine, sturdy race, primitive in the arts, which consist in leather and metal working, the best samples of the latter being the ornamental "janbias," or short curved daggers that are universally carried.

In this hot region the camels are absolutely hairless, which gives them a rather unpleasant naked appearance, very different from the shaggy-coated animals met with round Smyrna and the plateaux of Asia Minor.

An interesting survival is to be found in the coinage of the Yemen, which consists of Maria Theresa of Austria dollars, worth about 1s. 8d., which are now manufactured in Austria from the old dies and smuggled into the country. They were presumably the first foreign coins introduced into this region, and the inhabitants look with distrust on any other. It is only in the largest coast towns that rupees and Turkish silver coins will be accepted. The fact that this is the only coin complicates the making of purchases in this part of the world; for whether you wish to buy a postage stamp or 100 acres of ground, your dollars are all you have to pay with; change there is none, and you must wait till your account runs up to an even dollar. When paying labourers whose day's wage may be half a dollar, one dollar is given to every two men, one of whom makes the necessary purchases of food, etc., and divides with his comrade.

What changes the new condition of affairs in Arabia may bring to the Yemen it is early yet to think, but it is a province which, if properly and wisely governed and opened up to commerce, would add not a little to its own prosperity and to the general commercial wealth of the world.

F. R. G. S.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE SERBS AND THEIR KINSMEN.

At the Royal Victoria Hall, South London, on Thursday, Miss F. Copeland told the story of the Serbs and their kinsmen from their first settlement in the Roman Empire until the beginning of the modern period. The Serbs, she said, were only one branch of the Southern Slav race, all of whom told the same fairy tales, believed the same superstitions, sang the same songs, and so forth. The differences that existed were those between men of the plains and men of the hills, between townsfolk and seafarers; not those between one nation and another. The land they inhabited was most beautiful and varied, and they were one of the handsomest and healthiest of the world's peoples. They were clever, artistic, good at business, and should be happy and flourishing; but, instead of that, they were the most distressful people in all Europe. This was due to historical circumstances. When they settled down in their present country it was already divided between the Eastern and Western Roman Empires. One half of them, after a century of independence, fell under Charlemagne, in due course came under Austria, and remained so to this day. The other half, after a longer period of independence, fell under the Turks, and endured 400 years of slavery. Napoleon, at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, brought a new hope to the Western branch of the Southern Slavs; for he allowed them to use their own language, a privilege which had previously been denied. About the same time the Serbs revolted, first under Karageorge, and then under Milosh Obrenovitch; after which events the period of modern history might be considered to begin.

Miss Copeland wore the picturesque Serbian costume, and the lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessities of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE LEVANT COMPANY'S RECORDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—You publish in your issue of December 1, 1916 (which reaches me, by the way, at this intellectual centre, after what must have been a painfully tiresome journey!), extracts from old-day letters culled from the records of "Ye Right Worshipful Company of Merchants of England Trading into Levant Seas," otherwise, and in a more abbreviated form, known as the Levant Company. I trust that you have only given us a foretaste of many a literary epicurean dish of similar substance and flavour, for, believe me, they, like Turkish delight—the real thing, I mean—are agreeable to the palate.

Might I suggest how you could possibly eliminate an intruding, though in the circumstances perfectly justified, bracketed note of interrogation which occurs after an undecipherable word in the letter to Consul Brandon, Aleppo, dated London, December 2, 1704? The sentence is: "For we think it very unbecoming Christians to assist or encourage the Turkish Ministers in making false pretences or raising aravias (?) on any one, etc."

The word, I think, is "averias," and, in the language of the immortal Quixote, signifies damages or harm. Its use to-day is restricted, but in the Spanish of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when highly-spiced Boccaccian *pasa-calles* were much relished, it is frequently to be encountered, as irate husbands would have a right to expect. Perhaps, even, with no necessary stretch of the imagination, we can picture the user of the word in the above letter to Consul Brandon varying at times City austerity with more human virtues—let us hope, *sin perjuicio ni averia*.

Trusting that this ambling digression will not interfere with the publication of future records, I am, etc.,

Aldershot, January 22, 1917.

Q. S. M. B.

JEMAL PASHA'S SYRIAN RECORD.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We knew some time ago that a book did appear in Constantinople, in Arabic, French, and Turkish, setting out Jemal's justification for the executions carried out in Syria under his orders, but we did not know that it would be the most damning evidence of his cruelty and ignorance!

The Geneva correspondent of the Arabic Paris weekly, *Al-Moustakbal*, Haji Ali Elghayati, tells us now that he has just seen a copy of this book, containing 168 pages, and facsimiles of thirty-six pieces of evidence, upon which Jemal executed thirty-four Syrian notables and passed lesser sentences on eleven others, besides fifty-four death sentences in default, the parties being beyond his reach! This, however, carries us back only to eight months ago, since which time several other executions have taken place, and are still taking place.

The title of this book is "La Vérité sur la Question Syrienne," and it is described as "Publié par la Commandant de la IV. Armée. Constantinople, 1916. Imprimerie Tanine." It seems to be a wretched specimen of printing, on most common paper, so that most, if not all the pieces of evidence are undecipherable! The text, however, is there to tell us that the evidence is based on documents dated 1913, and found at the French Consulates of Beyrout and Damascus, which had been left in charge and under the protection of the American Consul!

We notice already that the supposed offence is dated 1913, but what was it? It was that after the Balkan muddle the Syrians were dissatisfied with the policy of the Turkish Committee, and wanted certain reforms and a limited Home Rule, to enable the country, and eventually the Ottoman Empire, to pull through. Failing to get a fulfilment of Turkish promises, they appealed to England and France, the Protecting Powers, and friends of Turkey, to help them by the exercise of their influence at the Porte. Some correspondence with the Consuls of these Powers ensued, and a deputation composed of Syrian reformers came eventually to Paris. But the Turks renewed their promises of reforms, and enticed some of the agitators to Constantinople for a discussion of terms. The movement then subsided, and things went their usual way in Constantinople, with here and there an occasional assassination of some of those who

had been enticed thither under safe conduct. Those who remained in Syria were naturally not satisfied, but they were doing nothing to deserve banishment or prison, much less hanging. Then Turkey began mobilising, and soon after entered the war with Germany.

We know that Syria is the most enlightened province of Turkey, and Germany, unfortunately, knows that the sympathy of the Syrians is pro-French and English, as that of the Armenians is pro-Russian. Therefore, Germany says, "Let them die!"—I am, etc.,

A. SEFI.

January 21.

THE INFLUENCE OF ISLAM ON MODERN CIVILISATION.

Dr. Majid, speaking recently before the Sufi Society, at 86, Ladbroke Road, W., on "The Influence of Islam on Modern Civilisation," said that a great deal of the best in modern European civilisation had been borrowed from Islam without acknowledgment. Its basis was modern science, such as chemistry and engineering. Chemistry was the Arabic science; the Arabs had originated it. The idea of the old alchemists that the baser metals could be transmuted into gold had for long been scoffed at, but the most recent chemical discovery, that of radium, showed that such a thing was conceivable as possible. Aeroplanes were the most modern of European engineering inventions; but he (Dr. Majid) had been Vice-President of the Aero League of the Empire years ago, at a time when most people in this country laughed at the whole idea, and his reason for accepting such a position was that he had read in a very early book of such things existing of old amongst the Mohammedans. In quite another department of thought the beginnings of International Law were to be sought in Islam. The ancient Romans had had a law of nations, but it was only applicable to the different States within the Empire. Mohammed, having a mission to humanity at large, laid down rules for the guidance of his followers when they came into contact with the Persians, on the one side, and the Roman Empire on the other. The old Dutch jurist, Grotius, who was looked back to as the fountain-head of modern International Law, had taken everything from the Mohammedans without acknowledgment. By the irony of fate the International Law of modern European States left the Moslem world outside. Descartes, the father of modern philosophy, had borrowed very largely from the Arab, Al Ghazali; and Lord Bacon, the originator of inductive reasoning alike in the East and the West, had been anticipated by Islamic writers, even if he did not borrow from them. So, too, with history. Gibbon was the first European writer to produce a really critical history. But he mentioned in his "Decline and Fall" certain great Mohammedan writers who had produced works of that character. Those works had been translated into Latin, and, no doubt, Gibbon read them and imitated the methods of their authors.

THE PERSIAN GENDARMERIE.

Under date of January 24 the *Morning Post* Stockholm correspondent reports:—In connection with the visit to Stockholm of the Persian Minister in Madrid, who has now left for Copenhagen, it is reported that the Persian Gendarmerie will be completely reorganised. The commander of the force, Colonel Nystrom, has been dismissed, and will be succeeded by another Swedish instructor. The corps will be placed directly under the Persian Government's control.

Turkish troops in Austrian uniforms are reported on the Isonzo front.

The Greek Consul-General in Sydney, who recently resigned, has been appointed agent of the Venizelos Government there.

An Egyptian police officer, who was in command of the Baharia Oasis when it was occupied by the Senussi, has been tried for treason and sentenced to death. The sentence has, however, been commuted to ten years' penal servitude.

A telegram from Sofia states that the Bulgarian Government has addressed to neutral countries a communication, which is in parts a repetition, and on the whole a reflection, of the German reply to the Note of the Entente Powers on the peace offer of December 12.

The Milan correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Congregation Propaganda Fide at the Vatican has been informed that 110,000 people have died of hunger in the Mount Lebanon district of Syria. At Beyrout the starving fall in the streets and are carted away. The Pope has sent a large sum of money to the Apostolic Delegate at Constantinople for distribution in Syria.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Further evidence of the value of Germany's protestations of friendly feeling towards Moslems, and of her respect for their religion, has recently reached this country from British East Africa. I hope it will be made known as widely as possible throughout the Moslem world, and that it will help all Moslems to realize how faithfully the Kaiser is redeeming his promise to be their protector and patron. Here are a couple of instances taken from sworn evidence, dated November, 1915, in the course of inquiries held regarding German behaviour to natives:—

In one case cited a Mohammedan girl of twelve was seized by the Germans, and on the way to Muzi was taken by a German officer named Riecho to his tent and outraged. In another inquiry a Mohammedan native said that he was made prisoner by the Germans and removed to Tanga. He was made to work and given very little food. He saw several natives shot by the Germans for refusing to give information about the British troops. The men who were shot had not taken part in the fighting, and were unarmed.

These are strange ways of showing friendship and respect for Islam and its followers. So is the following:—

An Arab, in a sworn statement before the British Court, declared that he and eight others were made prisoners by the Germans. His old father, who was very ill, was beaten by order of the European officer and died. He had, he said, no witness left beside himself. All the others had been killed or had died of their wounds. Numerous other cases of German brutality were sworn to, including that of a Mohammedan, who was made to carry very heavy loads and beaten as he staggered along. The statement adds that the prisoners were attached with chains round their necks and had to live chiefly on roots.

What has Hajji Wilhelm to say on the subject? Will his tender conscience allow him to decorate the gallant Riecho and the other ruffians?

The account of the exodus of the British from Athens published in last week's NEAR EAST shows that our countrymen, their women-folk, and their children succeeded in putting the best possible face on a distinctly unpleasant experience. Amongst them, by the way, was an old gentleman who had been an invalid for years, and had to be conveyed in an invalid-chair. Let us hope the change of air will benefit his health and, literally, set him on his feet again! The refugees tell some strange stories of their experiences in Greece; and as they appear to be now widely scattered over this country, it is likely that a fairly accurate estimate of the Athenian character will be somewhat widely shared. I do not purpose reproducing these tales—I doubt whether I should be allowed to do so. They are hardly calculated to warm one's heart towards the "Royalists," and they are calculated to inspire us—if possible—with a deeper detestation of the "Reservists' Leagues" and their supporters. To learn of Venizelists being bound back to back, and then beaten, knocked about, and insulted in unspeakable fashion by a crowd, of which priests formed part, is enough to turn the stomach of most Englishmen. In view of some of the reports referred to, it is satisfactory to know that the Serbian children—poor little orphans, for the greater part—from the institution established at Phaleron had been sent away to Nice just before the trouble began.

One point that may be mentioned in regard to the "events" is that they reminded some of the refugees of what took place in Constantinople during the Counter-Revolution of 1909. Just as the "Young Turks" were then hunted out and persecuted by the Hamidian party, so now were the supporters of M. Venizelos and the friends of the Entente sought out and bullied—to say no worse—by the military rabble that has so disgraced the name of Athens. The treatment of our friends must have been shameful beyond description, to judge by the feelings it has aroused in those who witnessed it. I trust that the ruffians who made the most of their brief hour of power will be made to pay the price in full. And there, for the present, I will leave the subject, lest I might write something "injurious."

I have been struck by the number of interesting notes on the habits of birds, beasts, insects, and even of fishes, that have been sent to various papers by soldiers—or their friends—since the war broke out. It seems to me that a collection of these notes would make a most fascinating volume, and I shall be surprised if some maker of books does not take up the idea and work it—for the benefit, let us hope, of one or other of the War funds. Naturally, the birds are the first favourites with these observers of Nature, because they are often so amazingly friendly; and to some extent, no doubt, because when you are in a country so lacking in natural beauty as, say, Mesopotamia, the birds

assume an extraordinary interest. Moreover, in such a country, where cover is scarce, small birds will often seek refuge from their feathered enemies in the neighbourhood of man. Thus, I remember reading in the *Field* some time ago a little story of a wheatear, which was so pretty that I venture to reproduce it. The incident took place at Ali Shergi, on the Tigris, where, says the writer, "immature wheatears were plentiful. The first I saw appeared in an unexpected manner. It settled on a man's shoulder as he was sitting on the ground, then dropped and ran underneath the folds of his coat just as a merlin swept past the man's head and went off scared. Then out came the wheatear and made off in the opposite direction. The man was quite unconscious of the drama in which he was taking part." A "drama" indeed—and a pleasing one, surely, for a fighting man to record.

Perhaps, upon the whole, the insects claim most attention from our soldiers, who—though they usually record their experiences with that irrepressible good humour which puts most of us stay-at-homes to the blush—are, clearly, not always voluntary students of their subject. Here, again, Mesopotamia is a happy (or the reverse—more often the reverse, I fear!) hunting-ground. As I have often remarked, that mud-formed land is probably the home of more insects to the square inch, and of more varieties, than any other region in the world. The ants alone are numerous enough, and ferocious enough, to make life a burden when they really set about it; and sand flies (which, I regret to say, an Army chaplain writes of as biting "like blazes"!), mosquitoes, gigantic earwigs, and other pests too small and too painful to be named, all do their bit as faithful allies of the Unspeakable One. Our soldiers write of them in feeling terms, and I am not surprised!

But thus far I have not come across any mention of an insect for which I entertain a sincerely friendly feeling, having experienced nothing but relief from the exercise of his activities. This is the Praying Mantis. Perhaps he does not flourish in Lower Mesopotamia. The only specimen I actually saw was up the Euphrates, above Anah; and I am open to confess that I parted company with him with genuine regret. For I first saw him one hot afternoon when I was lying down in my tent, cursing the flies. My eyes were roving round the little canvas enclosure, when suddenly I saw what seemed to be an animated twig making its way, very cautiously, along the sloping roof towards a fly. I watched, fascinated, and the Praying Mantis stalked the fly marvellously, made a spring, secured its prey, and—disposed of it. After that I watched him repeat the performance many times, and blessed him and his appetite at each "kill"; for the flies had roused my wrath to boiling point. And when my tent was struck, I hoped my quaint little friend would travel unharmed. To my great joy he did so; and for four or five days I benefited by his kind attentions. Then, to my real sorrow, he disappeared. I had hoped to bring him to England—if only in alcohol, poor dear! But the Fates ordained otherwise. What became of him I cannot say. But I have, at least, placed his merits on record at last. And if the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund could despatch a few thousand of his fellows to Iraq, they would, I am sure, earn the thanks of our fly-pestered soldiers in the coming hot weather.

CORSAIR.

ROUMANIA AND THE ALLIES.

Last Friday Mr. Lloyd George, who was accompanied by Lord Milner, received M. Fagure, editor of *Adevărul*, one of the leading newspapers of Roumania, and discussed informally the position and prospects of our latest Ally.

The Prime Minister authorised M. Fagure to assure his compatriots that England and all the Allies considered Roumania as being entirely one of themselves, and as entitled to all their support. Especially was this so at the present moment, when the Roumanian Army had shown such high valour in the great struggle in which it had now been engaged for three months—a struggle still conducted by that Army with an energy and resolution of which the encouraging effects had been conspicuous during the last few days. Mr. Lloyd George added that the British Government would take every means effectively to solve the problem of the transport of munitions for Roumania, and he expressed the firm conviction that ere long Roumania would be fully restored to her own, and would see the realisation of her national ideals.

A Sofia telegram states that M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Premier, on Sunday, handed to the representatives of neutral countries Bulgaria's reply to the Entente Note relative to the offer of peace.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"ALICE" IN THE BALKANS.*

There are people, just as there are things and scenes, that come into our lives, play a rôle which is sublime, commonplace, or grotesque, and then fade away again like the naked branches of winter trees in a mist. They are accidents, as it were, in the normal run of existence, or stage accessories with an effect to produce or an impression to create. Having served their purpose, they disappear, making room for their successors, much as one man makes room for another, or as tragedy creeps along in the wake of comedy.

Books have been written describing these accidents or accessories. There is little or no plot in them, just a thread or two connecting the pictures as they succeed each other with greater or less celerity, with more or less humour, according to the temperament of the narrator. "R. L. S." penned such a book when he rode an ass through the Cevennes and moralised thereon. But greater fame, certainly, attended the author of "Alice in Wonderland," when, in pages that are as lasting as our language, he drew pictures for us of an ordinary little, human girl wandering in a wonder-land that entrances the very young as it does their elders and the very old. "The Luck of Thirteen" is a book of the same character. Attached to a British hospital unit in Serbia, the authors manage a *soi-disant* holiday in Montenegro—in reality in search for some medical supplies that are as elusive as liquid mercury on a china plate. Then, when the end comes, and a starving, dying people stumbles with frozen, naked feet across the mountain snows in quest of peace from barbarians, the authors, accompanied by eleven companions, likewise migrate as best they can across Serbia, Montenegro, and Northern Albania to San Giovanni, where they finally get picked up by a French boat and are taken to Brindisi. Like them we also would have exclaimed on reaching Italy: "Thank God, we are back in Europe once again." For, after all, we are also mere insular Britons, and the staging of the rude war-play on Serbian mud-roads, in Montenegrin villages, and in Albanian inns, would have impressed us as something quite un-European. Whether, however, we should, like the authors, have taken real hardships and serious situations with gay humour, is another matter. They did, and they are to be congratulated, because the result is a series of crowded impressionist sketches of a small wonder-land as seen by those school children, Jan and Jo, the one an engineer, the other his wife, "an artist and a V.A.D." Thanks to the blood of Alice which flows in their veins, they have given us an amusing book, of which not only the style, but the drawings also, are "Alice-y." The latter we are unable to reproduce, but here is a paragraph taken at random:—

On the road were travellers never ending in their variety, and one father was mounted with a pack behind him, and on the top of the pack his little daughter, clad in many-coloured cottons, clasping him tight round the neck and peering inquisitively from behind his ear.

There are travellers galore on these quaint mud-roads and byways of Serbia. Like wayfarers along the road of life, they amble onwards and past the spectator. They mutter, mumble, or vociferate, and are thereby ticketed like some zoological specimen in a natural history museum. Thus, the French messenger or what-not, whose impressions of the country are eloquently summed up in the horrified words of "Quels pays!" As Quels Pays—a little, dapper Frenchman, ultra-civilised and with a Parisian shrug—he will remain with us for many a day. So will the querulous Serbian professor—"an aged Red Riding Hood clad in a scarlet blanket"—and the "Sirdar" in the Montenegrin Army—stout, hoarse (the hoarseness being cured with libations of wine), but eminently practical. "Never forget a face," is his wise utterance; "never forget its name. That is the secret of popularity." Other characters there are in number, from highly placed civil, church and military authorities to beggars, peasants, ruffians and their kin—from Albanians, Turks, Serbs, Austro-Serbs, Montenegrins, and Greeks, to nondescripts of all shades and hues. There is the Englishman, too, at Ipek. Disgusted with the vermin of the Hotel de l'Europe, he went to a monastery, where the "Archbishop" invited him to spend the night. He did so. On the following morning the prelate attempted to rouse his guest, but he would not get up. "No, no," said he; "I spent two nights under a ceiling which rained bugs upon me, and I know a good bed when I've got it." Amusing also is the description of the day spent by the authors at the Montenegrin front, in view of the enemy. "Jan climbed down the hill and took snapshots; the enemy got a couple of pretty near shots at him." Then the Montenegrins wanted to get the range of a big house in Gorazhda with one of the big guns. "This decision had been made a day or two before with much deliberation. They thought the State could afford it. The precious shell

was brought out, and everyone fondled it. . . . At last they pulled the string.

"Goodness! Now we've done it," Jo thought as the mountains sent back the fearful report in decreasing echoes. We seemed to wait an eternity, and then "something white" happened far beyond the village.

The officers looked at each other with long faces. "A bad miss—the expense."

We felt the resources of the Montenegrin Empire were tottering. Awful! Could they afford another?

Finally, with great courage they decided that it was better to spend two shells on getting a decent aim than to lose one for nothing. The terrific bang went off again, and this time the "something white" happened right on the roof of the house.

From people we pass to scenes, treated likewise with a spirit of childish levity such as the description of Cetinje: "Nature has half-filled a big crater with silt, and the Montenegrins have half-covered it with Cetinje. It is a polychromatic village of little square houses, cheerfully dreary." Or Uskub:—

The country about Uskub is a great cemetery, and on every hand rise little rounded hills bristling with gravestones, like almonds in a tippy-cake. Strange old streets there are in Uskub. One comes suddenly upon half-burned mosques with grass growing from their dilapidated domes, a refuge only for chickens; some deserted baths, and in the midst of all, its outer walls like a prison and with prison windows, the old caravanserai.

We watched the sun set from one of the tippy-cake hills, sitting on a gravestone with an old Turkish shepherd, who seemed to derive great comfort from our company.

At times—rarely, however, as behoves a book written in the lighter vein and brimful of nursery similes—a deeper note is touched, of pathos real and human, such as the realistic picture of night and its moans and groans in a field hospital, or the arrival of the first wounded at Vrnitze:—

It was dark before the first motor-load came. . . . The undressing-room was a large white-stone-floored room, with four long plank beds covered with mackintosh; behind was the bathroom. The first wounded man was pushed in through the window on a stretcher, a brown, crumpled heap of misery, and groaning. . . . A second was handed in. No need to examine this one. Bloody head bandage and great, blue, swollen eyelids told plainly where his wound was. . . . Outside was one electric lamp, which threw strong lights and darker shadows, making a veritable Rembrandt of the scene, lighting up the white-clad forms of the assistants who were drawing out the stretchers, the big square end of the ambulance car, and picking out from the gloom of the garden a rose tree which bore one white rose.

Then follows the flight of Serbians—the great, tragic, winter exodus of a semi-naked people—across snow-bound fields and over ice-blocked passes into an inhospitable land. The roads were crowded with weary travellers—old and young, men and women, wounded and starving, beggars and officers, helpless cars and rustic vehicles, the oxen and horses of which, when spent with fatigue, were left where they dropped. From Kralievo to Novi Bazar, where all that was left of Serbia was concentrated: "Private houses had suddenly become ministries; cafés, headquarters; and shops, departmental offices. The square was the central automobile station." Our friends Jo and Jan, with their eleven companions, hurried on, making for Cetinje instead of for Mitrovitza, for where the bulk of the Serbs were heading. The story of their wanderings makes extremely pleasant and attractive reading. Perchance, now and again the colour is too bright, and we lose sight of the real hardships of a terrible journey with little to live and less to sleep on, with rain—and sleet—drenched nights in the open, and days of cold and hunger. However, can one gainsay them the levity with which they treat their trials when we remember that they are of the progeny of Alice (assuming that, unlike Peter Pan, she did grow up and marry happily and fruitfully), and that, if they do not grumble, certainly we have no right to expect it from them?

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Walter Scott has just published "Turkey, Greece, and the Great Powers," by Mr. G. F. Abbott, the author of "Turkey in Transition." Mr. Abbott, as many of our readers are aware, belongs to a family the members of which have been intimately connected with the Ottoman Empire ever since the seventeenth century, and he is an original and painstaking student of Eastern affairs. In this new work (which is published at 7s. 6d. net) he traces the evolution of the political relations between Turkey and Greece and the Great Powers.

Mr. Murray will publish next month "The Straits Impregnable," a personal narrative of the Gallipoli Campaign, by Sydney de Loghe.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Venizelos and the War: A Sketch of Personalities and Politics. By Crawford Price. (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 2s. net.)

The Grasp of the Sultan. By Demetra Vaka. (Cassell and Co. 6s.)

*"The Luck of Thirteen." By Mr. and Mrs. Ian Gordon. Illustrated. (London: Smith Elder. Price 7s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. Jan. 26	1917. Jan. 13		1335. Rebi II.	5677. Sebat.
27	14	Friday	2	3
28	15	Saturday	3	4
29	16	Sunday	4	5
30	17	Monday	5	6
31	18	Tuesday	6	7
Feb. 1	19	Wednesday ..	7	8
		Thursday	19	9

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Helen of Greece, wife of Prince Nicholas, who was born on January 17, 1882 (o.s.), and was before her marriage the Grand Duchess Vladimirovna of Russia.

Crown Prince Carol of Roumania arrived in Petrograd on Saturday, accompanied by M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister.

The Tsar and Tsaritsa attended a banquet which was given at Tsarskoe Selo, on Monday, in honour of the Crown Prince.

The Sultan of Egypt, upon his return from a tour in Upper Egypt, where he was everywhere enthusiastically welcomed, received Sir Reginald Wingate in audience at Cairo and handed him the insignia of the Grand Cordon of Mohammed Ali.

Lieutenant-General Sir Percy Lake had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Sir Walter Townley was received in audience by the King on Wednesday, and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Hague.

The Dean of Rochester and the Rev. E. A. Burroughs, Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, by invitation of Bishop MacInnes, the Bishop in Jerusalem, and at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, have gone to Egypt as Archbishop's messengers in connection with the National Mission of Repentance and Hope. They will be absent from England about six weeks.

At the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury the Bishop of Buckingham (Dr. Shaw) is proceeding to Egypt to minister to the troops and hold confirmations. He expects to return about Easter.

Madame Také Jonescu left London last Friday for Brighton, where she expects to spend about a fortnight recuperating after her recent illness.

Lord Apsley, who was reported wounded in the recent fighting in the Sinai Peninsula, has recovered from the effect of his wound and is again back on duty.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne returned to their residence in Cavendish Place on Wednesday from Castle Macgarrett, County Mayo.

Sir Charles and Lady Waldstein and Miss Seligman have arrived at 12, Bruton Street, Mayfair, which they have taken until Easter.

The new Duke of Atholl saw service in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and was present at the battles of Atbara and Omdurman. He also served in the South African War, and in the present war he has taken a leading part in connection with the Scottish Horse, of which he is Brigadier-General Commanding.

Mr. Thomas Stelian, formerly Roumanian Minister of Justice, has been on a short visit to London.

Princess Soutzo, the wife of the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London from Paris last week.

An official telegram from Constantinople states that General Townshend, the defender of Kut, who had previously been a prisoner on Prinkipo Island, in the Sea of Marmora, was last week removed to another place of internment as a "measure of precaution."

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George being conferred on Lieutenant-General (Temporary General) Sir Archibald J. Murray, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Colonel Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force, in recognition of his distinguished services in the field.

A Reuter's message, forwarded from Cairo on the 15th inst. and delayed in transmission, states:—

The King has telegraphed to General Sir Archibald Murray, the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, congratulating him on the success of the operations which resulted in the expulsion of the enemy from the Sinai Peninsula. The War Cabinet likewise sent congratulations, adding: "The operations have not only resulted in clearing the enemy from the peninsula, but promise you further successes in the future."

Sultan Hussein telegraphed: "I have noted the new and brilliant victory from the two despatches you sent me. I am deeply touched by your courteous attention, and I note with pleasure the success upon success which has followed your appointment to the command in Egypt, giving proof of your skill and sound strategy. Thanks to you, the entire province of Sinai has been cleared of the enemy. Again I thank and warmly congratulate you."

Sir Archibald Murray replied: "Your gracious message has given myself and the troops of my command the greatest pleasure."

Other telegrams were received from General Sir F. R. Wingate, the Egyptian Premier, and General Milne.

Among the results of the Hilary Examination of students of the Inns of Court held by the Council of Legal Education we notice the following, under the heading "Final":—

Class I.—(Certificate of Honour).—Bell, Bernard Humphrey, G.

Note.—The studentship would have been awarded to Mr. Bell had he not been disqualified by age.

Mr. Bell is District Judge at El Obeid, Kordofan. He is the second son of the late Rev. J. J. Bell, M.A., who was headmaster of Christ's Hospital Junior School, Hertford, from 1880 to 1902. He was educated at Christ's Hospital and won a Major Scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, when he became 4th wrangler. Mr. Bell married in 1912 the second daughter of the late Rev. G. Platt Dew, rector of Shirenewton, Mon., and the Lady Mary Dew, and niece of the late Earl of Carrick.

Mr. Augustus Miller, whose name appears in the list of Egyptian Accession Honours published in last week's NEAR EAST, has been lent to the Veterinary Service, Egyptian Army, for two years for the P.H.D. Service. During the war he has been doing excellent work in connection with procuring camels for the Remount Service, has been mentioned in General Murray's despatches, and his name has been submitted to the War Office for suitable recognition.

Under date of January 16 the Petrograd correspondent of *The Times* reports:—The death is announced as the result of a motor-car accident on the Russian front of Lieutenant Eric Hill. The *Norve Vremya* states that two British officers, Lieutenants Wright and Ingle, attached to the British armoured-car detachment, who were injured during operations on the Roumanian front,

have arrived at the Grand Duchess Olga's Hospital at Odessa.

M. Venizelos has sent to the Classical Association a message of thanks for the telegram sent to him by members of the association at their recent general meeting in the University of Leeds.

Surgeon-General Sir Thomas Gallwey has presented the original Maclufa camel saddle on which General Gordon rode when he made his last entry into Khartoum in 1885, before the town was besieged, to the art sale which Messrs. Christie are holding on behalf of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John.

Writing in the *Morning Post* an appreciation of Brigadier-General Lord Binning—whose death was announced in these columns last week—Lord Esher says: "His letters from the Sudan and from India compare with the best from the trenches to-day, and no praise could be higher. . . . At moments he appeared to revel in danger, as when he jumped, for a lark, a hog-backed stile near Trumpington with a frozen pool on the take-off side, or when at Abou Klea he crawled out of the square on the fruitless errand of taking a flask of water to the gallant Fred Burnaby—his Colonel—who was lying by that time past all hope a hundred yards away. . . . In Egypt, in the Sudan, and the Black Mountain he won the ribbons and medals that he wore. Now he has taken his last journey and fought his last battle, within sight of his beloved Lammermoors. His name will linger often on the lips of his children and his friends, though his memory be blown away by the winds of the world."

During the absence from Roumania of M. Bratiano, M. Pherekyde, the senior member of the Roumanian Cabinet, is acting as President, and M. Také Jonescu has assumed the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

The plaster bust of Lord Kitchener by Mr. R. C. Belt, which has been presented to the National Memorial Committee, was sent to Paris on Wednesday to be cast in bronze by the firm of Barbedienne, to whom the Ordnance Department, by order of the Army Council, have already sent a captured cannon to be melted down for the purpose. Friends of the late Lord Kitchener agree that the sculptor has succeeded in making a striking likeness. The bust, when completed, will have a greenish tinge.

The letter by Lord Kitchener appealing for 300,000 men for the Army, purchased by the late Mr. T. Fenwick Harrison at the Red Cross Sale for £6,000 and presented by him to the nation, is now on exhibition in the Armouries of the Tower of London.

The Central Islamic Society will hold a farewell reception in honour of Prince Abdul Karim Khan, of Sachin, at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, on Saturday, February 3, at half-past two. Prince Abdul Karim Khan is President of the Society.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Le Journal states that the Montenegrin Government has been reconstituted as follows:—M. Tomanovitch, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and Commerce; M. Martinovitch, Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Ilitch, formerly Judge of the High Court of Cettigne, will take control of the other Ministries.

Captain Arion, the Chief of the Roumanian Mission in London, has been promoted Major.

Mr. Dayrell Crackenthorpe has been appointed Counsellor of the Embassy at Athens. Mr. Crackenthorpe is proceeding to Athens immediately.

Mr. Crackenthorpe, who was born in 1871, was nominated an Attaché in 1895, and has served in many parts of the world—Old and New. He was at Bucharest in 1906 for a short time, and acted as Chargé d'Affaires there. After serving in Vienna and Tokio, he was sent to Belgrade in 1912, and remained in Serbia till the outbreak of hostilities, when he was transferred to the Foreign Office.

A British military mission, composed of General Philips and three other officers, arrived at Athens on the 18th, and the following day presented themselves to M. Lambros. The mission will take part in the Allied military control. Captain Rogers has taken charge at Piræus as controller of the shipping movements at the port.

Sheikh M. H. Abdar Razek has been appointed instructor in colloquial Egyptian Arabic at the School of Oriental Studies.

Mr. Constantin Collas, Secretary, and M. Spiro Marchetti, Attaché, of the Greek Legation in London, who resigned their respective posts, have proceeded to Paris to assume their duties in the diplomatic service of the Provisional Government of Salonika.

Mr. Dragomir Yancovitch, who was formerly private secretary to his Majesty King Peter, but has been appointed Serbian Minister at the newly-created Legation at Madrid, has arrived in that city.

Count Ludwig Szechenyi, Austro-Hungarian Minister at Sofia, is to succeed Baron von Giskra as Austro-Hungarian Minister at The Hague. Count Otto Czernin is to be the new Minister at Sofia.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES.

Among lectures to be shortly delivered that will be of interest to readers of *THE NEAR EAST* we may mention the following:—At the London School of Economics there will be a course entitled "The Historical Causes of Problems in the Near East," by the Director of the School, Dr. W. Pember Reeves, on Wednesdays, at 6 p.m., beginning on February 7. At the same school Professor John A. Todd will deliver an address on Friday, February 16, at 5 p.m., on the cotton resources of the Empire. The chair will be taken by Professor Wyndham Dunstan, Director of the Imperial Institute. This lecture is one of a course, admission to which is free by ticket to be obtained on application to the secretary. Also at the same place Professor Sidney Webb is now delivering a course on the making of the British Empire, dealing *inter alia* with the differences in race, language and religion, constitutional status and local autonomy, fiscal policy and democratic control of its various parts. A fee is charged for these lectures. So also with the lectures by Professor Seligman on the Arabs, in North Africa and the French Sudan, and the peoples of Europe and the adjoining parts of Asia and Africa. These are for students of ethnology, and will be given on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, the earliest being on February 6.

At King's College, Strand, on Wednesday, January 31, at 5.15 p.m., Dr. Seton-Watson will give a public lecture on the Slovaks. It will be illustrated by coloured lantern slides of peasant art and costumes. Professor T. G. Masaryk will take the chair, admission free.

At University College, Gower Street, on February 12, at 5 p.m., Dr. W. Lawrence Ball, of the Cotton Investigation Department, will give an address on Cotton, this being one of a series of lectures on "Science and the Empire: The Exploitation of Plants." On February 15, at 2.30 p.m., Miss Margaret A. Murray will lecture on Egyptian History. This is also at University College. The lectures are free.

Among the lectures to be delivered before the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, which meets at 39, Upper Bedford Place, W.C., is one at 8 p.m. to-day (January 26), "Glimpses of Constantinople," by Syed Ehsan El-Bakry, and another, "Personal Experiences in Jerusalem," by Miss Helena Frank. The latter will be on February 5, at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, February 4, at 6 p.m., at 86, Ladbroke Road, W., Syed H. R. Abdul Majid, barrister-at-law, will lecture for the Sufi Society on "Education in Islam."

OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM FORBES.

We regret to learn of the death at Bath, at the age of 88, of Mr. William Forbes, head of the well-known firm of MacAndrews and Forbes.

Mr. Forbes went out to Turkey in the middle of last century and had a very successful business career, becoming head of his firm when still quite a young man. During his residence in the Near East, he was one of the best known figures in Smyrna, and was highly respected by all the Europeans. He retired from business in 1870, and thereafter took no active part in connection with British interests in Turkey.

Colonel Charles Louis Nepean Bishop, Royal Marine Artillery (retired), has died at Southsea. He was the eldest son of the late Rev. Freeman Bishop, vicar of Basingbourne, entered the Royal Marine Artillery in 1876, reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in January, 1905, and had his brevet as colonel in October, 1907. Colonel Bishop served during the Egyptian War of 1882, and was decorated with the medal and the Khedive's star.

Colonel George Blake Napier Martin, C.B., Royal Artillery, died suddenly on Saturday last, aged seventy. A son of the late John N. Martin, H.E.I.C.S., he entered the Royal Artillery in 1866, and became brevet-colonel in 1898. In the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, he was A.D.C. to the Officer Commanding the Royal Artillery at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and was mentioned in despatches; he was also decorated with the medal with clasp, the bronze star, and the Order of the Mejidieh (Fourth Class). In 1884-85 he took part in the Sudan Expedition, and was mentioned in despatches, and had two more clasps to his Egyptian medal. Colonel Martin, who also took part in the Burmese Expedition of 1886, received the Companionship of the Order of the Bath in 1889. He married, in 1889, the only daughter of Colonel H. Swinnerton-Dyer, of Westhope, Salop.

Major-General Thomas Carlisle Crowe, formerly Royal Horse Artillery, died suddenly last Friday at his residence, Bouverie Road West, Folkestone, aged eighty-six years. Entering the Army in 1847 he served in Persia ten years later, receiving the medal with clasp, in the Indian Mutiny (medal with clasp), and in the Riel Rebellion in Canada in 1866.

Bombardier Charles Johnson, a Crimean veteran, died at Colchester on Tuesday in his eighty-fourth year.

A message from Sofia (received in London last Friday) announces the death from cancer of Dr. Vladoff, a former chief of the Macedonian movement.

Baron Hubert Jules de Reuter, a private in the Black Watch, of Margery House, Reigate, Surrey, who was killed in action on November 13, has left estate of the value of £26,065, the net personalty being £24,765. The will, dated September 26, 1916, with a codicil of October 7 following, made on scraps of paper and written in pencil during active service, is proved by the Hon. Helen Forbes, of Courfield Gardens, cousin, to whom the whole of the property is left absolutely.

At St. Augustine's Church, Flimwell, on the 19th inst., the Bishop of Chichester dedicated a new rood screen and the chancel of the church, which has been restored by Viscount and Viscountess Goschen in memory of their son, the Hon. G. J. Goschen, who died of wounds at Amarah, January 19, 1916. Many members of the family were present, and several officers of Lord Goschen's regiment attended. Six non-commissioned officers who had served with Lieutenant Goschen in Mesopotamia represented the regiment.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C., OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East, and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs. Intending Students are invited to apply at once to the undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGES.

APOSTOLIDES—GRAHAM.—On the 18th inst., at Calcutta, E. C. Apostolides, late Colonel of the Calcutta Light Horse and Honorary A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India, to Frances Jane, youngest daughter of Sir John Graham, Bart., Larbert House, Stirlingshire, N.B.

TOWNSEND—ENGLISH.—On the 20th inst., at All Saints', Cairo, and at the British Consulate, Thomas Cyril, of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, fifth son of Henry M. Townsend and Mrs. Townsend, of Orton Longueville, Peterborough, to Phyllis, youngest daughter of Marcus V. English and Mrs. English, of Orton Longueville.

DEATHS.

FORBES.—At Bath, on the 2nd inst., William Forbes, formerly of Messrs. MacAndrews and Forbes, Smyrna, in his 88th year.

JACKSON.—On 9th December, 1916, at Constantinople (detained there since July, 1914), Thomas James Jackson, of Paradiso, near Smyrna, eldest son of the late Thomas Hayes Jackson, M.D., F.R.C.P., of Darlington, aged seventy-four years.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.
FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Office and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1917.

ALBANIA AND THE WAR.

Occasional references to Albania in the war bulletins will have served to remind the reading public that, as that country has come within the scope of the world-conflict, so it ought to be able to count on a share in any of the blessings that may be associated with a durable peace. The past history of Albania, however, has proved the difficulty of devising any settlement that can be relied upon to give peace within its borders and a reasonable amount of satisfaction outside. Even with the elimination of foreign jealousies there could have been no certainty before the present war that the Albanians would consent to settle down to a quiet life, and the question arises whether recent events have tended to simplify this part of the problem. The very little light that is being thrown these days upon Albanian affairs does not encourage optimism in regard to the subject. On the one hand, there is Essad Pasha associated with the Allied Army at Salonika. At first sight this fact would seem to range Albania definitely with the Allies and open up the prospect of an easy adjustment of the position at the end of the war. It would be satisfactory indeed if this should prove to be the case. The numbers of Essad's army, however, are not great, and the Allies cannot be certain, in view of his long absence from the country, that his authority will be as readily recognised hereafter by the nation as a whole as it is by the Albanians of his own tribe. An indication of the trouble that is being judiciously fomented under Austro-Hungarian domination is given by a recent announcement in the *Neue Freie Presse* to the effect that Hassan Bey of Prishtina has been decorated with the Cross and Star of the Order of Francis Joseph for services rendered to Austria-Hungary during the war. Hassan Bey took a prominent part, at Austria's instigation, in the Albanian revolts of 1910 and 1912 against the Young Turks, and has always been at the head of the pro-Austrian element in Albania. On the outbreak of the war he seems to have thrown himself heart and soul into the Austro-Hungarian cause. As the organiser of the numerous Albanian bands that took the field, he may be held responsible for the trouble that the Serbian Army suffered from these irregulars, especially in its final retreat to the coast. It is safe to infer, therefore, that the enemy's occupation of Albania has fallen very lightly on their companions in arms, and any pro-Austrian feeling that existed before will have been sedulously encouraged, while Hassan Bey's position will have been proportionately strengthened.

If it were merely a question of deciding between the claims of two rival chieftains, the Albanian problem would present little difficulty. The population, it is to be feared, is far too bitterly divided to allow either candidate's claims to sole authority to be acquiesced in with any hope for a peaceful future. For some years now Essad Pasha has served the Allies well; but it cannot be overlooked that he has made numerous enemies in his own country. The circumstances attending the surrender of Skutari to the Montenegrins after the murder of Hassan Riza Bey were shrouded with considerable mystery, and some of Essad Pasha's fellow-countrymen were far from satisfied to see him withdraw from the town with his men fully armed. While the war lasts it is impossible to gauge the feelings of the Albanians as a whole; but

obvious facts must not be ignored, even though they are unpalatable. The Allies are pledged to certain general principles in regard to the settlement after the war, and a very close watch will doubtless be kept on the manner in which they live up to these principles. Albania probably presents the greatest difficulties in the application of the principle of nationality. With a population hopelessly divided against itself, the country cannot be left to its own devices. An attempt to solve the problem was made before the war by the introduction of a foreign ruler. But, quite apart from the wisdom of the choice made, the appointment was so hedged around with unworkable conditions, as a result of the jealousies of the Powers interested, that the experiment was bound to be a failure. That does not imply that the policy was inherently unsound. Unless foreign intrigue is entirely eliminated, there is little hope of any attempted solution of the Albanian problem being a success. The justification for raising the question at this stage of the war is to be found in the need for an agreement among the Allies with regard to the general principles of the Albanian settlement, in order that the military occupation of the country, which will follow upon successful operations against the enemy, may as far as possible conduce to the future welfare of the inhabitants.

At present the campaign in Albania is being carried out exclusively by the Italians. The recent accession of liveliness in this region at a time when it was thought that the enemy might try to force his way into Greece has gone in favour of our Allies. It is unlikely that they are opposed exclusively by Austrian or Austro-German troops, and as they advance the question of the attitude to be adopted towards the people of the country, who may have been compelled to side, or make a show of siding, with the enemy, will arise. Albania, it is true, does not loom large on the Allied horizon. This is, however, no reason why some thought should not be given to the future settlement. It is likely to prove unfair both to the Italians and to the Albanians to leave the problem entirely to the military authorities on the spot. If, as seems probable, there will have to be some rectification of Albanian boundaries after the war, the general nature of the proposed changes should be known to the Governments concerned, in order that the earliest opportunity may be taken to regulate the administration of the districts affected in keeping with future requirements. For the rest, the Albania which, under whatever form of government, will presumably belong to the Albanians (even though owing to their actions it has to be administered in trust for them), ought to be regarded and treated as part of the Near East, which it is in the interests of the Allies to see at peace with itself and prosperous. Unless this point be kept carefully in mind by the military authorities, the Albanian record may prompt them to treat the conquered districts as enemy country pure and simple. No hard and fast rules can be laid down; but we should like to see some consideration given to the aspect of the case here set forth. It is unlikely that the Albanians have any instinctive leanings towards any foreigners. The tribesmen for the most part are not well versed in European politics; but they are accustomed to render unquestioning allegiance to their immediate chiefs, and are by no means averse from fighting. If they find that they have been misled by the Austrians, they will probably show little hesitation in transferring their sympathies elsewhere; but it will be necessary for those who are making a bid for those sympathies to appear amongst them, first as victors, certainly, but after that essentially as friends.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

FAMILY LIFE IN EGYPT IN ROMAN TIMES.

As Disclosed by the Papyri.

Probably no collection of translations from papyri of the Greek and Roman eras in Egypt affords such an insight into the daily life of its people as does the second volume of the Tebtunis Papyri. Their work and play, their joys and sorrows, their quarrels and endless litigation are all illustrated as by the cinematograph—save that there is no posing or attempt to appeal to the gallery. For the writers of the documents we now peruse with amusement or sincere sympathy disclose their doings to us without the faintest idea that some 2,000 years after they penned them their letters and lawsuits, deeds and receipts would be published in learned tomes by peoples in the distant North, or on a new continent far away over the Western seas.

The study of the thoughts, motives, and actions of our fellow men and women under the stress of circumstances that come at times to almost all of us in life will always be of supreme interest. Reading over such papyri as these, which the savants designate as "non-literary," may not result in the acquisition of much learning; but then even the studious cannot be always acquiring knowledge, but need mental as well as bodily recreation. Some day a clever novelist will find in these old, often mutilated, rolls a perfect mine of wealth for his art and the plots for many entrancing stories. He will also have the additional advantage of introducing his readers to a newly recovered page in the story of mankind.

To illustrate these ideas we propose here not to summarise or review the documents to be referred to so much as to quote some of the most naïve and interesting, and to let them speak for themselves.

Several of those selected will be police or magisterial reports, or appeals to the authorities for redress of wrongs and grievances, because such matters were collected by the administrators or solicitors and stored in the archives or safe places, and so, fortunately, have been preserved for our entertainment. Sometimes, as we shall see, the remains of private letters, wills and deeds, and accounts are found amid the ruins of private houses or in tombs.

We commence with a notification of birth, which had to be duly made by the father, some of the names being omitted for reasons of space:

To Arius Commogranneus of Tebtunis, from Psophis, son of Harpooras, son of Pasebkis, inhabitants of the village, priest of the fifth tribe of the gods at the village, one of fifty exempted persons. I register Pakebkis, the son born of me and of Tasies, daughter of Taopis in the 10th year of Tiberius Claudius Caesar Imperator, and request that the name of my aforesaid son Pakebkis be entered on the list.

In many cases priests were excused from serving in the *corvées* and freed from taxation, and this one, Psophis, in case, by this notice, his name should come before some revenue officer who might search for and fail to find tax payments from him, takes care to mention his exemption.

The barbarous practice of worshipping animals was, it is well known, carried to its farthest limits in Egypt. Not only were those of them that were kept in the temples to be adored as deities pampered and cared for during life, but, like human beings, they were mummified and interred in coffins and vast tombs when dead. This debasing cult continued far into the Christian era, as the papyrus we will now quote proves. Its text concerns the providing of fine linen for the funeral of a bull, the animal representative of the god Mnevis. Another papyrus at Geneva contains the record of a similar supply of linen for the obsequies of an Apis bull. The document is a receipt from the priest of the temple of Atum-Mnevis at Heliopolis for linen sent to him from another priest at Tebtunis. Almost all the temples had a staff of linen weavers; and as such a large animal required much material for wrappings, several shrines seem to have sent lengths to make up the quantity.

Tasens, chief prophet and overseer of the temples of Heliopolis and Aphroditopolis, through Horus, son of Areis, and

other priests of Helios and Mnevis, to Maron, son of Pakebkis, priest of the temple of the gods, in the village of Tebtunis; you have delivered and given to us for the burial of Mnevis, son of Osortha, 20 cubits of fine linen; the 19th year of the Emperors Cæsars Marcus Aurelius Antonius and Publius Septimius Geta.

Many papyri contain complaints of personal assaults and robberies with violence, such as the following appeal dated A.D. 167.

To Longinus, Decurion of the Arsinite Nome, from Pakebkis, son of Onnophris, of the village of Tebtunis. On the 30th of the month Epeiph, when the hour was late, one Saturnilus, with a great many others, I know not why, having no complaint against us, picked a quarrel, going so far as to rush in with stones, and seizing my brother, Onnophris, they wounded him so that his life is endangered. Wherefore, sir, I submit this statement, and beg you to order him (the perpetrator) to be brought before you so that he may take the consequences, and that I may obtain satisfaction.

Such assaults appear to have been made also upon the gentler sex, as the next document shows:—

To Apollonius, who is performing the duties of Epistates of Tebtunis, from Tarmiusis, daughter of Petesuchus. On Thoth 18, of the 22nd year, at a late hour, Patunis, surnamed the dumb, inhabitant of the said village of Tebtunis, made an attack upon my mother Tasuthis, and gave her numerous blows upon various parts of the body, and her life is endangered. I therefore present this notice, begging you if you please to secure the aforesaid Patunis. For, if this is done I shall have gained succour from you.

The wrongful imposition of taxes forms the subject-matters of scores of complaints addressed to the administration. The following, from a lady, will give an idea of the nature of many of these documents. It is of the Second Century.

To His Highness the Epistrategus, from Cronous, daughter of Zoius, son of Petesiechos, of the village of Tebtunis. A long while ago, my lord, my aforesaid father was selected as a superintendent of confiscated property, and, after the appointed term of his office, he died without means, leaving nothing at all; yet ever since the 13th year of the deified Aurelius Antonius demands have wrongfully been made upon me for the Government dues payable on behalf of the property. Wherefore, my lord, since it has been decreed that women should be exempt from such burdens, I, being a defenceless woman, weighted with many years and in danger of having to leave my home on this account, perforce take refuge with you, begging you to give orders now, that the property standing in the name of my father be transferred to living persons.

The result of this application is that the epistrategus endorses it "To be sent to the Strategus."

In Egypt, until very recent times indeed, *baksheesh* and personal influence were all-powerful in ameliorating the rapacity of the Government and the rascality of the fiscal officials. The next document, a letter to a priest who was connected with the financial arrangement of his temple, concerns the approaching visit of a government inspector. There was evidently reason to believe that the temple accounts would be found defective, or would disclose maladministration. The cleric is, however, told he need not be anxious, as, whatever he might detect, the official was not likely to make a disturbance. It looks very much as if some of the funds had been applied to the purchase of robes to be presented to the writer of the letter. The farewell is a comical comment upon honour among thieves.

To his dearest: greeting. I have sent letters about the six robes, telling you to send them to me at any cost. I now write in haste to prevent you being anxious, for I will see that you are not worried. You must know that an inspector of finance in the temples has arrived and intends going to your division also. Do not be disturbed on this account. I will get you off. So, if you have time, write up your books and come to me; for he is a very stern fellow. If anything detains you, send them on to me and I will see you through, as he has become my friend. If you have difficulties for funds write to me and I will get you off, as I did at first. I write to you in order that you may not put in an appearance yourself, for I will make him let you through, before he comes to you. He has instructions to send recalcitrants under guard to the high priest. Do not neglect yourself nor what I wrote to you to buy for me, as I am in need of them. Good-bye, most honoured friend.

Domestic differences arising from unfortunate marriages are revealed in the papyri, as in the following case of an appeal to the authority from a wronged wife:—

To Gallus, Centurion, from Heraclia, daughter of Didymus of Antine, residing at Tebtunis. Several years ago, my lord, I was united in marriage to Hermes, son of . . . of the village of Theognis, during my parents' lifetime, and brought on the marriage, in accordance with the contract made between us, a dowry amounting to 5,000 drachmæ. I have also had two children by him, and have no thought of another man. But he, after

my parents' death, carried off all that was left me by them, and took it to his house at Theognis, and is using it up.

The wife's dowry remained her personal property after marriage, and her possession of it would be upheld by an honourable husband. Hence, when in need of funds for some profitable transaction, or because of bad crops or misfortune, the lady would lend part or all of her dowry to her spouse. The next document, which is of the year B.C. 12, is a specimen of such an arrangement.

The 18th year of Cæsar. Registered by Herodes, writer of contracts. I, Pakenus, inhabitant of Hiera, Persian of the Epigone, have received from Tameische, daughter of Soknopis, my wife, the loan of her dowry, with clothing, making 24 silver drachmæ, which I will repay. If a separation between us take place, I will pay it within 30 days, from the day on which I receive notice, without any delay, or subterfuge, as aforesaid, and I have placed the contract in the hands of Ptolemaeus. I, Hippas, wrote for him at his request, because he stated that he was illiterate.

J. O.

'TWIXT TIGRIS AND INDUS.

Viscount Bryce presided over a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, held on the 18th inst., at which a paper entitled "Between the Tigris and the Indus—the Ben-i-Israel," was read by Sir Thomas H. Holdich, K.C.M.G.

The lecturer began by describing the home of the Ben-i-Israel, who, he said, belong to (if they do not comprise) those Durani clans who established themselves as the dominant power in Afghanistan after the death of the great Persian ruler, Nadir Shah, in the eighteenth century. It was a well-watered and fertile land, bright and warm with sunshine in summer and wrapped in the snowy mantle of an Eastern Switzerland in winter. The Ben-i-Israel are all Mohammedans, of the Sunni sect, and there are certain curious traces of Levitical ritual in some of their observances. They maintain that they originally came from Asia Minor, and they are undoubtedly immigrants from the West. They possess in a very marked degree the Hebraic cast of feature and character; but the lecturer emphasised the necessity of distinguishing between the Jew and the Israelite. The Afghan hates the Yahudi, or Jew. Referring to the name Kabul, Sir Thomas said that there was no difficulty in identifying it with that of a well-known place mentioned by travellers in Palestine and one of the cities given by Solomon to Hiram. The identity of a place-name in localities so widely separated as Syria and Afghanistan was at least curious, if not significant.

It might be interesting to know how the Ben-i-Israel could have reached the Kabul valley from Armenia, or from any other district "beyond the Euphrates," to which they were originally carried captive. There was a time when, across the width of Persia, by at least two world-old high roads, the slow caravans passed and repassed from Central Asia and India to Syria and the West. Then came the sweeping hordes of the North-east, to interpose a barbaric wedge which practically shut the main gates of the Eastern trade, and the sea-borne trade sprang into existence. Now, again, there appears in the not very remote future the chance of a revival of that old-world honoured overland trade which existed before the days of Israel. Who could well doubt that the centre of conflicting interest in the present war is trending towards Constantinople (with all it stands for in the Mediterranean, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and ultimately in Persia) as the final issue to be fought to a finish between Germany and Russia? Two notable events had lately been recorded in the progress of Eastern affairs bearing directly on this important question of overhead communications: the first railway had been opened in Persia, and the Taurus had been pierced by the Germans. The rights of the highways through Persia, if not Persia herself, had become the desire of Western nations, and we heard loudly-expressed political aspirations for the open "road to the East." What did "the East" mean? Did it mean Persia and Central Asia, or did it mean Afghanistan, India, and China—or all of them? Sir Thomas thought we might take it that it meant India directly, and the rest ultimately.

The iron rails of two great systems emerging from Europe now pointed eastwards, and neither of the two belonged to England. One was Russian, from the Black Sea, the other was German, from Berlin and Constantinople. We had lately been paralysed by fear of German designs on Baghdad. Let us hope that the war would shake old England out of her paralysis and that we should take our place once more in the world of international enterprise. Anyhow, Asiatic developments would not stand still for us. It seemed probable that either Russia or Germany would dominate Constantinople after the war. We meant that it should be Russia. We might regard all the Balkan fighting and all the struggle in Asia Minor as but the preliminary to a decision on the final question of command in Constantinople, with all that it stood for. There was, however, this difference between the two: Russia without Constantinople had still a wide vista of national expansion if she retained Armenia. Germany, if she lost Constantinople, lost all hope of her Eastern progress. It was not merely Mesopotamia and Persia, or even India added, that filled the German

horizon. We must remember China and the millions Germany had already sunk in securing a footing there.

Lord Bryce, in opening a discussion, said in the future we should see two or three railway lines projected to connect the West with India. He hoped that when peace came the Allies would be determined not to allow Germany to obtain any hold on Mesopotamia. We now knew how dangerous that would be to our own interests in India. He also hoped that on no terms would Germany be allowed to acquire Constantinople, for that would be extremely dangerous. One of the points on which the Allies would be most united was to prevent any hold whatever being established by Germany in the Balkan countries.

Dr. Moses Gaster (Chief Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews) said that he remembered a lecture over which Lord Reay presided some years ago, when pictures of Pathans were shown, and one might have thought they were Jews who had walked out of the ghettos of Russia. We knew from Josephus that large numbers of Jews lived beyond the Euphrates in ancient times, and there was a legend of a Jewish traveller who, in the ninth century, visited various Jewish tribes in that part of the world. Apparently he started from the coast of India, or the Persian Gulf, went to the North, skirted the Black Sea, touched Southern Russia, and walked back through Syria to Ethiopia. Several centuries later the same story appeared in Europe as the legend of Prester John, very little being changed but the name. Later than this story of the early Hebrew traveller was a very ancient Persian document, written in Hebrew characters, which had been discovered in the Treasury of Egypt. It was dated about 1020, and came from Jews living in India close to the Afghan border. Then there was in mediæval times a big colony of Jews in India, to whom the other Jews refused recognition, because of some peculiar customs, they having become more or less assimilated with the local population. Another link in the tradition was furnished by the black Jews of Cochin, who had still further changed.

Colonel Yate said that nobody who had lived with the Afghans, as he had done, week by week and month by month, would doubt that they were bona-fide Israelites. He had ridden with them all day, fed with them, sat up by the camp fire talking with them, and found that they firmly believed they were Ben-i-Israel. He did not see why people who had no great personal dealings with Afghanistan should doubt their statement. He congratulated Sir Thomas Holdich on his Biblical knowledge; he (Colonel Yate) had not previously known that the word Kabul was in the Bible at all. We had seen recent references to an Armenian settlement in Persia 300 years old, where the settlers had given their habitation the name of the place they had come from, and it was certainly possible that Israelites who had been deported beyond the Euphrates and had wandered for centuries, when they settled down in Afghanistan would give their new settlement the name of the city from which they had originally come. Sir Thomas Holdich had opened up vast possibilities for the future. He agreed that the Ben-i-Israel were the dominating tribe of the great kingdom holding the gates of their enemies—the great passage of the Hindu Khoosh both east and west. He looked upon the Amir of Afghanistan as a real warden of our marches. The Amir had been a most faithful ally throughout the war and had kept the whole country quiet.

Sir Henry James said that Sir Thomas Holdich had not brought the Ben-i-Israel far enough to the East. There was a very curious old habitation of undoubted Israelites, with synagogues, rolls of the law, and so on, still to be found in the centre of China.

On Saturday an order was received in Canea from the Salonika Government calling on all untrained classes in Crete born in the years 1884 and 1885 to report themselves between the 21st and 28th inst. It is stated, adds Reuter's agent in forwarding the news, that a general mobilization of the trained classes is expected within a few days.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports (January 22):—M. Hanotaux has an article in the *Figaro* on "The Future of Turkey," a nation which Mr. Balfour demands shall be eliminated from Europe. The writer says: "Germany, it is stated, had voluntarily offered Constantinople to Russia in order to obtain a separate peace." "The idea," M. Hanotaux concludes, "therefore originated with the friends of the Turks."

In an appeal from Erzeroum received by the hon. secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, it is stated that the territory bounded by Bayazet and Erzinjan, Kharsis, and Alashker, "has been the scene of terrible bloodshed, in which 250,000 of our unfortunate compatriots suffered last year. Some 30,000 are saved, mostly women and children. This broken remnant must form the basis of our future hopes and expectations. Hundreds of survivors come in daily from every corner of ruined Armenia in a most pitiable condition." Contributions should be addressed to Miss E. J. Robinson, hon. secretary, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, W.

* * When communicating with Advertisers, Readers will greatly oblige by mentioning

"THE NEAR EAST."

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

America and the Near East.

In a message (dated January 18, and published last Friday) the Washington correspondent of *The Times* describes the impression created in the United States by Mr. Balfour's note. He quotes the *World* as saying: "Certainly there is no guarantee of peace in the proposal to barricade a great Empire like Austria-Hungary from the sea in order to aggrandize Italy."

And while it may contribute to the welfare of mankind to exile the Ottoman Empire from Turkish soil, it will not necessarily promote peace if the Turk is driven from Constantinople." And he goes on to remark:—

The magnificent reception accorded to the spirit and principles of our peace terms should not tempt people to think that all Americans agree with them. The feeling still obtains in Liberal circles that by being too hard upon Germany and her Allies we may produce grievances pregnant with future wars.

One of the chief reasons for this feeling, besides the fact that neutrals are always more moderate than belligerents, is ignorance of the real significance of the Near Eastern situation. There is still a rather surprising amount of talk about the futility of our spending our energies to secure what it wants for this or that Balkan Power. The positions of Italy and Roumania are still easy targets for Prussian misrepresentation, as are Russia's claims to Constantinople.

The Turkish "Bulwark of Peace."

Dealing with Mr. Balfour's "remarkably able despatch . . . to America," the *Nation* (January 20) remarks:—

Its main concern is to justify the demand for the expulsion of the Turks from Europe. It points out that our view has changed since the days when we used to defend Turkish "integrity," because the facts have changed, and the Turks in German hands are no longer "a bulwark of peace." That, of course, was never the Liberal view of the rôle of the Turks. As for the case for their expulsion from Europe, it is almost rounded off now that they have been driven from Macedonia. The more imminent need is for the liberation of Armenia and Syria. What Mr. Balfour has in mind, however, is plainly the fact that the Germans have enlisted the Turks permanently in their military system, and are even now using them, as he points out, to fight beyond their own territories.

The *Nation* is of opinion that "this particular case of the Turks might, of course, be met by creating an international State in Constantinople and Thrace, or even by neutralising these territories under international control. The argument certainly does not require the annexation of Constantinople by Russia."

A Delusion of the "Talkers."

The *Saturday Review* (January 20) deals vigorously with what it well styles an "obstinate delusion" about the Allies and Greece.

The delusion in question is that we have not settled the Greek question because we are all tender Tories over the dynasty difficulty! This was ventilated by one of the "much-talkers" in Parliament some time ago, and now there seems no way of getting it out of the public's head. As a fact, it would be considerably nearer the mark to say that we have not solved the Greek problem because we are all not tender Tories, but visionary Whigs over the Parliamentary difficulty. The idea has been that, if only we could get the Greek Parliament with us, the Greek people and the Greek Army would fling up their caps and follow with wild enthusiasm. That is a mistake. The country made much the same mistake about the Turkish Parliament years ago. But there are people capable of believing that if we could only set up a popular Assembly in Hades we should free the inhabitants of the Infernal Regions; and that the spirits there would hereafter always take the right side and live happily and freely ever after.

"Our real misfortune in Greece," adds the *Saturday Review*, "has lain in not long ago recognising that it was a bad egg, putting its Army safely away in the Peloponnese and troubling no further about its people, its King, or its Parliament."

The Balkans and Republicanism.

The *New Statesman* (January 13) concludes an article entitled "The Allies and Greece" with the following paragraph:—

A last point worth considering is the extent to which the faults (as the Allies regard them) of King Constantine of Greece and King Ferdinand of Bulgaria may be regarded as faults of kingship, to be remedied, so far as those countries are concerned, by setting up republics in them. We have naturally no prejudice against either a Greek or a Bulgarian Republic; but we doubt whether either would prove much more democratic than what it replaced. The real trouble in Greece is not the strength of the King but the weakness of the people. There is not yet in the country any solid tradition or habit or instinct of law-abiding constitutional democracy; and for such a defect no quick paper remedy can do much. It is probably true that in 1915 M. Veni-

zelos had with him the majority of the Greek masses—the people who had votes and little else. But such people had never been the real holders of power in Greece; nor would they be under a republic. If the King gave place to a President, the latter would, in the nature of the case, follow South American rather than Parisian models. He might, of course, be a philosopher-autocrat, a Venizelos; but it is at least as likely that he would be a Castro or a Villa, or (to go no further afield than Greece's own modern republican history) a Capodistria. The one generic difference between Presidents of this type and Kings of Constantine's type is that their rule is less permanent; civil war and bloodshed are commoner; good and bad rulers alike are more easily displaced, and have more visibly and normally to rest their power upon bribery or military force. For this reason the peace-desiring sentiment of men, which lies at the basis of every State's existence, often leads peoples at such a stage of development to prefer a monarchical to a republican Constitution. M. Venizelos himself has expressed this preference strongly. Where it exists and is genuine, it seems to us that it would be a mistake in the name of the old-fashioned dogmatic Republicanism to force on a people a Constitution for which they felt themselves unripe.

"A Clever Automaton."

Sir William M. Ramsay contributes to *Land and Water* (January 18) "A Study of King Constantine." He considers that the best example of the success of one side of the Kaiser's diplomacy—his personal power—is seen in the case of the present King of the Hellenes. He writes:—

The present writer has watched King Constantine for a period of thirty-five years, and has seen him grow up from early childhood and develop. At the time of the first Greco-Turkish war, in 1896, he was a young man of little ability, inadequate education, empty and selfish, who had not been brought up to recognise and to make any sacrifice for the duties of his position. The war against Turkey came to test the Crown Prince, and he was shown to be not merely selfish, but cowardly.

I remember well the explosion of indignation against him personally which was roused then. A chorus, indeed, of champions of royalty protested that the Greek people was prejudiced and unfair in judging him, because, as a race, the Greeks could not forgive ill-success. The accounts of his conduct, however, as I read them and heard them, were given not only by impassioned Greeks, but by cool neutral observers, and they were unanimous. It was a right instinct which led the Greek people to protest against their destiny being allowed to pass under the control of such an empty, incompetent, and selfish individual.

It became necessary for the Prince to go for a time into "a sort of genteel exile," and he was accordingly packed off to Berlin.

In Germany the Kaiser took him and breathed a spirit into him, but it was a German spirit. It made him able to work, to sacrifice the present to the future, to form plans for a distant time, to conceal his intentions under a mask of bonhomie, and to aim steadily at autocracy, as well as to know something about the movement of soldiers in the field and the principles of modern war. This training left him as selfish as before. His ideas were bigger, his outlook on the world was immensely enlarged on the intellectual side, but on the moral side there was no improvement. He was almost hypnotised by the German diplomacy and militarism. Previously he had shown extremely little power of thinking or planning, and all that which he now acquired was breathed into him by the German mind. And so he has remained—little more than a clever automaton, which could be guided and influenced at will by the master in Berlin.

Sir William considers that "it is morally and psychologically impossible for the Greek King to act otherwise."

The soul which was put into him was a German soul. His thoughts and ideas and aspirations are wholly German. He knows that it is his German training which has made him a man; and every word that issues from Berlin is to him sacred and all-powerful, as the full expression of the highest truth. He knows far better than we do how the Kaiser has succeeded in re-making the Turkish people. He knows the fate of Serbia, and he is firmly convinced that Roumania will suffer equally. He believes that his only chance for salvation lies in declaring himself on the German side at the suitable moment. He sees how Ferdinand of Bulgaria succeeded in maintaining a pretended neutrality until the proper time came; and he is imitating Ferdinand to the best of his ability. Finally, he understands how he gained the reputation among his own people of a great and successful general; and he trusts to a "plan of campaign," suggested by the Kaiser, to carry him safely through the next war.

The Value of Greece.

The article concludes by asking: "Why trouble about Greece? . . . Of what value is it?" And Sir William Ramsay replies to these questions thus:—

To us it possesses in itself no value; but to Germany and her Asiatic plans, it is of enormous importance. With Greece Germany would command both sides of the Aegean Sea, and would stretch far into the Levant, and with those far-stretched fingers of the Morea touch the sea-path from Malta to Syria and to Egypt. It possesses a very long coast-line, which is a great want in Germany, even in the greater Germany. It covers the Berlin-Bagdad Railway on the west, as Roumania with the Danube and Bulgaria protects that line on the east. In German hands Greece would immensely lengthen that long sea-way which at present lies between Russia and the open Mediterranean.

Those who ask about the value of Greece to Germany can best answer their own question by taking a map and indicating on it the railway artery that gives vitality to German Asia, and then noticing how Greece protects that artery.

Praise Indeed!

The *Daily Telegraph* remarks very truly that "a Hamburg shipping organ is hardly the place where one would expect to find a tribute to the personality of the King of Roumania. But," it adds, "the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* provides us with an exceptional instance. The special correspondent of this paper, Dr. Heinrich Wodnik, entered Bucharest with Falkenhayn's army, and spent a few days in collecting political gossip, apparently with the object of ascertaining to what extent King Ferdinand was to blame for Roumania's entry into the war. The result of his investigations is a remarkable summary of public opinion regarding the Royal family." The *Telegraph* then translates the doctor's report as follows:—

Who is blamed for what has happened? The names of certain politicians are always mentioned when this question is put; but the King himself is invariably absolved of responsibility. Still, the very manner in which his Majesty and his family are excused indicates that they mean more in Roumania than is generally believed. We in Germany are too apt to fancy that the kingdom of Roumania, since its origin is not national, in spite of old Carol's unquestionable leadership, sits rather unsteadily on its throne, and can easily be uprooted by the ruling oligarchy in case there is any disagreement with regard to policy. I am convinced that this belief is utterly wrong, for the dynasty is almost incredibly popular. The people are charmed with the present representatives of the Royal house—not only the King and his consort, but even more particularly the beautiful young princesses, whose photographs are to be seen in every country cottage.

In view of all this, it follows that the dynasty is no mere ornament, which the "real" rulers of the country can send about its business, as is too often loosely suggested; but a sovereign power rooted in the hearts and consciousness of the people. It would be a grave error to suppose that King Ferdinand owes his authority to this or that group of politicians, and that it is only thanks to their favour that he enjoys the possession of his throne.

Bucharest in Happier Days.

A charming picture of Bucharest before the coming of the Hun is given by W. F. Bailey and J. V. Bates in the current *Fortnightly Review*. "Here," says the writers, "the dull, grey, serious world seems to be non-existent"; and the picture they draw is certainly a pleasant one. Bucharest has progressed enormously in recent years.

It seems scarcely credible that fifty years ago these streets were nothing better than rough country roads, in the mud of which ox-waggons and carriages were wont to stick fast, while the side-walks were paved with boulders taken from the bed of the Dombovitza. Well within the memory of the older inhabitants petroleum lamps were the only lights obtainable, sanitation was conspicuous by its absence, and the Royal palace was little better than a huge farmhouse. Now there is not a vestige of an old building to be seen from one end to the other of the grand boulevards, where nationalism, independence, petroleum wells, granite quarries, and grain have changed an old into a new Roumania.

But a turn down one of the side streets and a walk in the older quarters of the town will enable you to fancy yourself back again in a Roumanian country village.

Small, low, white or pink, wooden-roofed cottages, with stacks of firewood and sheds leaning up against them, surrounded by tall, bright green poplar, mulberry, and plane trees, and orchards, fronted by tiny gardens full of lilies, roses, and sunflowers, meet the eye. Everywhere is heard the cackling, gobbling, crowing, and screeching of cocks, hens, turkeys, and geese. Here in one open space a flock of white sheep with fawn-coloured ears and fawn-coloured feet are resting, guarded by a couple of shaggy, bare-legged, bronzed shepherds clad in huge brown felt cloaks, with black astrachan caps, the size of a tea-cosy, on the swart heads, and with ten-foot staffs in their hands. Deplorably mingled with the sheep are the goats—goats of all sorts and styles, black, brown, white, and mottled; goats with horns sweeping in immense curves over their back. Not far off, under a clump of alders and willows, are some ox-waggons, and beside these, on the dusty ground, sleepy-eyed white oxen and buffaloes lie chewing the cud, while others of their species are hauling along their squealing, wooden-wheeled, overladen carts, the noise from which is enough to set the strongest nerves on edge. Behind booths set out upon the roadways the market folk are serenely waiting for purchasers. The women turn their distaffs, the men smoke and play cards and leave fortune unwooded, apparently indifferent as to whether or not they do bad or good business.

In this respect, the authors point out, the "Roumanians differ absolutely from the French, with whom, and not always correctly, they are compared. With

'the dignity of labour' these excellent people are totally unacquainted. Yet no one works harder for six days out of seven than does the ordinary Roumanian peasant, who is the backbone of the nation, but he works to live, not lives to work." The rest of the description is as pleasing as that quoted, but any reader whose appetite has been whetted must go to the original.

"Dirty Tactics in Roumania."

Mr. Edmund Dane begins an article in the *Daily Express* (January 22) with a reference to the Germans' use of explosive bullets in the upper valley of the Susita. The use of such things, he says very truly, "is a tribute to military ascendancy," and he gives it as his opinion that "the Roumanian situation is for the enemy growing day by day worse." At the time that the invasion of Roumania was decided upon—

There were evidently two courses open. One was to stand on the defensive against Roumania and to stiffen the resistance on the west with a view to an ultimate and fresh offensive; the other, to attack Roumania and postpone any eventual developments on the west to the issue of that attack. There is not the slightest doubt that Falkenhayn held out for the first of these courses, and there is not the slightest doubt that in doing so he clashed with the Kaiser's desire to be revenged. . . . The attack on Roumania promised to be a political, economic, and military coup of the first order, and appeared to be easy as well as short. Falkenhayn was dismissed and the famous Hindenburg plan adopted.

It has, says Mr. Dane, proved neither short nor easy. It was a false move. The article concludes:—

Some speculation is now being indulged in as to where Germany's next stroke, or attempted stroke, may fall. The one thing to be kept in mind is that the abandonment of the Falkenhayn for the Hindenburg plan has made an immense difference to the German prospects in the west. In a certain sense the Roumanian campaign is an additional war. Measuring it simply on the scale of this conflict, people regard it as a sidelight. In duration and in the number of troops engaged it has been for Germany as big a war as that of 1870-1871.

On the Falkenhayn plan all these resources were to have been used on the west. Even were the resources, raised with blood and tears, undiminished—and they have been already heavily wasted—the assumption that there can be another revulsion of purpose is gratuitous. Neither the position of Austria-Hungary, nor that of Bulgaria, nor that of Turkey, permits of any such proceeding. The enemy cannot walk out of this tangle as he chooses. He has to fight it out to the bitter end.

It is supposed that he is looking in the direction of Salonika with the design of a great attack. He is looking in that direction with a fear, not unjustified, about his capacity for defence. To meet the forthcoming blows on the west—strokes such as he has never yet experienced—he has once more to harrow his already thrice-harrowed population. All that is behind his use of dum-dum bullets in Roumania. He is hard pushed.

The Russians in Roumania.

On Saturday the first "leader" in *The Times* was entitled "Russia and the War." The concluding paragraph, which expresses unalterable confidence in the valiant Russian army, contains a hopeful reference to the situation in Roumania:—

As to the ability of the Russian armies in the field to render a good account of themselves this spring, the most satisfactory reports continue to be received. It is not necessary, indeed, to wait for the spring in order to measure the probable strength of Russian efforts this year. Daily proof of the increasing vigour of Russian military operations is furnished by the stern and continuous fighting on the borders of the Transylvanian Alps and on the banks of the River Sereth. The check administered to the Austro-German advance in Moldavia grows constantly more significant, and gives rise to strong hopes. We hinted some days ago that there might soon be a turn of the tide in the Roumanian campaign, and it is more than possible that the change may be at hand. The Russian forces in Roumania are no longer on the defensive, and there is some reason for thinking that Marshal von Hindenburg's attempt to march to the Pruth may involve him more deeply than he cares about. He has committed himself very far indeed in his Roumanian adventure, and conceivably he may have cause to regret it.

"Whatever may be the outcome of the Roumanian campaign," the article continues, "it is certain that Russia will take her full part in the general resumption of hostilities this year, armed and prepared as she never has been yet. She has an astonishing abundance of men at her disposal, and her gallant troops will no longer be asked to face the heavy batteries of the enemy with insufficient artillery protection. Beyond the transient elements of domestic unrest we can see the true might of Russia, which resides in the unalterable decision of her myriads that the great sacrifices of the past shall not have been made in vain."

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In a recent United States Consular report the American representative at Tunis requested that American exporters should furnish him with catalogues, trade journals, and other export literature for the use of the Consulate. The Consul adds that, "While Tunisia does not offer so large a market as do some other districts, there is a live interest in that field in both American goods and American methods. . . . It would seem that there is business to be done in this North African country, and British people should start in to see what it may amount to. We are at war, I know, and there are many difficulties in the way of trade; but the war is not going to last for ever, and we ought to do something in the direction of preparing for the day of peace."

The expression "trade after the war" is rapidly becoming a flimsy and threadbare shibboleth, and British traders and manufacturers are in deadly danger of being the victims of a faith which is without works. Let us hold on to the faith that is within us in the British genius to see things through; but if we fail to back our belief with good works we need not have much hope of salvation. And Tunis is not the only country in the Mediterranean that is calling aloud for enlightened enterprise; there is Egypt, where the authorities have been demanding for months British substitutes for the Huns, now happily excluded, but who "ran" certain lines exclusively before the war.

I was much impressed by a lecture which Mr. Edwin T. Nind delivered to the Sales Managers' Association in London the other evening. He advocated that every article of British manufacture should bear a distinctive official national trade mark, "to imitate which would be both forgery and treason, punishable by severe penalties." "There must," said Mr. Nind, "be some sign by which our brothers in the colonies and our friends in neutral countries can know what is British and what is German."

Our friends in Near Eastern markets will appreciate the force of this demand. British trade has suffered heavy losses through the practice of dishonest foreign travellers foisting off trash as being of the "best British manufacture." But we must be honest with ourselves none the less. We have had traitors in our own camp, and if we are not careful they will revive their practices as soon as the war ends. I know of cases in which the cheapest product of the cheapest British makers of cutlery—to mention one line—have sold their stuff to German travellers labelled "Best Sheffield make," and so on. The Huns have taken the trash abroad and displayed it to potential buyers as "the sort of stuff Britain turns out nowadays," and the damage done is such that it wanted a lot of working down. Therefore, while we busy ourselves about a distinctive British trade mark—and we want that—let us be certain also that a trade mark already in existence is not prostituted by the profiteer.

The "commandeering" of all Greek shipping in Allied ports by the Powers of the Entente follows almost logically in the sequence of

events in Greece, and there can be little complaint of high-handedness. The news, we are told, caused a great stir and some of the newspapers in Athens were quick to lament the "seizure" of the vessels. That was a temporary attitude, however, and when the rates which the British authorities propose to pay for the use of the vessels were made known "Piræus shipowners showed no dislike of the bargain which enables them to sit with folded hands till the war ends and to draw regular profits." In London, and other British centres, the impression is not only that the Greeks have been treated generously; but that the rates to be paid to them are out of all proportion to those which our own people, whose ships have been taken over, are paid. British shipowners are paid only 7s. per ton.

At first sight the rates which the Government propose to pay to the Greek shipowners do appear to err on the side of generosity—30s. per ton deadweight per month and the valuation of vessels for insurance at from £20 to £30 per ton according to their age and condition. Before the war the freight rate in the market was somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3s. a ton, and, as I have already said, since the war British shipping has been requisitioned at 7s. a ton. Then as to value: before the war, new ships could be built for £6 a ton, and it is pointed out that many of the Greek vessels can "by no effort of the imagination be described as new," and would have been "written down" to £3 a ton or less, which is one-tenth of the value now placed on them for insurance purposes. The early impression of undue generosity, therefore, is justified.

There is another point of view, however. Since early in 1915 the Greek shipowners have been reaping a rich harvest: they have been able to employ their vessels at very profitable terms and have consequently been receiving large returns on invested capital. We, that is the British Government, cannot say to them, "you have been making too much out of the war and we propose to tax your profits"—and to commandeer their ships on the terms we pay our own people would be a tax of a sort—because they are aliens. We might as well say to those neutral countries from which we purchase supplies: "It is war-time and you must sell at our price." That seems to me to be the position. Even now, in the matter of the Greek ships, we are applying the principle of "commandeering," because it is laid down distinctly that if Greek shipowners decline to accept our terms they will be paid at the British rate of 7s. a ton; and whether they accept or not, in the event of Greece going over lock, stock and barrel to our enemies "the contract will continue unaltered and the profits will be paid over to the owners through a Shipowners' Association to be formed in London."

Some interesting facts and figures were mentioned on Wednesday at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited. It is noteworthy that Mr. F. Eckstein, the chairman, added to the tributes which Anglo-Egyptians had paid to the late Lord Kitchener, and emphasised the great interest which he displayed, after his appointment as Agent-General, in the cotton-growing problem of the Sudan. "Lord Kitchener," we are told, "fre-

quently visited the Gezira Plain," and was so impressed by the fact that the district "was a most ideal and suitable spot for cotton-growing on a large scale that he induced the British Government to sanction an important loan for the purpose of irrigation works."

No dividend has been recommended "in view of the necessity of maintaining a strong cash position," but the total results of last year's working show an increased profit—£3,277, which is better by £1,286 than that of the previous year. The syndicate's acreage under cotton has also been increased, and altogether the outlook is bright.

The stockholders of the Credit Foncier Egyptien have such confidence, apparently, in their directors that even the ordinary general meeting of the concern, called for the purpose (among others) of declaring a dividend does not appeal to them. The meeting convened for January 22 failed to attract "the number of shares required by the by-laws for rendering legal its proceedings," and the meeting has now been convened for February 7 at Cairo.

I am not surprised to learn that the people of Athens are becoming uneasy regarding the blockade. But, as the Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* remarked in his message of January 22, "the raising of the blockade depends on the fulfilment of the Entente's demands, which are being satisfactorily carried out with the exception of the demobilisation of the Reservists, who are taking advantage of the privileges granted to them on account of their support of the King during the crisis. The Government are experiencing difficulties in demobilising these men, who number some 20,000." It is difficult to understand how the Greek Government can experience "difficulty" in sending back to civil life 20,000 reservists. "Difficulty" is scarcely the word to use, and I could find another.

Meanwhile, Greek maritime trade is at a standstill. I have reason to know that not only the Greeks themselves are in great straits, but that some neutrals who had entered into contracts with them are likely to be involved in loss of a serious character. It is unfortunate that this should be so, and that neutrals, inoffensive for the most part, should be made to share the penalty of King Constantine's treachery and double-dealing; but there is a point at which our solicitude for them must break down. We have to win this war, and a settlement in Greece is an essential factor in the operations, and—well, there is nothing more to be said.

Readers will join me in the hope that the committee appointed by the shareholders in London of the United Egyptian Lands, Limited, for the purpose of conferring with the board of directors, of looking into the present position of the company, of negotiating with the Mortgage Company of Egypt, and of endeavouring to formulate a scheme of reorganisation, will succeed in evolving a scheme that will get the company out of its present unfortunate—almost desperate situation. The committee, which includes Mr. P. Freme-Nassif and Mr. James Davenport, may be relied on to make the best of the position, and the shareholders' interests could not be in better hands.

COMMENTATOR.

Greece's Lost Opportunity.

King Constantine's Policy and Its Effect on the Trade of the Country.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Not the least of the reasons for regretting the short-sighted and treacherous policy of the Greek King is the damage it inflicts on the material and commercial wellbeing of the country and people. In the early days of the war, the new conditions which were ushered in were not an unmixed curse. It is true that the cost of living advanced, that many industries were injured, certain branches of trade were restricted and credit acquired new limitations; all these may be admitted, but there were compensations apart from the assistance which Entente Powers would most willingly have rendered if other things had been equal.

The mercantile marine brought wealth. Greek ships were chartered easily and at the abnormal rates of freight which arose out of the shortage of tonnage, shipowners literally "coined" money; and it is on record that shareholders have received dividends which were beyond the dreams of avarice. The sudden access of wealth to the mercantile marine brought prosperity to several of the ports—Piræus and Salonika to mention two of them. Business which, formerly, went to Smyrna on the one side and to Trieste on the other, came to Greek ports, and up to a certain point Piræus, in particular, was rapidly becoming a centre of Mediterranean trade.

The King's Evil Genius.

Then, unfortunately, the evil genius of the King asserted itself. He had already played fast and loose with the friends of Greece and of the Greek people. German malignity began to peep through his dealings and character and he proceeded to develop his attitude of "passivity"—to describe which he abused the definition of honest neutrality—until he reached the stage where the ways turned, in one direction to the fulfilment of his treaty obligations and to union with the Entente, and on the other to dishonour and partnership with Bulgaria and Turkey. We know which way his heart led him—a sight for the gods would it not have been, a Greek King combining with Turkey and Bulgaria against Britain, France, Russia and Serbia!

To return to the trade question and its figures however. The records for 1915 are interesting. Imports into Old Greece in that year totalled just over £6,062,800 as compared with £6,760,194 in the preceding year, a decrease of £697,394, or nearly ten per cent. Against this, however, the exports advanced from £4,521,403 to £5,251,694, or about fourteen per cent. above those of 1914.

Food Imports.

Naturally food supplies were the chief articles in the list of imports, because Greece had never been able to produce sufficient to feed her people. These reached, in value, about forty per cent. of the total. In 1914 the percentage was twenty-eight.

The improvement in exports extended to many lines, the most significant being in agricultural products, largely owing to the abundant currant crop of 1914. Gains were also recorded in animal products, chemicals, cottons, yarns, and fabrics; but there were considerable declines in metal wares and oil substances.

The olive crop was, more or less, a failure, and its meagre character caused a decline in the demand for salt, which is used, of course, for clearing, while the difficulty in securing a supply of matches and in the shipment

of this commodity were also unfavourable items in the list.

Large numbers of refugees had fled to Old Greece from other countries, and this fact accounted for the gains in the receipts of petroleum, and also, on the other hand, for the scarcity and high cost of other lighting products, such as alcohol and oil, which had been active rivals of petroleum.

American Wheat.

In the imports American wheat was a prominent feature, and some interesting facts in this connection are available from a report submitted by the United States Consul-General at Athens, Mr. Alexander W. Weddell. He writes:—

"The movement of wheat from American ports to Greece that began after the outbreak of war in 1914 was continued in 1915. Practically all imports were made by or for account of the Government, which in turn distributed the grain to the millers. Imports of wheat from the United States in 1915 amounted to 294,623 metric tons, which was the entire quantity brought in, with the exception of 2,000 tons from Bulgaria; the United States also sent 63,000 metric tons of flour last year. Wheat and flour constituted the largest item of imports from the United States during 1915.

"Formerly the flour and wheat came from Russia through Black Sea ports, but with the closing of the Dardanelles this became impossible, and Greece was obliged to turn to the United States. It is not thought that this market can be held after the war, because of the relatively lower freight rates that will prevail from the Black Sea to Greece. In the past many steamers carried coal from England to the Black Sea, taking wheat as a return cargo, and in this trade Greek vessels played an active part."

In the exports the greatest decrease was in tobacco, which fell off in value by £787,772. It is thought that this heavy decline was caused by lack of shipping facilities. Other articles in which decreases were recorded were cheese, crude opium, olives, olive oil, sulphur, olive oil, and chrome ore, but there were heavy gains in shipments of figs, furs, gum mastic, emery, magnesite, licorice root, paints and colours, skins, and wool.

Prosperous Shipping.

Recent events have added to the importance of any information which can be gleaned about the Greek mercantile marine. There is no doubt whatever that this department of commerce has reaped all the benefits which were offered by the high rates that have prevailed from the beginning of the war. Last year (1915) Greek shipowners, attracted by the large prices offered for shipping, disposed of some ninety-one vessels of a gross tonnage of 231,000.

According to reliable figures, the number of Greek steamers of over 1,000 tons at the beginning of 1915 amounted to 498, having a total gross tonnage of 860,000. The ships of greater tonnage were principally engaged in deep-sea service, but as a result of the active demand for tonnage it is estimated that at present no less than 314 Greek vessels are engaged in foreign waters.

No satisfactory figures showing shipping profits for 1915 are available, although these gains have been placed as high as £20,000,000. One conservative shipping man estimates the gross profits, however, at £8,000,000, with net gains of £5,400,000. The same authority holds that the decline in earning power through tonnage sold in 1915 was compensated for by the great increases in freight rates and the renewed activity witnessed in the twelve months.

The Greek mercantile marine has never been favoured by any Governmental subvention or subsidy in any form, and this fact is largely the basic reason advanced by shipping interests in their opposition to the proposals

that have been made to tax shipping profits caused by the war.

Tobacco Producers Score.

It would seem that producers of tobacco scored, notwithstanding the war. True, the unfavourable weather conditions in October, the difficulty of raising money, and the declaration of a moratorium compelled planters to sell their tobaccos grown in 1914 and marketed in the spring of 1915 at very low prices. The 1915 crop was affected by the unusual conditions prevailing, and for that reason was smaller than the preceding one. At the same time, Asia Minor tobaccos, which ordinarily reach the market through Samsoun and Smyrna, were shut off. Under these circumstances the demand for Macedonian tobacco became abnormal, and resulted in a heavy advance in prices. Even the tobacco of Old Greece, which is of inferior quality, was eagerly bought up.

It is to be feared, however, that when the trade and commercial industry of 1916 comes to be written, the evils arising from the King's departure from the path of righteousness will be apparent. The internal conditions of the country have been made bad enough, and precarious enough, by the war, as war must affect neutrals adjacent to the fighting zone; but in addition to this the Entente Powers have been compelled to impose restrictions to withhold assistance at a time when the one would bear very heavily and the other would have been of great advantage.

At the moment the outlook is cloudy and obscure, but there are people who adore and love the Old Greece, who look with confidence to a future in which the King will have realized that he has made a mistake, and in which he will return to a policy which will be more beneficial to the country and people than that which has alienated them from their best friends.

EGYPT AS A REST-HOUSE.

Having decided to pass the evening of my life in Egypt, I have built myself a small house in the ever-fertile fields of this country, a Giza correspondent writes to the *Field*. I feel that in my old age a garden, in this climate and with three of the most beautiful views that man can imagine, will be a great resource. In this country the sun shines every day and all day for 360 days a year, and the rain is, so to speak, on tap; I mean that our only source of cultivation water is the irrigation water supplied by the Government.

In winter there is, every five or six years, a slight wind frost; but you can judge of the winter climate by the fact that from December 1 on is the time for roses and strawberries, roses being magnificent here and most easy to grow. In summer we get 85 degs. to 95 degs. Fahr. for several months, and generally a few days on which the temperature rises to 110 degs. to 117 degs.

The dryness of the atmosphere prevents us from growing many plants of the equatorial zone; for instance, stephanotis grows and flowers splendidly in autumn and winter; but in summer it requires care or one day it quietly dries up and dies.

I should say that after Central America, Egypt is meant for cacti. I have collected a good many from old palace gardens, where they had probably been put by Ismail Pasha, who bought every plant he could. They have grown magnificently.

Several echinocacti have now, for two years running, been in blossom for four to five months, with three or more flowers open at a time in some cases on plants so small that the whole plant—roots, spines, and all—would go into one of its own flowers.

There are fine gardens here, but they are exclusively devoted to producing roses and European annuals in winter. I want to get on to other plants, and my few cacti, stapelias, and gasterias have encouraged me much. It used to be said here of all roses, except La France and Gloire de Dijon, that they would grow in Egypt till some bold adventurer imported others and found that they all grew and flowered splendidly. Again, the zinnia grown here is a poor thing, so I got some of Sutton's and had plants a yard high and a yard and a-half wide, covered with flowers, many of which were 16½ ins. in circumference. Single plants of Indian pink are 4 ft. across.

GERMANY'S CREDIT SYSTEM.

A letter in the *Financial Times* from its Paris correspondent quotes a pamphlet by M. Ernest Sona, an Italian, who describes himself as "just a commercial traveller, who has never been mixed up in any political movement, but who has travelled extensively and observed much in all parts of the world," on "The Truth about the War," in which he describes in an interesting way the evolution of German trade. He explains how the German manufacturers came to introduce the long-credit system in foreign markets, including, of course, the Near East. When the Germans entered into the export trade they found that it was almost entirely in the hands of the British and the French.

The manufacturers of these two nations did all their business with wholesale houses of importing countries entirely through commission agents. The British and French manufacturers never sold to retailers, not wishing to fall out with the wholesale importers.

The commission agents paid the manufacturers by bills at 30 days, and opened accounts with the wholesalers, giving them longer or shorter credit according to their financial rating. The retail merchants thus depended upon the wholesale houses for their supplies, and the wholesale houses being in a position to judge as to the standing of the retailers in their district or country, the stability of local and of international trade was assured.

The Germans have completely upset this wise arrangement, and for the following reasons. When, many years ago, they offered their goods to the wholesale importers in each foreign market they found all doors closed against them. The importer considered German goods inferior in quality, though much cheaper.

Moreover, the import houses had been doing business for a great many years with the commission houses, and through these houses were on good terms with the British or the French manufacturers, who supplied goods to which they were accustomed. Finding a great difficulty in getting the wholesalers to take German goods, the German manufacturers—often through German commission houses which they established and financed for the purpose in each country—began to offer their products to the local retailers, directly over the heads of the wholesale houses, at such prices and with such long credits that the wholesalers were soon compelled to come to terms with the German commission houses.

It will be seen that the object of the German manufacturers was to interest the retail merchants in the exclusive sale of German products, thus detaching them from the local wholesalers, saving a middleman's profit, and freeing the retailer from the sort of tyranny in the matter of credit exercised by the local wholesale firms. Thanks to the long credit granted by German manufacturers, the retailer was able to enlarge his business and get rich quick without risking very much of his own capital, for he had six or nine months in which to sell the goods, and he only paid for them, in actual practice, when he had sold them. In order not to lose their connection, the local wholesale houses were reluctantly compelled not only to buy German goods, but also—even against their better judgment—to give the same long credits to retailers as the Germans did.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

It would almost be impossible for a more slack state of affairs to prevail in our market than at the present time, and the inactivity on the part of buyers throughout the past week has been very pronounced. There has been a marked distrust of prices in all quarters, and although the holding-off policy carries with it some risk, the feeling is prevalent that some advantage is to be gained by delaying the placing of fresh contracts. Rather violent fluctuations have occurred in American cotton rates, and the New York and Liverpool markets seem to be very sensitive and easily influenced by unimportant events. There is no particular change in the outlook for supplies of Egyptian cotton this season. Cloth merchants who do business with Egypt report that the conditions abroad remain generally healthy, but very little fresh buying has occurred, and manufacturers' engagements are steadily running down. The offers put forward in sized shirtings have been a long way out. A fair amount of inquiry has come through for the West Coast of Africa, and operations have not been quite at a standstill for Java and Singapore. With regard to India and China, the demand has been very disappointing, and any bids put forward have been altogether too low. Makers of cloth have now very irregular engagements. Printed, dyed, and coloured goods are still well sold, and producers of bleaching cloths have also substantial contracts yet to be executed. Fairly early delivery, however, can be obtained in ordinary grey staples. There has been very little activity in home trade circles, but distribution throughout the country is fairly healthy. The yarn market has been more depressed than ever. Home users of American qualities are inclined to use up supplies at the sheds and stop deliveries from spinners. Stocks, therefore, tend to back up in first hands, and this sort of thing results in weakness on the part of sellers. Export yarns for all outlets have been dull of sale. Egyptian yarns continue deeply sold, especially the finer counts. Producers of coarse numbers, however, are getting more prepared to meet buyers when fresh business is offering.

INTERESTING WILLS.

Mr. Otto Baerlein, of Osborne House, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, of Blackfriars Street, Salford, Lancs., and of Bank Top, Hartington, Derby, Serbian Consul and senior partner in the firm of Baerlein Bros., spinners, doublers, and merchants, of Salford and Gorton, who died on November 18, aged 59, left estate valued at £42,150 gross, with net personalty £41,500. He left legacies to relatives and servants amounting to about £10,000, and the residue of his estate for such charitable purposes at Alderley Edge as the Urban District Council may direct.

Mr. A. P. Ralli, of West End Avenue, Manhattan, New York, third son of the late Pandeli Ralli, of London, left estate in the United Kingdom to the value of £146,388.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Japanese propose to convert paddy and rice lands in Formosa into cotton areas.

The number of tobacco-growers in Germany in 1916 was 85,066. The acreage of tobacco plantations was 31,396.

Mr. R. E. Holland, an official of the Government of India, has gone to Busreh on special duty in connection with commercial affairs.

The Government of the Punjab (India) is considering the possibility of raising another prison labour corps for service in Mesopotamia.

In the six months, April-September, 1916, India imported from Egypt goods to the value of £207,400 and exported to Egypt goods valued at £586,066 sterling.

The Greek Consul-General at Sydney, who resigned his post under the King's Government recently, has been appointed agent of the Venizelos Government there.

Proceedings have been instituted in the prize court at Malta in respect of certain goods seized from the vessel *Taxiarchi*. The date of the appearance was January 15.

The importation into Tunis is forbidden of wine lees and crude tartar. Exceptions to the prohibition may be accorded under conditions to be fixed by the Tunisian Director-General of Finance.

Under an Order-in-Council, dated January 10, 1917, it is forbidden to negotiate for the charter, whether by time or voyage, of any vessel for the carriage of goods exceeding 1,000 tons to or from any port in the King's dominions, or in the territory of any of the Allies. It is also forbidden to negotiate the purchase of any goods exceeding 1,000 tons in weight from abroad on terms which include freight as well as cost.

The political and other dislocations in the Near East have caused the diversion of a good deal of the raisin trade to Spain. So far this season France and Algiers have imported 1,809,584 lbs of Denia fruit as compared with 110,432 lbs., and Switzerland—which imported none of the Denia fruit in 1915-16—received 608,944 lbs. Up to November 24, 1916, shipments to the British Isles totalled 23,198,000 lbs. as compared with 11,736,816 lbs. in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The *Egyptian Journal Officiel* of December 25, 1916, publishes the text of the law which enacts measures for the destruction of the pink worm pest in cotton-seed. This measure, which abrogates the act which came in force on December 25, 1916, prohibits between May 1 and August 1 of each year, the storing of cotton-seed and unginned cotton otherwise than in public and other depots licensed for that purpose by the Ministry of Agriculture. After September 1, 1917, all cotton-ginning factories must be fitted with special apparatus, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, for the destruction of this pest, and all cotton brought to these factories must be treated by this method.



TUCKEY'S

"SPECIAL"

YEARS 10 OLD.

57/-

PER DOZ.
Cases Free.
Carriage Paid.

PURE MALT POT STILL

SCOTCH WHISKY

MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

"LIQUEUR"

YEARS 12 OLD.

60/-

PER DOZ.
Cases Free.
Carriage Paid.

THE LANCET says:—"It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

CHARLES TUCKEY & CO., LTD., London Offices, 3, Mincing Lane, E.C.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, Thursday.

Currents.

The market for spot fruit continues very firm, whilst choice and fine qualities are becoming scarce. No shipments have yet been reported, the blockade being still in force. Prices for Pyrgos and Provincial are quoted at 74s. to 75s.; Amalias, 78s. to 80s.; Gulf, 80s. to 82s.; Patras, 79s. to 82s.; and Vostizza, 82s. to 86s.

Sultanas.

There has been a moderate activity during the week, the demand being more for red Afghanistan sultanas, whilst some old Greeks were sold at full prices. Quotations for Afghan half-cases are 83s. to 95s.; Australian, 106s. to 108s.; Greek, 104s. to 118s.; Cretan, 90s. to 96s.; and Californian, 65s. to 94s.

Figs.

Some business has been done in Greek bags, at 62s. to 63s.; whilst Spanish have been moving at 50s. to 52s.

Dates.

Good business has been done in Hallowie at 33s. 6d., whilst other Persians are a little easier, Sieh at 30s. and Kadrowie at 31s. Egyptians sell slowly at 32s. to 42s.

Seeds.

Linseed is rather dull and cheaper; London-Calcutta, spot and afloat, quoted at 97s. 6d.; and January-February, nominally 100s.; Bombay ordinary, January-February, 101s. Rapeseed is firm; Toria-Ferozepore, January-February, is offered at 91s.; Toria ditto, 93s. 6d., Hull. Cottonseed is dull, with very little doing; London-Egyptian, Sakelaries, spot, £17 15s. per ton. Rangoon Beans are in better request at late rates.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dull and easier. Spot pipes £47 10s.; barrels, ditto, £48 10s., landed. Rape oil is firm for ordinary brown, naked, on spot, £54; English refined, barrels, £57 to £58. Cotton oil is quiet, but steady; crude, spot pipes, £49 10s.; refined pipes, pale, £51 10s. to £52 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £58 to £60, as to make. Soya Bean oil is firm; Oriental in cases, on passage, £47. Olive oil in good demand at £66 to £73, but offers are limited owing to absence of supplies.

Oilcakes.

Linseed Cakes: The market is very quiet, and prices remain nominal pending the decision of the Government as to any new regulations of prices. Best London made is offered at £18 10s., ex mill. Cottonseed

Cakes: Owing to heavy arrivals from Egypt, prices have declined fully 5s. per ton; best Egyptian in bags being quoted £15 15s., and best London made at £15 17s. 6d. Cottonseed Meal, spot, offered at £17, c.i.f.

Miscellaneous.

Eggs have declined, especially Egyptians, which have been sold this past week at low figures. English, per 120, 26s. to 30s.; Irish, 26s. to 30s.; Danish, 28s. to 32s.; Dutch, 28s. to 32s.; and Egyptian, 9s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. ONIONS are in short supply, and the cold weather has made rates much higher. ALMONDS are dearer; Jordan, finest, are quoted at £12 per cwt. to £12 10s.; good to fine, £10 10s. to £11; Barbary, sweet, £3 12s. to £3 15s.; and bitter, £5 to £5 8s.

As is well known, the bulk of Greek tonnage in British ports has been held up for several weeks past, writes a Cardiff correspondent in a contemporary. Only in a few cases have vessels of this nationality been permitted to clear, and at the present time there are close on a dozen Greek steamers in South Wales ports. Owners have now received an intimation from the British Government that Greek vessels may trade between the United Kingdom and French ports situated between Dunkirk and Brest.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Nitrates from the Air.

Addressing the Association of Science Teachers on "Nitrates from the Air" a few days ago, Mr. E. Kilburn Scott said he believed three scientific developments were among the leading factors in leading Germany to decide that the time was opportune for the war—the manufacture of nitrates from the air, the success of aircraft (especially the Zeppelin, which modified the insular position of this country), and the success of the gyro-compass, which solved the problem of accurate steering of battleships and submarines by making the compass independent of magnetism. Mr. Scott suggested that steps should be taken to develop the manufacture of ammonium nitrate, which was more profitable and of greater benefit to the country than ammonium sulphate. The whole of the plant and material for the manufacture of nitric acid from the atmosphere by the direct electric method could be obtained in this country. This suggestion should be seriously, and promptly, considered, for, indeed, few important countries in Europe have not installed plants for the manufacture of nitric acid from the atmosphere and nitrates for the purposes mainly of explosives and fertilisers.

Cheap Power.

The industry, as a rule, flourishes on cheap power; and as water power is, at present, the cheapest, countries which nature has endowed with waterfalls were the first to avail themselves of that power and develop the industry with success. America, with Niagara, and Norway, with her unique waterfalls, are prominent in the development of the industry on a large scale, while Switzerland, Italy, and the two Germanic Empires were prompt in utilising similar resources for the purpose. In Great Britain nothing has been done, although the waterfalls in Scotland and in some parts of Wales could be utilised for such an important industry. It is often said that if other European countries can boast of such water-power energy, Great Britain is blessed with an abundance of coal; but apart from the warnings given by various British scientists regarding the economy with which coal must be used by steam users, the difference in the cost of production of nitrates as between water power and steam power is worth consideration.

Methods of Production.

Nitric acid is obtained from the atmosphere by means of large and powerful arcs. Taking a general figure, according to authentic observations, it may be stated that one kilowatt hour yields 63 grams of the acid. One ton of the 100. per cent. acid thus requires nearly two kilowatt years, or nearly 3 h.p. years. Much discussion has waged around the relative consumption of energy in the direct method, or arching through air, or the indirect method, via calcium carbide, cyanamide, and ammonia. Both methods are in use. In either case energy consumption is large, even if, as in the one case, raw materials are without cost. With steam-generated energy at £8 per h.p. year the energy per ton of acid amounts to about £21, as compared with slightly less than £1 in Norway and £10 at Niagara. Now £8 per h.p. year represents .29d. per unit, while the Niagara figure is about 0.14d. per unit. This difference ought to encourage prompt action in this country.

Balkan Producers.

In many districts on the Balkan peninsula the industry could be developed with success, and particularly in Serbia and Montenegro, where there are spots, naturally convenient for the purpose, in which the manufacture of nitrates from the air by the utilisation of water-power can be established, with results as regards cost of production

very much approaching, if not equal, those in Norway. In Serbia, apart from other secondary water-power sources, the Morava and Vardar rivers can afford immense power for the purpose; whilst Montenegro, with the rivers Boyana and Drin, could be one of the greatest producers of nitrates in Eastern Europe. Unlike some of their neighbours, the Montenegrins are very industrious and enterprising. As a proof we may mention the businesslike activity which they displayed after the Balkan War and while they were in possession of Scutari. The possession of that town, with its vast lake and surrounding fertile district, has always been considered by the Montenegrins as absolutely essential to their economic and commercial progress; thus, as soon as they expelled the Turks and occupied the town in 1912 their Government prepared a scheme, which was to have been carried out as soon as peace (after the Balkan War) was concluded.

To Divert the Drin.

The scheme was to divert the River Drin to its original bed and dredge the Boyana River for the reclamation of the barren marsh lands around Lake Scutari. The Drin, through Turkish negligence, had gradually forced a new course for itself from the sea into Lake Scutari, which is now 36 to 40 ft. higher than the Adriatic. The Montenegrin Government proposed, by means of a huge barrage, to lower the level of the lake for about 16 ft., and this would enable them to reclaim the low-lying and once fertile lands surrounding the lake to the extent of some 75,000 acres, and in the vicinity of the Boyana to the length and breadth of another 75,000 acres. They also proposed to dredge the Boyana, to make it navigable for coasting vessels right up to Scutari from Palai, a small town at the mouth of the Boyana. Unfortunately, however when peace was concluded the Great Powers decided that Scutari should belong to Albania and not to Montenegro. Whatever the future may hold for Montenegro, we should remember that there is at present sufficient available water-power in some parts of these two rivers that can be utilised at a comparatively small cost for the manufacture of nitrates; while with the additional power which the Montenegrin scheme will provide the output would be much larger, and Montenegro would accordingly become a great producer of nitrates.

German Motor Ploughs.

A note written recently by Mr. Julius G. Lay, Consul-General for the United States in Berlin, regarding German motor ploughs, will be of interest to British manufacturers of agricultural machinery. "The motor-plough that was invented by a citizen of Elbing, near Dantzig, possesses many admirable features," he writes, "but on account of its rigid middle beam it is not as valuable as some of the later inventions of the same type. These ploughs were greatly in demand in East Prussia, where the fields are large and labour is scarce. The plough mentioned costs about 17,000 marks (£810) before the war, but now brings 35,000 marks (£1,666). The best plough of this type is the 'Stock,' manufactured in Berlin. In 1913, about 700 from that factory were placed upon the market. More have been sold during the war. These ploughs are known not only in Germany, but also in many of the agricultural countries of Europe, such as Austria-Hungary, Russia, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Denmark. Some have been sold in South America, Australia, and the German colonies. After the war these ploughs will doubtless have a large market abroad, because during the past two years they have been further perfected."

Chromatic Ore.

Crude chromite ore, so important in modern steel metallurgy, has generally to be dressed to make it suitable for sale. It has usually

to be broken up either by hand or mechanically to a suitable size, so that it can be hand-picked. The output should contain about 50 per cent. of chromium sesquioxide. Chromite, says *The Indian and Eastern Engineer*, is obtained in large quantities from New Caledonia in the South Pacific. There is a large output from Rhodesia, and Greece exports chromiferous iron ores in considerable quantities. In Europe there are large deposits of low grade ores in both Germany and Austria. Great Britain and France have to import all the chromites they require. North America has a small output, about 2,000 tons annually, but has also to import. There are many chromite mines in the Ural district, mainly along outcrops of the rivers Kameuka and Top Kaja, which have yielded as much as 20,000 to 30,000 tons annually. The mineral is also found in some of the areas from which platinum is recovered. In Japan outcrops have been found, but there is no output, as the quantities available appear to be too limited to encourage enterprise.

TILBURY DOCKS ENLARGED.

An important extension of the accommodation for the largest class of liners frequenting the Port of London has just been completed. By the enlargement of the main dock at Tilbury berthage has been provided for three additional ocean steamers of 600 ft. or 700 ft. in length, together with the necessary equipment in the shape of railway lines, transit sheds, and electric cranes. The new berths are being allotted by the Port of London Authority to the White Star Line, the Cunard Company, and the British India Company respectively. Vessels up to about 25,000 tons can be conveniently dealt with at this main dock extension, where there is a depth alongside the south quay of 42 ft. 6 in. below Trinity high water. The water area added to the dock is about 20 acres, and the available berthage is increased by nearly 20 per cent.

For years past the average size of the steamers entering Tilbury Dock has been steadily increased. As originally constructed, the dock was intended to accommodate twenty-six vessels at the berths, and transit sheds 300 ft. in length by 120 ft. in width were considered of sufficient size. At the present time the accommodation designed for twenty-six steamers of a former age is sufficient for only sixteen modern liners. By the present extension the number of berths for steamers of modern dimensions is increased to nineteen, with the advantage that the three recently completed are provided with transit sheds respectively 550, 600, and 660 ft. in length and 120 ft. in width. Such figures perhaps hardly convey an adequate impression of the hugeness of these well-constructed corrugated iron buildings, the largest of which would be capable of holding nearly 40,000 persons standing closely together. Tilbury is chiefly a transit dock for most of the goods landed there either go up river by lighter or are put on rail. These sheds give an idea of the immense space required for purely transit purposes in connection with the arrival of modern liners.

Railway lines in the rear of the sheds give connection for passenger and goods traffic with London and all parts of the Kingdom. Pending the erection of the contemplated landing stage on the adjoining river front, these new berths and their convenient railway platforms will be used by passengers to and from the colonies. For the discharge of cargo the new quayage is equipped with ten electric cranes capable of lifting three tons each, and two more are under construction. This new development at Tilbury, which is regarded as of great importance by the liner interest in London, is part of a much larger scheme of dock extension which the Port Authority has in view when the war is over.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLI-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 4,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 26, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan."
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARREHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

BACKWARD BRITAIN.

Speaking last week as the new president of the Geographical Association, at the annual Conference of Members held at the Day Training College, Colonel Sir Thomas Holdich said there was necessity for a revision of our British methods of treating commercial or economic geography in view of our trade competition with other nations, especially Germany.

Not only had we shown a lamentable lack of energy in this matter, but we had neglected opportunities in the past which we fully deserved to lose for ever. He could testify from his own experience that in the remoter parts of the world we were being shouldered, out of particular areas by Russians and Germans, partly because of a national apathy which stemmed the energies and activities of our trade agents, and partly because of the want of knowledge and foresight on the part of those behind the agents. There was a lack of geographical knowledge, not merely knowledge of the physical aspects of these places, but of their human elements—their wants, characteristics, and fancies.

One would imagine that in view of past experience there would be an increasing demand for the study of commercial geography. Yet out of 19,000 candidates who presented themselves for examination before the council of the Royal Society of Arts in 1916 only twenty-three had taken up commercial geography, and half of these failed. That did not indicate any wide demand for this particular study, the usefulness of which was so obvious. A demand must be created by a revision of our system of education in elementary and secondary schools. We must develop the subject in view of the large opportunity for capturing enemy trade this war afforded, and we must beware of the counter-attack on the part of an enterprising enemy who knew his geography.

THE PAN-GERMAN SEER.

Dr. Paul Rohrbach, well known as a leading pan-German, and the protagonist of ruthless forward policy in the Near East, has added a new chapter to his "Deutsche Politik." "The real decision of the war lies in the Orient," he declares, in a passage of much significance. "Asia Minor, Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Balkans will be able to supply all the wants of the Central Empires. It is true that the best informed experts on the subject have cast ridicule on this claim, but that makes no difference. In the depths of the Taurus is a wealth of various ores, in ancient Assyria and Babylonia are mineral oil wells more abundant than those of Russia and North America. In Cilicia and on the plains of Syria cotton can be grown to meet all our requirements. Wheat will come from the great river valleys, and countless herds of sheep on the highlands of Syria and Anatolia will supply us with our wool."

Turning to a still more entrancing vision, Rohrbach writes: "A railway from Damascus to Cairo, and one from Angora to Erzerum, will compel Britain and Russia to respect us. Should we maintain our position in the Turkish Orient, the natural consequence will be the extension of our influence over the rest of the Mohammedan world."

ACREAGE OF ROUMANIAN CROPS.

The Roumanian Minister of Agriculture has published figures for the crop acreage of Roumania in the autumn of 1915 and the spring of 1916. The following table shows the area devoted to various crops in the agricultural year 1915-16, compared with the area in 1914-15 and the average for the five years, 1908-9 to 1912-13:—

Crops.	Average 1908-9 to 1912-13.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Barley	1,318,650	1,317,182	1,453,732
Beans	89,593	185,452	188,167
Corn	5,150,236	5,207,204	5,055,994
Millet	111,993	125,349	104,014
Oats	1,105,352	1,064,329	1,068,096
Rape	184,836	94,204	68,264
Rye	316,316	186,643	199,611
Wheat	4,576,371	4,705,493	4,843,587

COMPANY MEETINGS.

United Egyptian Lands.

A meeting of shareholders of the United Egyptian Lands, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, E.C., for the purpose of considering the position of the company consequent upon the action for foreclosure commenced by the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., against the company in Egypt.

Mr. W. W. R. Swinson (London secretary), who presided, said that, as shareholders were aware, all the members of the Board were resident in Egypt. The London Board was abolished some years ago and the entire management transferred to Egypt, where the assets of the company were situated. He was appointed London secretary for the sole purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Joint Stock Companies Acts, and, in the circumstances, shareholders would appreciate that he had no first-hand knowledge of the position of the company in Egypt, and could only give them such information as he had received from Mr. Citti, the managing director. Upon receiving the letter from Mr. Citti, which was referred to in the circular issued to the shareholders, he immediately communicated with the secretary in London of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, and upon that gentleman promising to bring the matter before the next meeting of his Board, he (the speaker) wrote him a letter, dated November 29, setting out the position so far as he knew it, and asking him what were the reasons for the action which his company had taken. Mr. Swinson then read the letter referred to, in the course of which he said he understood that at the present time this company was indebted to the Mortgage Company in the sum of £91,500, made up as follows: balance of moneys due on original mortgage, £55,500; further advance, £21,000; balance of arrears to March 31, 1916, £15,000; and that so far as the assets of the company were concerned he thought he was well within the mark in stating the value of these to be £200,000.

On November 29 he received a cable from Mr. Citti instructing him to await his letter before calling a meeting; but he did not receive that letter—or, rather, a copy of it—until the first week in this year, as the original was in a mail boat which was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. Hence the delay in calling the present meeting. In that letter Mr. Citti said:—"The Mortgage Company of Egypt is proceeding with the legal formalities in order to arrive within two or three months to the 'saisie immobilière' and get an official sequestrator appointed by the Mixed Courts and so as to eliminate administration expenses, which I think superfluous in this state of things. We understand from the head office of the Mortgage Company in Cairo that they do not intend to proceed immediately with the expropriation, reserving power, however, to do it when they will judge necessary in their interests." Mr. Citti also said that the immovable seizure would take place in February or March, and that if the writs for the sale were then immediately issued it would require from four to six months before the Mortgage Company would be in a position to sell. With regard to the reasons for the present position of the company, Mr. Citti said that the war stopped the progress of development of the estate, but the position was particularly due to the damage caused to the cotton by the pink boll worm and the scarcity of water. Proceeding, Mr. Swinson said that his letter of November 29 came before the Board of the Mortgage Company in London on December 8, and the matter was referred to Egypt. On January 10 he received a reply from the London secretary stating that the directors had received from Egypt a full report with regard to this company's indebtedness and were not prepared to discontinue the proceedings which had been commenced in Egypt; but if the shareholders had any serious business proposals to put forward with regard to the substantial reduction of the company's indebtedness and the future proper development of the property his directors would be prepared to consider them.

Mr. James Davenport said the shareholders were much indebted to Mr. Swinson for the steps he had taken, in a very difficult position, with a view to protecting the interests of the shareholders. Whatever criticism might be offered, none could be directed to Mr. Swinson.

with whom they all sympathised very much in the position in which he had been placed.

In addressing the shareholders of the Mortgage Company—in which the company he (the speaker) represented had a small interest—eighteen months ago, Lord Milner (the then chairman) said:—"Of course, it is only with the greatest reluctance that we go the length of expropriating our debtors. It is not our desire to become a land-owning company, and in an exceptional pinch like the present it would be both harsh to the mortgagors and unwise in our own interest to sell up a number of men who are in temporary difficulties, but who, with the turn of the tide, are likely any time to discharge all their obligations." That was what he would expect from a man of Lord Milner's position—and, although he was no longer chairman of that company, and was using his great abilities for other and more serious purposes, he was sure he would not be wrong in predicting that the policy which Lord Milner laid down at that time was the policy of the Mortgage Company's Board today. He believed that they had treated this company well in the past and he had little doubt that, if approached on business lines today, they would treat it equitably and fairly in the future. The Mortgage Company, however, could not be expected to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the shareholders of this company, who, if they wished to save their investment, must show them that they were treating the matter seriously and were making an effort—which ought to have been made long ago—to deal with a position which he did not hesitate to describe as critical. He had come to the conclusion that the best procedure to adopt would be to appoint a committee of shareholders, not for any hostile purpose, but in order to get into touch with the directors and officials of this company in Egypt and also with the Mortgage Company in order to see whether they could formulate some scheme whereby the interests of the shareholders would be safeguarded.

He had some little diffidence in making the proposition because it had been suggested that he should be one of the members of the committee. Personally he did not seek such a position, but if he could be of any assistance he would be prepared to do what he could in the matter. He therefore proposed the following resolution:—"That a committee consisting of Dr. G. T. Moody, Mr. J. H. Newcomb, Mr. James Davenport and Mr. P. Freme-Nassif, be appointed, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of conferring with the Board, looking into the present position of the company, negotiating with the Mortgage Company of Egypt, and of endeavouring to formulate a scheme of re-organisation for the approval of the shareholders at a subsequent meeting."

Mr. S. Lamert, in seconding the resolution, said the shareholders were to be congratulated upon the fact that a gentleman of Mr. Davenport's standing should have come forward at the present juncture in the shareholders' interests, as he was bound to command not only a hearing but a respectful hearing on the part of the Mortgage Company. The other gentlemen named in the resolution were of equally high standing.

After a brief discussion the resolution was carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Swinson for the action he had taken in the interests of the shareholders closed the proceedings.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The adjourned ordinary general meeting of this syndicate was held on Wednesday at the registered offices of the company, 1, London Wall Buildings, Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman) presiding.

The Representative of the Secretaries (the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Our annual report and balance sheet have been sent to all shareholders, and with your permission I propose taking them as read. Before dealing with the report and accounts of the past year of our syndicate, I feel it to be my duty to refer to the sudden and dramatic death of the man who has been so intimately connected with the country in which our interests are located. I mean, of course, Lord Kitchener, whose death has caused an irreparable loss, not only to this country, but to all our Allies and to Egypt, and the Sudan

particularly. I need not refer to the patience and care which Lord Kitchener bestowed on the Sudan after its re-conquest, but I would like to mention the interest he took, after his appointment as his Majesty's Agent-General in Egypt, in the cotton-growing problem in the Sudan and in the operations of our syndicate in this respect. Lord Kitchener frequently visited the Gezira plain, and our effort to demonstrate that that district was a most ideal and suitable spot for cotton growing on a large scale so impressed him that he induced the British Government to sanction an important loan for the purpose of irrigation works in that zone, and at the same time asked our syndicate to carry out the practical part of the work, as far as management, development, and cultivation were concerned. Negotiations between the Sudan Government and our syndicate are still proceeding on these lines, and while the same are pending I am reluctantly precluded from saying more on the subject. My colleague, Mr. Hutton, as chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, in an address to the council of that association some time ago, said that no finer or more enduring monument to the memory of Lord Kitchener could be raised than by everybody—and I include in this both the British Government and the Sudan authorities—doing their best to make this Gezira cotton-growing scheme a huge success. This would bring both prosperity to the inhabitants of the Sudan and meet the constantly increasing demands of the great cotton industry of Lancashire. I feel sure that Sir Reginald Wingate, to whom we extend our hearty congratulations on his appointment as successor to Lord Kitchener in Egypt, will do all in his power to further this important and national work.

You have in your hands the directors' report, which gives the number of bales of cotton forwarded from each of our three stations. The yield was decidedly lower than in the previous year, and especially so in the Gezira, the total number of bales being 4,777, against 6,982 in the previous year. The Zeidab district yielded 8,362 cantars, as against 12,000 the previous year. The average yield at Barakat was about 3.4 cantars per feddan, and at Tayiba about 3.1 cantars. I may inform you that in January last we experienced the coldest winter in the Sudan recorded since the re-conquest of that country in 1898, and, I am informed, the coldest in Egypt for forty years. This cold weather had a detrimental effect on the yield. At the same time, I am glad to be able to inform you that we received higher prices for our cotton. Zeidab cotton was sold on the basis of 9.75d. per lb. and Tayiba and Barakat cotton on the basis of 9.88d. per lb., as against 8.65d. per lb. for Zeidab, 8.53d. for Tayiba, and 7.2d. for Barakat in the previous year.

Dealing now with the balance-sheet, our share capital remains at £135,000, and our debenture capital is likewise unchanged at £57,000. Our debentures were due for redemption on July 1, 1916, but in order to maintain a strong cash position an arrangement was come to postponing the date of repayment for seven years and increasing the interest. Creditors in London (£378) represented expenses and disbursements not allocated at June 30. The Sudan figure of £25,875 is approximately represented by £5,069 due to Sudan Government as partner in Tayiba, £4,260 due to tenants, £1,035 deposits of our staff, and £15,511 outstanding accounts. I may inform you that since June 30 about £15,896 of the amount shown as due to creditors has been paid. On the other side of the balance-sheet you will observe that concession and land account is slightly reduced. General development: the Zeidab figure remains unaltered. An amount of £1,965 has been expended during the year on developing and canalising increased areas at Tayiba and Barakat. Buildings and furni-

ture: the increase of £2,000 under this heading is entirely on Gezira account. Canalisation: we have reduced the figure by £1,000 on Zeidab account. Pumping installation, at £42,000, is unchanged, and represents our Zeidab pumping station, all repairs and upkeep being charged to general expenses. Agricultural implements: this item is £1,000 lower than it was last year by machinery sold £145, and written off £855.

Ginning factories have been enlarged at a capital cost of £1,305. Tugs, barges, and boat account is unchanged. The plant has been thoroughly overhauled lately, and the cost charged to annual expenditure. The cotton and seed from our two ginning factories has been sold, and realised the figure shown in the balance-sheet. Other stocks in the Sudan comprise:—Live stock, £1,640; seeds and stores, £5,177; total, £6,817. All our cotton was again satisfactorily sold through the British Cotton Growing Association, Manchester. Debtors in the Sudan stand at £29,046, as against £30,486 last year and £35,972 at June 30, 1914. The figure of £29,046 is composed of £25,000 due by tenants, less reserve. You will be glad to know that the amount due by tenants has been slightly reduced since last year. Cash is at the figure shown in the balance-sheet. Profit and loss account shows receipts from all sources amounting to £41,992, which is £2,269 higher than last year. Expenses in London and the Sudan amounted to £25,939, and debenture interest accounts for £1,993. We have written off a sum of £4,780, as per details shown in the profit and loss account, and again have put aside a sum of £6,000 as a reserve for expenditure incurred at Barakat. The final results, therefore, show a profit of £3,277, which is £1,286 better than last year. In view of the necessity of maintaining a strong cash position, we do not propose the payment of a dividend this year.

Regarding the present season, our area under cotton at Barakat is 2,500 feddans, being an increase of 500 feddans since last year. The area at Tayiba is 1,800 feddans, being an increase of 415 since last year. The cotton area at Zeidab is about the same as in the previous year—namely, 3,100 feddans. I am pleased to inform you that natives in the Zeidab district are cultivating every year an increased area of cotton. Cable advices recently received show that we have picked at Barakat 700 cantars, and at Tayiba 900 cantars, and the amount of cotton we have received to date at our Zeidab factory is 3,632 cantars. A shipment is already on the way from Zeidab amounting to 577 bales of cotton, and 190 tons of seed, valued at over £20,000.

Before I sit down I wish to strike a personal note. Our colleague, Lord Lovat, is still on active service, and his military duties prevent his attending our meeting to-day. Our managing director, Mr. MacGillivray, who crossed the Mediterranean several times during the past year, has given his active help to the Sudan Government. He has been mentioned in dispatches, and received from the Sultan of Egypt the Order of the Nile. Two of our inspectors, Mr. Archdale and Mr. Maxwell, were gazetted temporary captains in the British Army, and took part in the Darfur Campaign against the Sultan Ali Dinar. They were both mentioned in dispatches for services rendered, and have now resumed their duties with us in the Gezira. My two colleagues, Mr. D. M. Hannay, of Glasgow, and Mr. Arthur Hutton, of Manchester, have again assisted me in every possible way, and met me on all occasions when I required their help and counsel. I also wish to record the board's high appreciation of the services of our manager in the Sudan and of our whole staff there. They all put their backs into their work to the best interests of our syndicate. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet to June 30, 1916.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. A. Hutton, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Frederic Wise, Mr. D. M. Hannay, and Mr. J. A. Hutton, the retiring directors, were unanimously re-elected, and Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were re-appointed auditors.

A resolution was passed voting the directors a remuneration of £100 each for their services.

The proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son have given notice that in accordance with the terms of the Greek Government 5 per cent. loan of 1914, the amortization for March 1 and September 1, 1916, has been affected by the purchase of 1,673 obligations for March 1 and 1,700 for September 1, 1916.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 20 tons, and Hurgahda, 1,719 tons.

Baku Russian.—90,000 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—January, 14,806 tons.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—21,886 poods.

British Maikop.—2,126 poods.

European Oilfields Corporation.—74,700 poods.

Maikop Combine.—16,553 poods.

Maikop Pipeline.—January 13, 1,783 tons.

Spies.—214,755 poods.

RUSSIAN OIL PRICES.

Telegraphic advices received by Mr. Herbert Allen from Petrograd state that the Russian Government has raised the maximum price of crude oil at Baku and Grozny to 55 kopeks per pood. This follows on a price of 45 kopeks per pood fixed in February last.

CONSTANTINE FIELDS.

The Constantine Oilfields, Ltd., announces that the following cablegram has just been received from Captain Carlier:—"Have started bores on four different selected spots, one particularly quite close one of the producing wells belonging to Société Anonyme des Pétroles de Tlionanet. The steadily increasing supply of oil decided this company to construct at once a pipeline to deliver the oil nearest railway station at the cost of £10,000 sterling."

TREBIZOND LIQUOR INDUSTRY.

Mr. W. L. Jenkins, United States Consul at Trebizond, in a recent report to Washington says that a few years ago a small plant for the manufacture of liquor was established at Trebizond, but it was closed after the outbreak of the war. More recently it was adapted to the making of lemonade, and for a time did a good business. Bottles of one funt (0.9028 lbs.) are used. Work again is suspended on account of the lack not only of lemons, but also of carbonic acid, citric acid, and sugar. The materials required daily are two to three pounds of citric acid, 250 lbs. of sugar, and 40 kilos (88.185 lbs.) of carbonic acid. A stock of 30,000 bottles is needed.

The prospect of starting work again is said to be poor, for even if some way might be found of importing the acids in small quantities the lack of sugar is considered prohibitive. The industry, however, may be continued and developed after the war.

RUMOURS TO BE IGNORED.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST in Egypt, and elsewhere for the matter of that, may be told sensational stories of the unsatisfactory conditions in Russia, a correspondent writes. A good deal of "rumour" of that sort has been current lately. The best thing to do in such circumstances is to consult the latest news of the Petrograd Bourse. If there is serious trouble in Russia nothing is surer than that it will be reflected in financial and commercial circles. At the moment the Petrograd Bourse is firm, and that fact may be permitted to speak for itself. So-called rumour has but one source, and it comes from a city whose people are always on the spree!

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE"

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read
wherever English is spoken. The advertising
medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Thursday.
There has been a rather sustained inquiry this week for Egyptian Unified and Three and a-Half per Cent. Preference, and a very fair amount of business has been passing in the neighbourhood of 78 and 66 respectively. Agricultural Banks have changed hands to a small extent at about 5 1-16, with buyers at the close near 5½. In Alexandria Water there have been some transactions at about 11½. Behéra Preference have been done at 3½. A few Delta Light have changed hands at 5 5-16. About a thousand Khedivial Mail were dealt in earlier in the week at 25s. 6d., and some Preference at 3½. National Banks are a firm spot at about 13½, but very little business has been done in them. A few Union Foncière were done at 25s. 3d.

In Greek securities there has been a renewal of demand from the East, and most of the stock recently on sale here has been either absorbed or withdrawn. Monopoly are wanted at 46, but not offered under 48. Funding are buyers at 48½, but sellers are scarce. 1884 have been done at 51, and 1881 are quoted at about the same price. Larissa have changed hands at 49. Rentes are wanted at 40, and offered at 41. In Greek Rails a fairly large transaction took place at 61, and some business has been done in Greek 1914 at 72½. Current bonds are wanted at about 89.

Oil Shares.

There has been a little activity in one or two descriptions of shares, and as a rule the tone has been steady. Constantines have been in demand, and there has also been a fair inquiry for Roumanian Consolidateds.

To come to figures, North Caucasians have been inquired for and improved 6d. to 25s. 9d., but New Generals have again been in request, and further hardened to 26s. 3d. Roumanian Consols maintained a firm appearance, closing 6d. better at 9s. 9d.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Thursday.

There have recently been no offers of cheap money, and at the close 4½ per cent. was the general charge, 4½ per cent. being quoted occasionally. Weekly fixtures have been in good demand at from 4½ to 5 per cent., the latter figure applying more to bank demands than to anything else.

Discount rates have been firm, and most of the leading houses have declined to take three months' paper below 5 per cent.

In the Exchange market there has been some good business, with a satisfactory recovery in the rouble. The rate on Alexandria continues at 97½ piastres to the £ sterling.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned and as compared with the corresponding dates in 1916:—

	1916.	1917.
	Frs.	Frs.
January 17	200,000	140,000
January 19 and 20	450,000	360,000
January 21	190,000	250,000
January 22	310,000	210,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916.	1917.
	Week ended Jan. 13.	Week ended Jan. 11.
Cattle markets	979	1,159
General markets	371	475
Cattle markets closed	2	7
Receipts (£)	1,350	1,634
Total from commencement of year (£)	2,529	2,494

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS

Readers are Requested

kindly to mention

"The Near East."

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price.	Price Jan. 19.	Present Price.
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	67½	72
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	48
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	48
City of Alexandria 4½ %, 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5% Bds	96	67	68
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	69½	69
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	78½	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	66½	66
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	61	52
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	80½	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24%)	80½	67	67
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	50½	50½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	49½	49
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	49	47
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	41	40½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	48½	49
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	49	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	63	61
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	72	73
Do. 5 % Current	89	89	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	52
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	75	72
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 460p.	92	67½	69
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	75	77
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	—
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	66
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	50	—
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	38	—
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38½	—

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red. ..	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red. ..	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Eastern Bank	6	82/6	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P. ..	8	5½	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer ..	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red. ..	98	79	78½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I. ..	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II. ..	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	8½	10
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref. ..	22	12½	13
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	54	54
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb. ..	101	57½	57½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 % ..	80	54½	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ % ..	90	74	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds ..	61	53	—

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	17/-	17/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red. ..	—	95	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	—	—	—
Do. do. Def.	8½	7	7
Béhéra Co.	4½	3½	3½
Do. Pref.	2½	—	—
Daira Sanieh	—	—	—
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd. ..	9½	8/-	8½
Do. Delta Land and Inves. ..	98	83½	86
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst. ..	5½	6½	6½
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	1½	1½	1½
Gharbieh Land Co.	—	—	—
Do. Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt ..	—	97	97
Do. 5 % Debs. Red. ..	98	7½	6½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref. ..	97	73½	73½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd. ..	93/3	8½	8½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	10/-	10/-
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	25/-	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	-5	-5
United Egyptian Lands	—	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12/6	100	100
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs. ..	1½	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb. ..	1½	24/3	1½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red. ..	99½	95	92½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	21/-	20/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red. ..	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	28/50	26/-
Do. do. Pref.	30	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	72/3	94½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7.500) ..	£179½	144	144
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Jan. 18.	Jan. 25.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	11/6	10/3
Anglo-Persian	21/7	21/6
European Oilfields	3/6	3/-
Roumanian Consolidated	8/8	9/7½

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 18.	Jan. 25.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	425	420
Canal de Suez	4200	4400
Credit Foncier Egyptien	668	673.50
Turkish Unified 4 %	61	61
Egyptian Unified 4 %	89	89
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 2.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.	
National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½ to
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 100
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 6½
priv.	L.E. 3½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 126
Bons de Panama	Frs. —
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) ..	Frs. 66½
Priviliée	Frs. 95
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 73
Urbanes et Rurales	£ 2½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	—
Building Lands of Egypt	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 1
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4½
Unifiée	L.E. 80½
Priviliée	69½
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½ ex cpm.
Fondateur	£ —
Pressage et dépôts	£ 34
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3½
Ord.	26½ ex cpm.
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 104
Jouissance	Frs. 155
Egyptian Markets	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 270
Div.	Frs. 210
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. —
Egyptian Salt and Soda	21/- ex cpm.
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 590
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 325½
" 1903 "	Frs. 256½
" 1911 "	Frs. 265
Delta Lands	—
Port Said Salt	36/3 ex cpm.
Cotton Ginners	8½
New Egyptian Co.	8½
United Lands	P.T. —
Levant S.S. Co.	28/3
" Fond	160

IN LIQUIDATION BY ORDER OF THE OFFICER

COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF, H.M. FORCES IN

EGYPT,

EGYPTISCHE EGRENIR FABRIKEN A.G.

(EGYPTIAN COTTON-GINNING FACTORY

COMPANY).

NOTICE OF SALE.

of a COTTON-GINNING FACTORY of 130 GINS at KAFR-EL-ZAYAT (GHARBIEH), Lower EGYPT, situated on the bank of Nile and directly connected with the Egyptian State Railway and Delta Light Railway.

OFFERS for the PURCHASE of this valuable property will be received by Mr. H. Bridson, the Receiver of the above-mentioned enemy Company (appointed the 30th day of May, 1916, by the C-in-C. of H.M. Forces in Egypt), at his office at 6, Old Bourse Street, Alexandria, Egypt, on or before the 31st day of January, 1917, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

All offers must be accompanied by a deposit in cash equal to one-tenth of the price offered. All deposits accompanying offers which are refused will be returned to the owners at their risk.

The said Receiver reserves the right to refuse any offer without giving the reasons for such refusal and shall not be bound to accept the highest offer.

The property consists of 15 feddans 23 kirats and 2 sahes or thereabouts approximately 67,000 square metres or thereabouts, and the large modern and complete Cotton-Ginning Factory and the Manager's and Staff's Dwelling Houses, Business Offices, Garage, Store Sheds, and other Buildings erected thereon, and the Gins, Engine, Dynamos, Presses, and other Machinery, Tools, Implements, Furniture, Fittings, and Effects therein and thereon.

The buildings, exclusive of the store-sheds, cover 4,861.56 square metres or thereabouts.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale and copies of the general plan of the property can be obtained from Frederick Leveau, of 6, Old Bourse Street, Alexandria, Advocate, or Messrs. Field, Roscoe and Co., of 36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, solicitors, or Messrs. Oliver Jones, Billson, and Co., of 5, Cook Street, Liverpool, solicitors.

The deeds and documents of title can be inspected at the aforesaid office of Mr. Frederick Leveau, the Advocate of the said Receiver, any weekday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon. The property can be inspected on application to the said Receiver.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable

Address: "Samoh, Manchester." Exporters of all

classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc., Testing

Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 300.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	313	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		A Great Imperialist	324	Notes and News	329
Cairo	315	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	319	The Berber Campaign	330
Cyprus	316	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Lancashire Cotton Trade	331
Syria (via Cairo)	317	A New Translation of the		Trade Notes	331
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Koran	320	Produce Report	332
Archæology Under Fire	317	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	322	Turkish News	333
Lord Cromer	318	LETTER TO THE EDITOR—		British Industries' Fair	333
The King of the Hejaz	325	The British Refugees from		Egyptian State Accounts	333
		Turkey (Lady Lowther)	317	Engineering Notes	334
		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	327	Company Notes	335
				On 'Change	336
				Stock and Share List	336

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There has been no slackening in the eastern theatre of the war during the past week, but the main activity has been outside Roumania. The great battle in the Riga district is still in progress, the Germans attacking in force and with some persistence. Our Allies, however, seem to be in a position to exact heavy penalties for any ground that they may abandon, and for the time being such tactics are practically as valuable to the common cause as an advance on their part. All along this front the weather conditions are of the severest, but, as we saw last year in Armenia, nothing deters the Russian soldier. In the Bukovina, advancing up to their waists in snow, says the official report, the Russian troops captured at the point of the bayonet the enemy's fortifications on the heights a little over a mile east of Jokobeni, and took a number of prisoners. Under climatic conditions such as these, if the Russian forces can be kept adequately supplied, they should experience little difficulty in establishing as great a moral superiority over the enemy as the Anglo-French forces have in the west.

In Roumania itself the comparative inactivity caused by the weather is to a large extent welcome to both sides. The Germans are provided with an excuse for not pushing their venture any further, while our Allies are necessarily glad to have a short breathing space. From the bulletins it may be inferred that, wherever an opportunity offers, the Russo-Roumanian forces endeavour to correct the alignment of the front in their favour. Thus in the Casinu valley the offensive was taken on January 25, and, after eleven hours' fighting in great cold and heavy snow, the enemy was driven back some distance to the south. Even the German reports bear witness to the very different nature of the resistance now encountered in Roumania. Whoever was responsible for the heroic measure of offering a minimum opposition to the invaders in order that a substantial part of the army should be withdrawn from the fighting and be carefully reorganized in the rear has deserved well of the Roumanians. They have had to sacrifice much territory, but they retain their army intact and remain a nation in being.

Behind the Sereth line the work of Roumanian reorganization has been carried on apace. Some idea of

the thoroughness with which it is being effected is given by the report that fourteen Generals of Division and of Brigade have been placed on the retired list, and have been succeeded by junior officers. It may be premature to imagine that the enemy has entirely shot his bolt in this region; but it is stated with some confidence that both German and Bulgarian troops have been largely withdrawn from this front, leaving Austrian and Turkish forces to hold the line. This is not a time when the German higher command can afford to keep superfluous strength locked up in any one theatre, and it has probably decided that all the indications are in favour of Roumania being a safer proposition than any of the others which the Central Alliance now has on its hands. There can be little doubt that the Bulgarian army needs a rest, if it is to remain an effective unit for an indefinite period. The Turks are likely to prove the more willing horse of the pair, and for this as well as other reasons can be worked the harder. Their usefulness in defensive operations, when well commanded, is, moreover, an established fact. Unless, therefore, our Allies should be in a position to assume the offensive sooner than is expected, we may look for a period of comparative quiet on the Sereth line.

King Constantine and his Government are earning such golden opinions of their capacity for good behaviour that they might almost venture upon another *ballon d'essai* about the Allied Ministers dining at the Palace without serious risk to their present reputation. We can but hope, however, that the conversion goes deeper than the outward observances of diplomatic forms, and that a definite end has been put to the policy of seeing how near the wind it is possible to sail the Greek boat without actual disaster. On the surface all goes smoothly. Notes were addressed on January 24 to the Ministers of the Allied Powers conveying the formal apologies of the Greek Government in connection with the regrettable occurrences of December 1. It was arranged that the ceremony of saluting the Allied Flags was to take place on January 27, but owing to the inability of the Russian detachment to arrive by that date, the function was postponed until the 29th.

The formal act of reparation entailed in the salute given to the Allied Flags is said to have been carried through in an entirely satisfactory manner. From the descriptions it is to be gathered that the scene was an impressive one. The square where the ceremony took

place does not lend itself to any big gathering, and for this reason the populace of Athens would have to be kept at a distance. But the streets and all the neighbouring coigns of vantage were thronged, and there can have been no question of the Greek public not being thoroughly cognisant of the significance of what was being enacted. The four Allied Powers were represented by their Ministers, the French Admiral and a joint contingent, 120 strong. All arms of the Athens garrison were present, some regiments being at full strength, others represented by detachments. As soon as the Ministers had taken their places by the Allied Flags the Greek General in command saluted, the troops presented arms, the Greek flags were lowered, and bugles sounded the general salute. The massed military bands played in succession the National Anthem of each of the four Allied Powers, while a Greek battery fired a salute of twenty-one guns, which was returned by an Allied man-of-war in Phaleron Bay. Finally, the Greek troops marched past in column formation, saluting the Allied Flags. Among the Greek officers present was Prince Andrew, a younger brother of King Constantine, and it is not without interest to note that an attempt was made to read some special significance into his participation in the ceremony. He was there, however, as head of his regiment; his absence would have constituted a breach of the agreement with the Allied Powers.

If the Greek Government is at all desirous of proving that the Allied Powers have never wavered in their goodwill towards Greece, it has an excellent opportunity now. The utmost readiness to credit the Government with the best intentions is being displayed. It is indeed apparent that public feeling in the Allied countries is inclined to question the wisdom of the alacrity which the Ministers are showing to accept without question the sincerity of Greece's conversion. In such a matter, however, the man on the spot is the better judge, and it must not be overlooked that the Allies' representatives, having suffered personally from the Greek Government's lapses and the Greek army's treachery, can be relied upon to be on their guard against exposing themselves to a second experience. Greece has completed her reparation for the events of December 1 as far as the outrages on the Allied detachments are concerned, and is in process of giving the requisite guarantees for her future conduct. All the Allied demands will have to be satisfied in their entirety before there can be complete confidence that the Greek *contretemps* has been settled. There will then remain the problem of repairing the political wrongs done to the country by the action of its own Government. Without the help of the Allies there is little prospect of a solution being found by the Greeks themselves. If, therefore, King Constantine and his advisers are sincere, they will go beyond the letter of the Allies' Notes and ask them for their friendly mediation in restoring the nation to harmony with itself and in enabling it to face the future with a united front.

The less spectacular of the Allied demands are being carried out, it is stated, in a manner that so far gives the Allies satisfaction. At the present rate of progress the military transfers ought to be completed within the fortnight stipulated. Venizelists have been released from prison without any untoward incidents; the General commanding the Athens garrison on December 1 has been deprived of his command, and the necessary orders for the dissolution of the Reservists' Leagues have been given. Such orders have been issued before and have been entirely ignored. This time the grip of the blockade introduces a new factor, which seems to appeal to the imagination of all sections of the Greek people. The attempt of the Greek Press—only Royalist papers are in existence—to maintain the truculent attitude which won it such high praise a few weeks ago has failed. Every shade of opinion in Greece seems to recognize the necessity of falling into line with the official lead in order to secure the removal of the blockade. All this is to the good, and in due course the blockade will be raised. But care should be taken to make use of the spirit it has engendered, and to see

that the situation in Greece does not get out of hand again.

From the progress of the operations before Kut it is possible to realize the good use to which the enemy put the long period of inaction that followed General Townshend's capitulation and the renewal of the British offensive. The main Turkish effort has been directed towards the strengthening of the immediate defences of Kut. No difficulty was apparently experienced by the Expeditionary Force in reaching the Shatt-el-Hai; but the earlier success revealed the fact that the Turkish position in the neighbourhood of the Shumran and Kut bends of the Tigris was to prove as formidable an obstacle as the positions lower down the river, which it was hoped to turn by this flanking movement on the west. Consequently, the progress from that moment onwards has been slow. Gradually, however, General Maude is working round the river bend. Last week the enemy's first and second lines south-west of Kut, on a front of 4,300 yards, were captured, as was a smaller section of his third and fourth lines. In all the engagements, in spite of being on the defensive, the Turks are reported to suffer considerable losses, and it may be hoped that the British superiority in artillery has the effect of keeping down our own losses.

As the war progresses it becomes painfully evident that we have to revise our conception of the Turks' method of waging it. Ready testimony was borne to any considerate action shown by the enemy on the battlefields of Gallipoli; but the record of that campaign cannot be allowed to serve as a cloak for outrages and atrocities in other directions. It is impossible at this stage to plead the evil influence of the German taskmasters. That is just the point which makes Turkey a European menace; she provides far too dangerous a tool for unscrupulous hands, and the only certain preventive in such cases is to make sure that the tool's capacity for inflicting injury is removed. According to the *Morning Post*, disquieting reports have now been received of the scandalous treatment of British prisoners of war, both officers and men, now in the hands of the Turks. Nothing is more calculated to create in this country a revulsion of feeling against the Turk, which in the end may prove more prejudicial to him than defeat in the war. Whatever may be forgiven our enemies, it is certain that the outrageous treatment of prisoners in Germany, Turkey, and possibly in the other countries of the Central Alliance will not be forgotten or forgiven. The release of these men at the end of the war, or the realization that numbers who have been prisoners have been virtually done to death by calculated savagery, must arouse passions in the British nation which will endure for many a long year.

One effect of the régime which now holds sway in Turkey is that every moral influence has been eliminated. There have been massacres and outrages before in the Ottoman Empire, but some allowance had generally to be made for religious fanaticism, which, if not the original cause of the ill-deeds, was more often than not the weapon with which they were carried out. The existing administration in Turkey—which is associated with the Young Turk or the Committee of Union and Progress—knows nothing of religion or religious motives. Its own interests prompt it to attempt the extermination of the Moslem Arab elements within its reach with as little compunction as it undertook the massacre of Christian Armenians. What may evoke still deeper detestation against the Turkish Government throughout the Moslem world will be the report, which there is good reason to believe is correct, that it has deliberately profaned the Holy City of Medina by the introduction of some twenty Germans, among them the notorious Baron Oppenheim. The struggle between the Arab world and Turkey for the defence of Islam must soon impose upon all Mohammedans the duty of ranging themselves definitely against the agnostic clique now established in Constantinople.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 10.

The Muled El Nabi.

The festivities in connection with the Muled El Nabi (the Birthday of the Prophet) came to an end on Saturday, which was, as usual, a Government holiday. This picturesque function was this year shorn somewhat of its attractions owing to the lighting regulations recently introduced in Cairo and to the inclement weather that set in during the week; a veritable gale blew on several days and nights, and rain fell on an almost unprecedented scale. In spite of the unfavourable conditions, crowds of Egyptians went out to Abbassia, where the feast is always celebrated; and the customary ceremonies took place in the tent of Sayed Abdul Hamid Bey El Bakhri, the head of the religious sects (Tarikas) in Egypt. H. H. Prince Ahmed Fuad represented the Sultan at the traditional reading of the history of the Prophet's birth, which, it may be noted, was read for the first time in Arabic. On the instructions of the Sultan, a similar ceremony took place on the Saturday evening at the Rifaii Mosque.

H.H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan is slowly making his way down the Nile, and will now not be back in the capital until the end of the week. He is having quite a triumphal progress, and at every stopping-place is being received with the greatest enthusiasm. The various towns on the banks of the Nile and the principal notables are vying with each other in their efforts to demonstrate their loyalty, and at Assiout and Minia, especially, the most magnificent preparations had been made. At both places his Highness held a reception, and afterwards proceeded on shore to inspect the guard of honour, which at Minia included a detachment of British troops. Whilst the enthusiastic manner in which the Sultan is being received in Upper Egypt is giving much satisfaction in official circles, a certain amount of concern is being expressed as to the effect on his health of the constant strain and excitement entailed by these receptions, which have been going on from early morning till late at night. His Highness had only intended making a very few stops on his way up and down from Assuan; and it is regretted that the original plan was not adhered to, as it is feared that all this ceremonial may undo the good which his river trip has done him.

The Hellenes of Egypt.

The Egyptian Government has officially acknowledged M. Sachtouris as the representative in Egypt of the Provisional Government at Salonika. M. Sachtouris was formerly Hellenic Consul-General at Alexandria, and resigned his position some little time ago because, like many members of the Greek Diplomatic and Consular Corps in other countries, he did not approve of his Sovereign's attitude. He had a long interview on Friday morning last with the High Commissioner, but, as far as can be ascertained, no decision has been come to as to whether he is to exercise over the local Hellenic colony the legal jurisdiction hitherto enjoyed by the representatives of the Athens Government. M. Roussos, the President of the Venezelist party in Egypt, has issued a *communiqué* to the effect that those representatives no longer have any right over Egyptian Hellenes; but as these officials are still accredited to, and have not been disowned by, the Egyptian Government, this *communiqué* would scarcely seem sufficient to regularise the legal position of the local Hellenic colony. This community is situated very differently from its fellows in other countries, and its position would appear at present to be a somewhat complicated one.

That, as mentioned in a previous letter, there are still some members in the colony here who are pronounced Royalists and anti-Entente in sympathy has been proved by incidents that have occurred during the past week. Perhaps the arrival on Monday last of General Lapathiotis with the military mission from Salonika will lead to an active beat-up of the service-fit members of the Hellenic community, and thus to the complete elimination of the disturbing element.

The Clearance of the Sinai.

The good news, just received, of the defeat of the Turks at Rafa, and the complete clearance of the Sinai peninsula, has made a tremendous impression. Success has consistently followed our efforts ever since the Turks ill-advisedly tried conclusions with us at Romani last April; and the complete capture of all the forces with which we have recently come in contact speaks volumes for the excellent manner in which our plans have been laid and carried out. At the same time due credit must be given to those responsible for the supply service and the running of the railway. They have all done wonders, with everything against them. We are now informed that the broad-gauge railway reached El Arish on the 4th instant, fourteen days only after our occupation, at which time railhead was still fifteen miles to the west. This last effort on the part of the railway engineers—in itself a most wonderful achievement—must certainly have materially assisted us to round up the Turks and clear the peninsula of all hostile troops within a little over a fortnight of our capture of the frontier town.

The National Mission.

A cable from London announces that the Rev. Dr. Storrs, Dean of Rochester, and the Rev. E. A. Burroughes, Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, have been asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury to come to Egypt as his messengers. They will arrive in about ten days' time, and will spend two months visiting Egypt, Cyprus, and the Sudan.

CAIRO, January 17.

The Sultan's Arrival.

H.H. the Sultan, who had spent the preceding few days quietly on board his steamer, landed at Helwan yesterday afternoon and motored into Cairo, where he has resumed his residence at Abdin Palace. His Highness, who is delighted with his river trip, is much improved in health.

The High Commissioner.

Sir Reginald Wingate has been busy during the past week receiving deputations of notables from the various provinces, who have come up to Cairo to welcome him on his arrival and to offer him their congratulations. One and all have expressed themselves as charmed by the affable reception accorded to them and the fluent manner in which his Excellency conversed with them. The High Commissioner has, also, spent some time in returning official calls and visiting the more important centres of learning. Accompanied by Mr. Ronald Storrs and Lieut.-Colonel Watson, Sir Reginald called last week on the Coptic Orthodox Patriarch, by whom he was received with great ceremony; and he has also visited the Sultania Library, the Arab Museum, and Al Azhar. At the latter centre he was accorded an exceedingly warm reception by the Rector of the University, the Grand Mufti, and other members of the governing council, and also by the ulema and teachers, with whom he spent some time discussing their work. Before he left his Excellency inspected the "liwans" and the library, and expressed to the Rector the great pleasure that his visit had given him.

Irrigation Projects.

Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, Minister of Public Works, and Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State in the same Ministry, are leaving on Saturday for the Sudan. Their visit is mainly connected with the irrigation projects that are in progress or the execution of which is under consideration, and they will inspect and study the sites that have been selected for the works on the White and Blue Niles. Sirri Pasha and Sir Murdoch, who will be away about three weeks, will on their return from Khartoum visit the Wad Hamed basins, where it is hoped next year considerably to extend the cultivated area.

The Rafa Victory.

General Sir Archibald Murray has received congratulatory telegrams on his victory at Rafa from all parts, including messages from H.M. the King, H.H. the Sultan, and H.E. the High Commissioner. The consistent success that follows the efforts of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force continues to make a very great impression on the local population. The news

that the Sinai has been completely cleared of Turkish troops came as a welcome surprise, as it was known that until very recently Nakhl and other points were still held by the enemy. It is to be presumed that, as the *communiqués* say nothing of captures of hostile bodies elsewhere than on the northern line, the posts at the points in question were withdrawn when news of our speedy and successful advance was received, and that the troops in question managed to get across the frontier in time. It would be interesting to hear officially what really happened to these posts.

The Greek Situation.

General Lapathiotis, who, as I informed you in my last letter, has arrived in Egypt on a special military mission from Salonika, came up to Cairo last weekend, when I had the opportunity of discussing the present situation with him. The General, as no doubt your readers will recollect, was the leading spirit in the revolution of 1909—at which date he was merely a colonel—which resulted in the forcible retirement of the Crown Prince (the present King) from the army. He consequently thoroughly understands the ins and outs of the present situation in his country and the influences that are at work, and, ever an outspoken man, he did not mince matters in expressing his views to me. He is strongly of opinion that no faith should be put in King Constantine's acceptance of the Allied ultimatum. Even if eventually the King accepts it unconditionally, the General is persuaded that he will find some excuse for delaying execution of the conditions, and that, relying upon the Allies' weakness in the past, he will, unless proper measures for the immediate enforcement of these conditions are taken, continue temporizing until such time as he (the King) hopes the Germans may be sufficiently strong in the Balkans to afford him support, or enable him to join them in an attack on the Allies. That he has some such plan in mind the General is firmly convinced, and he considers that, in addition to the removal of Dousmanis and the rest of the King's pro-German entourage, the only sane course open to the Allies is to tighten the blockade and occupy both the Piræus and Athens. Such a measure would completely undermine the King's influence and ensure the establishment of a satisfactory state of affairs, especially in northern Greece.

As far as concerns the threat levelled at Monastir, General Lapathiotis is very doubtful whether the Germans can really collect sufficient troops from the various fronts to menace that point seriously. He pointed out that they have a very short time in which to mass the men, as their effort must be made before the spring, when all the troops at their disposal will be needed on the other fronts. But no matter what they are able to do, the Germans and their allies can carry out no successful operations against our position at Salonika, which, he says, is the last word in impregnability.

General Lapathiotis' mission is to organize the recruiting movement amongst the Hellenes of Egypt. The length of his stay in Egypt will depend on various circumstances. He has had interviews with the High Commissioner and General Murray, and is doing all he can to stimulate voluntary recruiting amongst the Egyptian Greeks. So far the latter have sent 800 volunteers to Salonika, and there are about 400 more in training at Alexandria. If compulsory powers could be granted to the representatives of the Provisional Government, the Egyptian contingent could be brought up to quite 5,000, whilst a considerable addition to the Army of National Defence could be obtained from the Hellenic communities in Allied countries.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, January 6.

The Question of Food.

The Press takes credit for a recent Government experiment by which samples of bread have been prepared from mixed wheat and barley flour. Two kinds have been made, one containing barley and wheat in equal proportions, the other, three parts of barley to one of wheat. These can be sold at 2½ and 2, or 2½, piastres respectively, as against 4½ piastres (6d.) per oke, as paid for wheaten bread. Hopes are accordingly expressed that Government will take measures to render the sale of barley bread obligatory for bakers, at fixed prices, as may be deemed reasonable, from time to time. Complaints are also made that much of the white bread ordinarily sold is of doubtful quality. The proverbial difficulty of pleasing everybody is exemplified in the different towns and districts. Thus the fixing of maximum prices for most articles of food, welcomed by most purchasers, also gives rise to great complaints, viz., that the vendors, being free to dispose of their goods *ad libitum*, have exported large quantities, and so created a dearth in the Nicosia markets. It is, therefore, now urged that exportation should be prohibited, and that the quantity to be sold to individuals should be restricted. Again, in some places loud complaints are made by tradesmen who allege that, having bought stock at certain prices, they are now obliged to sell at less than cost price. The fixing of rates is said to be leading to the adulteration of many articles, necessitating much vigilance on the part of the police and municipalities. In other places it is urged that the prices of all native produce, including fruit, should be regulated. Thus, e.g., in the Famagusta district oranges are largely consumed, especially now that cheese, eggs, etc., are at prices which are prohibitive for the poor. Oranges have been generally sold at little over one shilling the hundred, whereas now growers charge what they please.

Arrest of Cypriots in Greece.

Amongst the persons so scandalously arrested and detained at Athens during the late crisis was Mr. Simos Menardos, a distinguished Cypriot of Limassol, who for several years recently held the newly created chair of Modern Greek at Oxford. On relinquishing this appointment, he accepted a post as Professor in the University of Athens. In reply to Mr. N. Pascáles, barrister-at-law, and M.L.C., of Nicosia, word has been received from the British Embassy at Athens stating that Mr. Menardos has been released. It is probable that he may shortly find his way to Cyprus. His father was Hellenic Consul at Ancona. On leaving Italy he settled in Cyprus, and for some years practised as an advocate at Limassol. Mr. Menardos himself is one of the best read and foremost Greek scholars of Cyprus. He is well versed in antiquarian research, and has made various contributions to Greek literature, including monographs on Cypriot history and mythology.

Another Cypriot who was arrested has also been released. Of the natives who went under contract to serve at Salonika, a considerable number have returned, having been released from their engagements on grounds of health.

Cypriots in Egypt.

A Greek newspaper, quoting the *Cairo*, published in Egypt, states that a Cypriot who was implicated in a recent stabbing case in that country, and who was arrested by the police, declared that he was of Cypriot nationality. The police, being in perplexity, referred to the British Consulate, and were informed that, whereas Cypriots residing in the island enjoy British protection, those domiciled in Egypt must be regarded as native subjects.

On Monday a large number of elderly men and women arrived in London with their families, whose homes and estates in Roumania have recently been invaded. Some of the party were professors and merchants. It is understood that many of them will make their homes in this country and that others will go to France.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

NEWS OF SYRIA.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 18.

The Jesuit Fathers.

A person of authority, who left Beyrout at the end of August last, and has since been able to follow events in Syria from a secure place close at hand, gives the following details which have not yet appeared in previous correspondence published about Syria.

Some of the Jesuit Fathers who have been allowed to remain in the country are now the guests of the Maronite clergy. The few Jesuit Fathers of Syrian nationality, such as the well-known and erudite writer, Father Louis Cheikho, are living in the Maronite Convent of St. Antonics, but their state is said to be rather critical. The nuns of Syrian nationality belonging to French orders have been allowed to live in the well-known Convent of St. Charles, belonging to the Dames de Nazareth. The authorities have laid hands on the Jesuit College of Beyrout, one part of which has been allotted to the Red Crescent Society, the other part having been turned into Government offices, including those of the National Defence Committee. The church has not been interfered with, all the costly vessels, sacred ornaments, etc., within it being still intact. The fine library, however, has not been so respected, all the rare books of value having been sent to Constantinople. The Jesuits' printing-press has met with a worse fate, the machinery, type, paper, etc., the value of which is estimated at not less than half a million francs, having been confiscated. All the equipment and apparatus of the laboratories of the French Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy have also been confiscated, and sent over to the Sultanieh School of Medicine at Damascus. As to the rich estates owned by the Jesuits in the Lebanon and the Bekaa, these have been taken over by the Government, and a German agricultural engineer has been appointed to undertake the management thereof.

Clergy Persecuted.

The Apostolic Delegate and the Syriac Patriarch have not been molested, except that the latter was twice called up before the Court Martial at Aley to answer certain baseless charges brought against him. The Syriac Bishop, however, together with thirty-five of his clergy, was condemned to death, as the result of false charges laid against them. The Maronite Patriarch is still living in his winter residence, El Diman. He, also, was twice called to the Seraglio at Beyrout. The well-known Maronite Bishop of Beyrout was condemned to death, but, on the intercession of the Apostolic Delegate, the death sentence was commuted to one of exile to Adana. The Greek Catholic Bishop of Acre was condemned to death; while the Bishops of Baalbek, Tripoli, and Damascus, of the same community, were exiled to Adana.

The Shortage of Drugs and Food.

It is estimated that at least seven-eighths of the doctors and pharmacists in Syria have been called up for service in the army, only the aged and medically unfit having been spared. The stock of drugs and medicines is practically exhausted, and yet the Government is still compelling the chemist shops to continue open to the public, "to throw dust in the eyes" and make a show of a normal state of things.

Harrowing details are given of the famine prevailing and of the extraordinary dearness of foodstuffs, the prices of certain articles of prime necessity being quoted; all of which tallies with accounts already published. A strange report is that, owing to the exhaustion of the stock of salt, the people have been resorting to the evaporation of sea water. When it is learned that some well-known salines on the northern coast of the Lebanon used to be worked, and that the salt produced therefrom used to be in excess of the needs of the Lebanese, before salt passed as a monopoly into the hands of the Public Debt, the Turks' want of administrative capacity is realized.

ARCHÆOLOGY UNDER FIRE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

During the terrible fighting at Gallipoli, the French, when trench-digging, came across the remains of a large ancient necropolis, and at various intervals between June and December, 1915, the military authorities authorised the site being carefully excavated and explored. The tombs were certainly those of the more affluent members of the ancient Hellenic city of Elæus. This place is often mentioned in Thracian history, and it was there that a great naval battle took place between the fleets of Constantine and Licinius in Roman times.

The Staff of the French Army at the Dardanelles has presented to the French Academy an elaborate report of the researches carried out by its officers, illustrated by numerous photographs of the site, before and after the excavations, and others of the antiquities obtained. This occupies more than one hundred pages in the *Bulletin Correspondance Hellenique* for, with Gallic thoroughness, it tells all that is historically known of Elæus, as well as describing the digging and all the results this produced.

Unfortunately, although a great number of large stone sarcophagi were uncovered, and numerous small objects, such as vases, statuettes, and coins, were found, there was a total absence of inscribed records, not even the names of the occupants of the sepulchres being legible. All the important tombs consisted of large rectangular stone coffins with heavy stone lids, often protected by a four-sided low wall built around them. The coffers were all covered up with earth, as were a number of large jars which were interspersed among them. These jars, or *pithoi*, contained bones and funerary objects, as did the sarcophagi, and the opening to them was closed by a stone. They were not very durable pottery, and some, which had cracked at their baking, were mended with lead clamps before being used. Besides these, there were numerous amphoras scattered about, which doubtless, when the interments took place, contained funerary offerings.

Some of the sarcophagi held two, or even three, skeletons, and a few of the large jars two. The report fully describes and gives an inventory of the objects recovered from fifty-six coffins and jars. The funerary vases are all of inexpensive types and manufacture, as are all the phials of glass. The statuettes are of the kind frequent in thousands of Hellenic sepulchres, and inferior to those famous ones from Tanagra and Myrina.

So thoroughly was all the narrow peninsula cut up by trenches that we may be certain that within the French and British lines no antiquities of value will ever be found. The necropolis of Elæus has been completely explored, and proved to be one which, excepting the satisfaction of knowing how meagre for historical or artistic purposes were its contents, was hardly worth the cost of excavation.

FOR BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I once more trespass upon your kindness in connection with the "British Refugees from Turkey Fund"?

Last year Mr. Munford, the Director of Kensington College, generously placed at the disposal of our committee nominations for free training at the college in favour of daughters of British refugees from Turkey. The training fees range from thirty-five guineas to sixty guineas for the complete course, according to the class of diploma for which the candidate enters, and the value of the scholarships placed at our disposal aggregates £200, which may possibly be increased to £500.

For your information and guidance I enclose copy of the prospectus and other papers connected with the useful work carried on by Mr. Munford, and I would be much obliged if you would help us in getting the advantage of this useful and gratuitous training known among the British subjects from Turkey now residing in this country, as they are so widely dispersed that it is difficult for our committee to ascertain the whereabouts of those who might be disposed to apply for a nomination.

Every graduate will be provided with the offer of a number of dignified and remunerative positions, from which she may select a congenial career. Initial salaries vary from about 40s. to 84s. weekly.

Applications can be made to me or to any member of the Executive Committee of the "British Refugees from Turkey Fund," and any information regarding Kensington College will be gladly furnished by Mr. Munford from 34, Gloucester Gardens, Paddington.—I am, etc.,

ALICE LOWTHER.

23, Belgrave Square, S.W.,
January 31, 1917.

LORD CROMER.

HIS WORK FOR EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

The death of Lord Cromer leaves not only the British Empire but the entire world the poorer. Britain loses a public servant of the best type; the world a man of rare force of character and a scholar of considerable attainments.

Born in 1841, at Cromer Hall, Norfolk, he was the son of Mr. Henry Baring, M.P., his mother being a daughter of Vice-Admiral William Wyndham. He entered the Army, and joined the Royal Artillery in 1858; and three years later was appointed A.D.C. to the High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, thus beginning a connection with the Near East which was later to have such far-reaching results. But that connection was somewhat quickly terminated. He went first to Jamaica, as secretary to a Commission sent out to inquire into certain complaints and abuses, and afterwards to India, as private secretary to Lord Northbrook, his cousin, Viceroy of India. In 1877, having meanwhile reached the rank of major and been awarded the C.S.I., he was sent to Egypt as British Commissioner for the Public Debt. It is hardly necessary to remind readers of THE NEAR EAST of the chaotic state of Egyptian finances at that time, or of the hopeless condition of the Fellah as a result of Ismail Pasha's extravagance and his passion for trying experiments of one kind and another. Major Baring's appointment had been regarded with some surprise, but he very soon justified his selection, and his influence made itself felt to a remarkable extent in the inquiry into the financial entanglements of the Khedive. As a result, when Ismail, having tried the patience of the Western Powers beyond all further bearing, was forced to abdicate, Major Baring was appointed with M. de Blignières to the joint control of Egypt's finances. Strangely, as it seems now, his work in Egypt was soon interrupted, and he was sent out to India again, as Financial Member of the Council. Of the excellent service he rendered during the three years he spent in that capacity there is no need to speak here. It greatly enhanced his reputation, and when he returned to Egypt it was felt that, though he had heavy and difficult work before him, he was the man to see it through successfully.

It was in 1883 that he arrived in Cairo as British Agent and Consul-General, and began what was certainly the great work of his life. The prospect before him was not a pleasant one to face. The situation was full of uncertainty, and the only thing about which there seemed to be no doubt at all was that Egypt was in a very bad way indeed. The country was on the verge of bankruptcy; its administration was corrupt; Arabi's rebellion was still fresh in the minds of the people; and trouble was threatening badly from the south. To make matters worse, the British Government appeared to be incapable of making up its mind regarding either the future of the country or its own intentions towards it, and Turkey was playing—as usual—a game which required careful watching. It is worth adding that at the time the new British Agent considered that his stay in the country was likely to be but a short one. His difficulties, then, were great. But he grappled with them fearlessly, and, as events have proved, with rare insight; and, though he did not at first always find it easy to induce the British Government to see eye to eye with him, it was usually his policy that was pursued. He was overruled at times, as in the case of the withdrawal of the Egyptian garrisons from the Sudan and the ill-fated mission of Gordon. He could not avert the troubles that he foresaw as a result of those steps, but he could work to undo the mischief that was done. And work he did with a patience and a tenacity of purpose that in due time won through.

The first thing to be done, obviously, was to get the Egyptian finances out of the state of muddle into which they had drifted. Sir Evelyn Baring did what he could do at the time. Almost certainly it was not what he would have wished to do, but it was at least the best that could be done in all the circumstances. In March, 1885,

the finances of Egypt were put on some kind of regular footing by the International Convention which was signed in London. Thereupon it became possible to finance undertakings necessary to turn the great agricultural possibilities of the country to account; the cultivators were provided with water, and the foundations were laid of that prosperity which the country enjoys to-day. In five years Egypt was put, financially, upon its feet. At the same time the work of readjusting taxation was pushed forward steadily, and the various administrative departments were thoroughly overhauled.

While all these things were being done, Lord Cromer yet found time to think of what had been done, and what was still being done, in the Sudan. People at home might have forgotten, but he had not; and when the right moment came he recognized its arrival, and acted promptly and energetically, as usual. He urged action on the British Government, and carried his point in face of a good deal of opposition. Moreover, to him must be given the credit for selecting the right man for the work that had to be done. He selected Kitchener, and he secured Kitchener's appointment; and once more the event justified his judgment. The Battle of Omdurman freed the Sudan from the oppression of the Khalifa Abdullah, and set it also on the road to prosperity. And while Kitchener fought and won the battle, it was Lord Cromer—and practically Lord Cromer alone—who made that victory possible. He deserves the title of the Saviour of the Sudan almost as much as that of the Maker of Modern Egypt.

His relations with the Egyptians have been made very clear in his own writings. With the Khedive Tewfik they were friendly, for Tewfik recognized what he owed to the British, and remembered the state of Egypt before Lord Cromer's beneficent guidance. Abbas II. forgot these things, and suffered himself to be made the tool of intriguers; and the consequence was that he and the British Agent were not infrequently at variance. How delicate the situation became on more than one occasion is made clear in "Abbas II.," which was published in 1915, and which shows how sound was Lord Cromer's judgment of the Khedive, and how he held himself in hand for the sake both of Egypt and of Great Britain. He was always ready to recognize real merit in any man, and though he was no believer in the "Egypt for the Egyptians" theory, he worked gladly with many of the Egyptian Ministers who showed that they had at heart their country's best interests. Towards the people, the *fellaheen*, he was truly sympathetic, and though he never indulged in sentimental talk regarding their "rights," he undoubtedly did even more for their welfare than is generally recognized.

Nor did he forget the welfare of the Europeans in the country, being, indeed, anxious that all who helped to make the land prosper should themselves prosper also. His aim, it is safe to say, was the ultimate abolition of the Capitulations, which afford opportunities for so many abuses, and have in the past proved such a thorn in the side of the Administration; and shortly before he left Egypt he prepared a scheme for the representation of the European communities in the government of the country, which would render possible the abolition of the Capitulations. For various reasons it has not yet proved possible to achieve this very desirable end, but it is to be hoped that it will now very shortly be achieved.

In May, 1907, Lord Cromer's health compelled him to resign, and he returned to England. To the last, however, he continued to take the most lively interest in the affairs of Egypt; his advice was always at the disposal of his successors and of the British Government; and his speeches in the House of Lords showed that he had by no means lost his grip of Eastern affairs, or his genuine, if undemonstrative, affection for the land for which he had done so much.

A Constantinople telegram received by way of Amsterdam reports that, at the instance of the Ottoman Government, the Chamber of Deputies has sanctioned the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was interested in Sir William Ramsay's estimate of King Constantine, which was quoted (from *Land and Water*) in last week's NEAR EAST. Sir William undoubtedly knows his subject, and when he refers to the "explosion of indignation" against Tino after the Greco-Turkish War of 1896 he records a fact that is beyond dispute. There was such a chorus, and Tino had to put it vulgarly—"a close squeak." The Greeks wanted a scapegoat, and the Crown Prince was the most convenient—and, indeed, most suitable—object to hand. But, for all that, one wonders whether he received quite fair play at that time. A friend who knows his Greece well, and was in Athens at the time, tells me that the Greek *débâcle* was certainly due in part to causes beyond Tino's control. The Crown Prince, according to my friend, had posted a force at one particular pass, with orders to hold it—which could have been done quite easily. The officer in command, however, did not approve of his instructions, and telegraphed—and the incident was typical of the state of discipline in the Greek Army at the time—to the Ministry of War, setting his own views against Tino's. And his own views prevailed: he was instructed to fall back; did so; and before Tino was aware that the position had been vacated the Turks were pouring through the pass, and threatening to cut him and his army off altogether. But if Tino had bad luck then, the Fates have certainly been kind enough to him since. Never, one feels, did a mediocre person have such phenomenal luck!

A few days ago I was allowed to read a letter giving an account of the "Braemar Castle" outrage, written by one of the nursing staff. It bore out other accounts which have already appeared in the Press, but also gave many details that have not been published, and probably would not be allowed to be published, for very good reasons. One thing may safely be said, however: the conduct of the wounded, and of all on board, was above praise, just as the conduct of the enemy in attacking a hospital ship was beneath contempt. Another point that struck me in reading the letter was that the survivors, who were taken to one of the Greek islands, evidently brought away with them somewhat mixed impressions. The writer refers enthusiastically to the kindness shown them by the British consular representative and his family, and by some French nuns and one or two Italians on the island; she pays ungrudging tribute to the skill and kindness of a certain Greek doctor, whose help was evidently invaluable; and she is very grateful to many of the natives who showed them kindness; but of some other islanders, who sought to make hay while the sun was shining, so to say, she writes, with obvious feeling, as "sharks."

One passage in the letter records a minor tragedy of the War. It refers to the state in which the writer's personal belongings were brought ashore, after an interval which had taught her the advantages possessed by her uniform. The packing, it seems, was done by stewards, who, in the urgency of the moment, appear to have forgotten—if they ever knew, poor fellows!—what care is necessary in handling feminine head-gear. "My three hats," says the writer, "were put at the bottom of my kit-bag, which was then filled up by tumbling books and boots in on top of them." But the part of the letter that interested me most of all was a postscript, in which the writer records that when taken off their island of refuge the "Braemar Castle" folk were all "entered as cases of 'nerve strain'"; and adds: "as no one is allowed to travel on a hospital ship unless they are either sick or working in it. (Thus do we observe the rules of war)." That, coming from one who has spent the greater part of the last two years on hospital ships, ought to dispose of certain lies told by the Huns as excuses for their iniquitous attacks on such boats.

Anyone who has travelled in the East must have been struck by the exaggerated respect shown by most Orientals to any official. There are, of course, exceptions, but they only go to prove the rule. Your real Oriental reverences an official intensely, and the feeling, which is often quite genuine, sometimes carries him to extraordinary lengths in the way of expression. I heard quite lately of a most amusing case in point. A certain high official in India, who believed in looking into things for himself, was given to travelling in out-of-the-way districts where none of his predecessors had ever shed the light of their countenance; and one day his peregrinations took him to a tiny office which was in charge of a venerable native. The latter, on hearing who had arrived, hastened out to pay his respects, and, approaching the official with great reverence, kissed his riding boots, and murmured ecstatically: "My god—oh, my god!" Then, before his slightly embarrassed and not slightly amused chief could remonstrate, he went on to say:

"Now my petition will be granted. Never before has one of the Great Ones deigned to visit this place. But now all will be well!" Inquiry elicited the fact that the old gentleman had been in receipt of an allowance of eight annas a month for "sundry office expenses," and that he had "petitioned" to have it raised to twelve annas a month. Incidentally the petition strikes one as not being precisely greedy! He was confident that, Providence having sent the Great One to his door, the desire of his (official) heart would now be granted; and the confusion of ideas at the back of his mind accounted, no doubt, for his deification of his chief. It is pleasing to be able to record that his petition, being considered reasonable, was granted on the spot.

Now, that it is a true story; and it seems to me typical of much that you come across in the East—and entirely delightful at that. A cynic would no doubt call the old native a blatant sycophant, and talk knowingly about the "cunning" of the Oriental; but personally I am prepared to believe that the old gentleman acted in perfect good faith. I have been through one or two incidents of the same kind myself, only with Arabs instead of Indians, and I was frequently touched by the boundless faith in the "power" and the exaggerated respect for the "riches" of the *Firengi* that these people showed. It was often embarrassing at the time; and when it was a case of being expected to work a miracle, and cure some quite incurable disease, it was apt to be painful. But it was touching for all that. And I suspect that it is very often memories of such incidents that lend the East so much charm when we look back upon it through the years that have gone.

A short time ago I heard a curious story, for the truth of which I am ready to vouch. In the early days of the War a British vessel and a Greek vessel were lying at the quay at the Pireus so close together that what went on on one ship was easily visible on the other. On the British boat were a large number of British workmen, who were on their way to a certain harbour to do war work. Presently down the quay marched a party of Greek gendarmes escorting a couple of very wretched, used-up-looking Albanian Moslems, who were handcuffed together and looked utterly exhausted and hopeless. They were to be sent to Salonika, it seemed; and the guard marched them on board the Greek steamer, where they were made to sit down on the deck, in full view of the Englishmen on the other boat, who regarded them with natural interest. Then, very quickly, interest became sympathy. For suddenly the Greek guards began to hit their prisoners—who were still handcuffed together—over the head, on the face, anywhere, abusing them violently the while. The Albanians bore it quietly: they were too exhausted and too handicapped to do otherwise. But the Britons soon lost their tempers at the sight of such poltroonery. "You cowards!" they shouted, "stop it!" And they made a rush for the gangway of their own boat. The Greeks desisted for a while; then they resumed their "amusement." The British workmen again "demonstrated"; they expressed their opinions of the performance forcibly, and again they made a rush for the gangway. But again they were stopped, as they had been before, by an Englishman of long experience in the Near East. If I gave you his name you would most likely recognise it at once. He calmed the raging crowd with words of reason and talk of "international complications." "But," he said, in telling me of the incident, "I am afraid that, even so, those two Albanians never reached Salonika."

CORSAIR.

MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF
FEEDING STUFFS
 SUCH AS **BRAN, POLLARDS, COCKLES,**
TARES, FENUGREEK, HUSKMEALS, &c.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
 LOWGATE, **HULL.**

Established over 50 Years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A NEW TRANSLATION OF THE KORAN.*

This is the first part of a series of thirty which it is intended to bring out at somewhat irregular intervals. "When all the thirty parts have been published, an ample introduction to the Holy Quran will be added, which will be a comprehensive exposition of such important matters as require a detailed and lengthy discussion." The original Arabic text is given at the top of each page in clear, bold characters, three lines deep on the average, the remainder of the page being devoted successively to a transliteration in English characters, an English translation, explanatory notes, and a "running note" on the arrangement and sequences of the verses. Some of these features constitute a departure which the author finds it necessary to justify. Thus the inclusion of the original is prompted by "a desire not to jeopardise the text," while the transliteration is intended "as a radical help to the new converts to Islam who have to learn by heart a portion of the Holy Quran to be read in prayers." The book is in the main a commentary. The greater part of it being taken up by notes, neither the Arabic version nor the transliteration introduces an element of disproportion.

The identity of the author is not revealed. But the gentleman under "whose auspices" the work is published is described as "the second successor of the promised Messiah." The announcement is displayed in bold type on the cover, and is the first thing that leaps to the eye. Three full pages are then devoted to pampering this mysterious personage into a sort of semi-holy existence. The opening sentence "conveys to the world at large the glad tidings that the Blessed Messenger of the latter days, whose advent was foretold by almost all the great prophets of the world, made his appearance in due time in the person of Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian." This is followed by a lengthy attempt to explain that although the Prophet called the promised one Jesus, that did not mean that the very Jesus who appeared in the world 1,900 years ago would come back again. "He" (the promised Messiah) "was called Jesus because he was to be the last successor of the heavenly dispensations established by the Prophet, just as Jesus was the last successor of Mosaic dispensations." The institution thus set up is going to be permanent. As soon as a Messiah dies a successor is promptly appointed. There appear to have been three of them so far, the first passing away in 1908, "in accordance with prophecy established beforehand." He was duly succeeded by another gentleman who died in 1914, and whose place is now filled by his son, to whom "the world at large" is kindly referred for spiritual blessing.

This may all be perfectly legitimate if kept within limits. But to incorporate, as the author does, such pet dogmas into what purports to be a serious commentary constitutes a gross abuse. The "Messiah" is most ingeniously smuggled in in several places. On page 3 the seventh verse of the Fatiha is profaned by being made to refer to the advent of a Messiah; and a few lines further the author introduces his predecessor in the following manner:—"The Messiah referred to in the verse has already appeared, and his name is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian." On p. 11, in connection with verse 6 of El Bakara, the following passage occurs in the notes:—"It may be mentioned in passing that the Promised One has already appeared. His name is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian." Again, on p. 55, we are told that the alleged degradation of Moslems to-day is by way of punishment, but that a promise of freedom from fears and dangers is held up to those who would only accept Mr. Ghulam of Qadian. There are at least six lengthy references to the Messiah in the notes of but one-thirtieth part of the Koran. At the same rate there would be no less than 180 such allusions in the complete text, apart from the ninety pages (three to each part) that would presumably be devoted to immortalising the Messiah. Now, this is altogether an illicit use of a commentary. From the purely Moslem point of view the procedure is profane, to say the least. It is bound to rouse the great majority of Moslems to a sense of very deep indignation. The Azharites in particular will resent the method as a gratuitous encroachment upon the sanctity of the Holy Book. The author's method, moreover, threatens to reduce what might otherwise be called a laudable attempt at comprehensiveness to a piece of pamphleteering of a very undignified type.

The author's comments leave much to be desired. A dogmatic attitude characterises their tenor. The author follows ancient commentators rather slavishly, and is, on the whole, justly open to the criticism of being out of touch with modern development. For instance, in discussing the three letters "Alif," "Lam," "Mim," occurring

at the beginning of the second chapter, the author, after disposing satisfactorily of the notion that these were added by a scribe, drives the reader irresistibly to a sense of disappointment by endorsing the view that these letters stand for "I, God, the Most Knowing." Where the issue is not linguistic, he often fails to give references. The distinguished Moslem commentators of old were perhaps justified in giving opinions on trust. They addressed themselves to a Moslem public. They, therefore, started with the assumption, as a premiss, that the Koran was the undoubted Word of God. Any apparent inconsistency was easily brushed aside as being incompatible with His qualities. But to adopt the same process of reasoning with an audience which does not necessarily accept that premiss as a starting-point is to beg the question.

The work is not free from polemics. Here and there the opportunity is taken of replying to "Christian writers," these being occasionally mentioned by name. The author refutes the construction placed upon the fifth verse of the second chapter, "And who believe in what has been sent down upon thee and what has been sent down before thee" as enjoining Moslems to follow teachings other than those of the Koran. In the footnote on page 41 "our Christian critics," who are "exultant over the discovery of an inconsistency," are blamed for not piecing together verse 49 of Chapter II. with other verses. Had they done so, they "would have understood the true character of intercession in Islam." In connection with verse 80 of the same chapter, warning the Jews against tampering with Divine Scriptures, the author asserts that "some Christian writers have in vain attempted to force an unwarranted corollary out of it." These writers are said to take this warning "as a testimony to the existence of the true Bible at that time," and the author retorts that "reference to tampering with the text does not necessarily mean tampering with the genuine text."

The author deals at length with verse 83 of Chapter II., where, after speaking of the prophets who came after Moses, special mention is made of Christ. "Christian missionaries, who often hunt up handles for attacking Islam, and read the Holy Koran with the settled object of discovering in it something in support of their own pet theories," are credited with the opinion that the special mention made of Christ is meant for his exaltation over other prophets. This the author sets himself to refute.

Far from feeling that an apology is due for adding one more translation to those already published, the author holds that a good translation is "the crying need of the time." Summarily and without qualification, he condemns "all the English translations, so far published," as having been done "either by those who were swayed by nothing but religious prejudice, and whose object was certainly not the manifestation of truth, but the presentation of a ghastly picture of the Holy Quran before the world, or by those who had no acquaintance worth the name with the Holy Quran and the Arabic language, the result being that those translations are too poor reading to afford anything like a real insight into the excellences of Islam." This is certainly a highly coloured picture and an ungenerous account. Arabic is deeply indebted to European scholars; much more so than to anything that Indians, Persians, or even Arabs can lay claim of late. The thoroughness with which some of those scholars master Arabic, the devotion and care they lavish upon its advancement, all redound to their credit; and the Margoliouths, the Brownes, and the Macdonalds can be pointed to by the score. Of Palmer the charge of ignorance assuredly cannot be maintained. Rodwell's translation does not differ materially from that of Palmer. After all, our author's version is but a modified form (not a happy one) of one or other of these. But the notes are copious. In the linguistic side of these lies the chief merit of the book. Where the author differs from other translators—indeed, even where he does not differ—he very often adduces authoritative evidence in support of his view. Taj El Arus, Lisan El Arab, and Lane are thus freely and frequently quoted. The first departure that strikes the reader is the well-known Islamic formula usually stated in English as "In the name of Allah," which the author renders: "I begin with the name of Allah." This, we venture to think, is making too much of a grammatical device. For parsing purposes in Arabic a phrase such as "I begin" or "I read" is supposed to be "understood," and is mentally prefixed to this form of opening. But it does not seem warrantable to carry the assumption beyond this.

The first verse in Surat El Bakara is made to read:—"This book, wherein there is no doubt, is a guidance for the God-fearing." There seems here to be adherence to the letter somewhat at the expense of the spirit of the Arabic text. In the notes the author rightly explains the variety of interpretations of which the Arabic version is capable. Palmer's rendering, however, appears to be the one most in consonance with modern acceptance. The reason for

*"The Holy Quran." With English Translation, Explanatory Note, etc. Part I. (Published by An-Noman-i-Tarqi-i-Islam, Qadian, Punjab, India. First edition. Price Rs.2.)

preferring the wording "That is the book; there is no doubt therein; a guidance," etc., is that as thus interpreted the verse conforms with the best rules of rhetoric.

"Muttaquin," in the same verse, is translated as God-fearing, as against Palmer's "pious." The latter seems more faithful to the text. In support of his view the author embarks upon a rather roundabout reasoning. "Muttaqi," says he, "is derived from Ittiqa, which means to save oneself. Hence Muttaqi is one who saves himself. As man saves himself from God's wrath by perfect submission to His will and complete obedience to His commandments, and as God's wrath is the greatest of all dreads which a human being strives to escape, therefore he who does righteous deeds and, by complete resignation to God's will, attains to that state of human perfection which entitles him to salvation is called 'Muttaqi.'" This is certainly too far-fetched. But it is also strange, after taking such pains in magnifying the difference between his own rendering and that of other translators, that the author should elsewhere commit the very mistake he had set himself to condemn. The circumstance argues an unpardonable levity and lack of correlation.

The fourth verse of El Bakara, the latter part of which reads, "And expend out of what we have provided them with," is more faithful to the Arabic text than either Rodwell's, which makes it "expend for God," or Palmer's "expend in alms"; while in the notes the author takes the broader view that expenditure is meant for the welfare of mankind generally. He seeks to elaborate the point further, but rather labours it by restricting the meaning of God-given things to "such of our belongings as are obtained in strict compliance with God's will."

Verse 7 of the second chapter claims lengthy consideration. Palmer's version, which reads, "Verily, those who misbelieve, it is the same to them if ye warn them or if ye warn them not, they will not believe," is rejected as a "serious mistake," as "running counter to actual experience," and as "directly opposed to the teachings of the Koran." He seeks to remedy all this by treating part of the sentence as a dependent clause, thus:—"Verily, those who have disbelieved—while it is alike to them whether thou warn them or warn them not—will not believe." This rendering has every appearance of making the verse less presentable while altering the sense but little, if at all. But the author claims that the alteration imparts to the verse the significance that "there is no chance for the disbelievers to believe while they are indifferent to the admonition of the Holy Prophet."

In verse 10, the author rightly substitutes "strive to deceive Allah" for "deceive Allah," adducing more than one authority in support of the change. In verse 16, the words "Allah shall requite their ridicule" are substituted for "God shall mock at them." The alteration is ably explained by the fact that, according to the Arabic idiom, punishment for a vice is often denoted by the term used for the vice itself, abundant examples being cited. In verse 15 the author differs from both Rodwell and Palmer by interpreting "shaitan" as ringleader instead of devil. "When they are alone with their ringleaders" is thus substituted for Palmer's "When they go aside with their devils." While Palmer's in this particular instance is, perhaps rightly condemned as being much too literal, our author has hardly made out a case for his version. From the fact that the root "shatana" means straying away from the truth, it hardly follows that shaitan means a ringleader. Rather we prefer to consider the sense as figurative. The last construction would make the verse descriptive of a tendency in the persons referred to, on being alone, to yield to impious feeling or to revert to a state of disbelief.

In verse 35 the angels are made to "fall prostrate for Adam" instead of before him or of "worshipping" him, the explanation being furnished partly by an appeal to consistency, and partly by the fact that "sijdah" also signifies obedience or submission. "Taken in this sense," says the author, "the order refers to Adam, and means that God bade the angels serve Adam—that is, assist him in his mission."

In connection with verse 66 the author is careful to point out that it is not meant that the profaners of the Sabbath were actually transformed into apes. Two instances from the Koran are quoted where similar expressions occur, but where the context makes it obvious that their use is symbolical. It is also explained, by reference to grammar, that, inasmuch as the termination "in" appended to the Arabic equivalent of "vile" postulated of apes denotes that the epithet refers to rational beings, transformation into apes could not have been meant in a literal sense.

Instances could be multiplied of the minute care and attention devoted to details. On the linguistic side, felicitous explanations abound. Errors there are, and our author does not always err on the "safe side." On page 15, verse 12, the sentence "We are only promoters of peace" is rather arbitrarily substituted for the correcter, "We do but what is right." In verse 27, p. 25, the setting forth of a "parable of a gnat" is altered by the author into "the giving a

description little like a gnat and what exceeds it." The alteration does not appear justified, and the English rendering is made clumsy and very unreadable.

From the fact that the translation is by a Moslem one might have expected to find it adhere unduly to the letter of the Book. The purity of the text is an ideal so deeply ingrained in the Moslem mind that in a translation that aim might conceivably take the undesirable form of a literal rendering. Our author has managed to tear himself free from that objection; but he has made such bad use of a right method that his version may be pronounced a failure. Indeed, in parts, the English is atrocious. The work on the whole is "too poor reading to afford anything like a real insight into the excellence of Islam."

Translation is never an easy task. The Koran in particular seems to present a combination of all the factors that go to make a translation into English particularly difficult. In the first place, the language of the original possesses a totally different diction. In the second place, it is brimful of figures of speech which, when rendered into their equivalent forms in English, fail to have the same connotation or to command the same grip upon the imagination. "The style is fluent and concise, adorned with bold figures after the Eastern taste, enlivened with florid and sententious expressions, and, especially where the majesty and attributes of God are described, sublime and magnificent." The Koran is admittedly the standard of the Arabic tongue. Elegance of style plays such a predominant part that a translation cannot be termed faithful unless it reproduces not only the gist of the original, but the grandeur and sublimity of its diction. This may be well-nigh impossible in any translation. But there is room for a more thorough attempt to approximate the melody and the sonorous cadence of the Arabic.

One, on the other hand, might have expected a commentary written in English in the twentieth century, claiming to be a research, to be a tolerably good achievement. Instead, one is confronted with unsubstantiated, antiquated dogmas, given as on trust, and marred throughout by a bold, if not licentious, encroachment upon the sanctity of a book revered by three hundred millions of people by using its sacred tenets as a medium for canvassing a sectarian movement. The present age may well be one of religious research. It may even be readily receptive of fairy tales. But, we submit, a work cannot be at once a serious research and a fairy tale. S. L.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Turkey, Greece, and the Great Powers: A Study in Friendship and Hate. By G. F. Abbott. With maps. (Robert Scott. 7s. 6d. net.)

The Reconstruction of South-Eastern Europe. By Vladislav R. Savitch. With preface by Sir James George Fraser, Hon.D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D. (Chapman and Hall. 7s. 6d. net.)

Across Asia Minor on Foot. By W. J. Childs. Illustrated. (Blackwood and Sons. 15s. net.)

A Syrian, who arrived in Cairo last week, states that in the months of November and December there were 170,000 deaths in Lebanon from starvation and disease.

A Greek subject residing in Russia (says a Petrograd telegram) has submitted for the approval of the Russian Government the statutes of a society for aiding "the Greek National Army fighting with the armies of the Allies on the Balkans front."

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports (January 23) that he has received news of the existence of famine and distress in Montenegro. The inhabitants are said to be reduced to eating grass and have had to kill their few remaining sheep to provide themselves with clothing.

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815
COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.
Illustrated Catalogues on request
ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms, Mufti, Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits, Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements, Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits.
4, PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917.	1917.		1335.	5677.
Feb. 2	Jan. 20	Friday	Rabi II. 9	Sebat. 10
3	21	Saturday	10	11
4	22	Sunday	11	12
5	23	Monday	12	13
6	24	Tuesday	13	14
7	25	Wednesday ..	14	15
8	26	Thursday	15	16

To-day is the birthday of Prince Andrew of Greece, King Constantine's third brother, who was born at Athens in 1882, and married (in 1903) Princess Alice of Battenberg.

The King has consented to open the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, on Friday morning, February 23.

In a message sent off last Saturday, Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports that the Sultan of Egypt "has had a relapse of the fever from which he suffered in the autumn, and the doctors have ordered him to take absolute rest for some time. The banquet which had been arranged in honour of Sir Reginald Wingate, the Siridar, has therefore had to be postponed." This, unfortunately, emphasises what our Cairo Correspondent writes in his letter, which appears elsewhere, regarding the strain to which Sultan Hussein has subjected himself during his recent journey up the Nile.

Earl and Countess Curzon of Kedleston have taken up their permanent residence at 1, Carlton House Terrace.

Princess Soutzo left London last Friday for Paris.

Lady Howard de Walden has returned to Seaford House, Belgrave Square, from Chirk Castle, North Wales, where she spent the week-end.

We learn that Mrs. Cator, the wife of Judge Cator, has left Egypt for Salonika, where she has complied with Sir A. Ruffer's request to assist him with the work he is organising there, in relation to a certain section of the Red Cross Sanitary Service and Hospitals. Mrs. Cator has volunteered her services for six months.

Mr. Balfour received H.E. the Persian Minister at the Foreign Office last Friday.

Imail Khan Fanzaneh, the newly-appointed Persian Minister in Madrid, has left Teheran to take up the duties of his post.

General Ilescu, representing the Roumanian General Staff, visited the French General Headquarters on Tuesday to confer with General Nivelle.

Captain Yovan U. Yovanovitch, who was recently appointed Assistant Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation, arrived in London and entered on his duties last week.

M. Mitilineu, formerly Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in Brussels, passed through London last Friday on his way from Roumania to the Legation at Havre.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C. OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East, and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs. Intending Students are invited to apply at once to the undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

M. M. Miloyevitch has left London for The Hague, where he will act as Chargé d'Affaires of the Serbian Legation.

M. Bojidar Puritch, an attaché to the Serbian Legation in Berne, arrived in London from Russia a few days ago.

Last Saturday, at the offices of the Serbian Relief Fund, Cromwell Road, Kensington, a short religious service was held in commemoration of the anniversary of St. Sava, the patron saint of Serbia. The Very Rev. Father Nicholas Velimirovitch officiated, and H.E. the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch were present.

Mr. Alexander Devine, of Northwood Park, Winchester, acting as Commissioner on the Continent on behalf of the Montenegro Red Cross and Relief Fund of London, has just returned from France. Whilst abroad he concluded negotiations on behalf of the London Committee with regard to the relief in food and clothing of the Montenegrin prisoners interned in various parts of Hungary and Austria. During his visit to Paris he was received on several occasions by his Majesty King Nicholas.

On January 9, at All Saints' Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Miss Antoinette Priscilla Vulliamy Devonshire, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Devonshire, of Heston, Middlesex, and Maadi, Cairo, to Lieutenant Evan R. Campbell, son of Mr. Middleton Campbell, of Colgrain, Dumbarthshire, N.B., and Fen Place, Sussex. The Right Rev. the Bishop of Jerusalem officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. T. Horan, Chaplain of All Saints', and the Rev. W. A. Taylor, C.F. The bride was given away by her father, and her sister was her only bridesmaid. The bridegroom was attended by Captain Ridley, as best man.

Among the friends present at the ceremony were Mrs. and the Misses Madden, Mrs. Phillips and Miss Barbara Phillips, Mrs. Teale, Lieutenant Golding and Mrs. Golding, Mrs. Dudgeon, Miss Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bolland, Lady Oakes, Mr. and Mrs. Hart, Mrs. and Miss Horan, Mrs. Elgood, Miss Pound, Miss Gordon Smith, Madame Huszar, Mr. Kingsford, Major Kerr, Sister Margaret Clare, Mrs. Peckitt, Sister Tacon, Sister Kenny, and the Misses MacInnes.

Later in the day Lieutenant and Mrs. Campbell left for Upper Egypt, where the honeymoon will be spent. The wedding gifts to the bride and bridegroom comprised many very valuable presents.

Lieutenant-General A. R. Hoskins, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has assumed command of the East African Expeditionary Force, vice Lieutenant-General Smuts, saw service in Egypt soon after entering the Army. He joined the Prince of Wales's North Staffordshire Regiment in 1891, at the age of 20, and in 1895 he served with the Dongola Expedition. He also took part in the Nile Expedition in the following year, and he was three times mentioned in despatches for his services. He won the D.S.O. in the South African War, also the Queen's and King's medals with five clasps. During the present war he has been twice mentioned in despatches, and has won the C.M.G.

Second Lieutenant C. A. M. van Millingen, Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor van Millingen, has, we are glad to learn, quite recovered from the effects of his wound. He has now returned to the front.

A Reuter's message from Paris, dated January 26, says:—The *Matin* states that General Berthelot, who was in charge of the French Mission to Roumania, has had long interviews at the Russian Headquarters with General Gourko, on whom will fall the responsibility in the future of conducting operations on the Russo-Roumanian front.

Mr. Anthony White, churchwarden of All Saints, Galley Hill, Swanscombe, Kent, has recently presented to that church, in memory of Earl Kitchener, a picture of "The Message

of the Angel to St. Joseph," painted by Marcello Venusti, a pupil of Michael Angelo, and four plaster casts of British saints.

The following members of the British Colony in Athens were not included in the list sent us by our Correspondent, published in THE NEAR EAST a fortnight ago:—

Mr. Garniss.
Mr. and Mrs. Couvela and Son.
Mr. Weak and family.
Mrs. Lockyer.
Misses Burnett, Brownley, McCarthy, Crowley, Hall Pyne, Wood, Ashover, Woolcott, Colebran, Aaruso, Kerr.
Mr. Fisher (who went to Bordeaux).
Mr., Mrs., and Miss Skidmore went to Syra, not Rome.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports (January 28): According to a telegram from Sofia, the ex-Minister, M. Halatcheff, father-in-law of M. Ghenadieff, who was sentenced at the recent trial of prominent politicians for high treason, has been pardoned and released.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Miralai R. P. S. Eldeston Bey, Deputy Assistant, Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, has been promoted Assistant Financial Secretary in succession to Lewa W. S. R. May Pasha, retired. Mr. T. J. Morris, Inspector in the Finance Department, has been promoted Deputy Assistant Financial Secretary.

Mr. R. K. Winter, Inspector Legal Department, Sudan Government, has been transferred as Assistant to the Civil Secretary, and Mr. E. G. S. Hall, Inspector Legal Department, has been appointed Inspector Darfur Province.

Bimbashi R. W. Hulton, of the artillery, and Bimbashi C. C. Godwin, General Staff, Egyptian Army, have been transferred to the Sudan Government from January 1, 1917.

Kaimakam J. P. L. Mostyn Bey, Inspector, Sudan Government, and Bimbashi W. F. L. Bright, Sudan Veterinary Department, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Captain G. C. Mostyn Owen, Shropshire Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the 1st Battalion for duty.

Miralai W. Byam Bey has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Captain A. J. Matthew, West Yorkshire Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He is granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and his services are placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Captain J. W. D. Cook, Army Service Corps, has ceased to be attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer from December 27, 1916.

Bimbashi R. F. White, Equatorial Battalion, has been promoted to the temporary rank of Kaimakam and appointed acting officer commanding that battalion vice Kaimakam D. C. Percy Smith Bey, D.S.O., transferred as officer commanding 1st Battalion.

Major J. Stevenson-Hamilton, reserve of officers (6th Dragoons), and Lieutenant J. D. Matthews, Royal Artillery, having reported their arrival in Egypt, were taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as special service officers, with the rank of Bimbashi, and have been posted, the first, to the Sudan Government, and the second to the Artillery.

Kaimakam H. J. Huddleston Bey, officer commanding Camel Corps, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Mr. E. G. S. Hall, of the Sudan Civil Service, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

OBITUARY.

LORD CROMER.

It is with much regret that we have to announce that Lord Cromer died on January 29, at his residence, 36, Wimpole Street. He had been unwell for some weeks, and his condition caused considerable anxiety to his family and friends; but his recuperative powers were so great that it was hoped they might triumph over this illness as they had over previous attacks. The hope was, however, doomed to disappointment, and he passed away at ten o'clock in the evening. His loss is a great one for the country and for the Empire, and he will be sincerely mourned not only in this country and in Egypt—where he spent so many years and wrought such wonders—but wherever there are Britons who feel pride in the Empire, and wherever there is recognition of a truly great man and his worth to the world.

The King and Queen, the Duke of Connaught, Princess Victoria, and the Sultan of Egypt have addressed messages of condolence to the family of the late Lord Cromer. It has been arranged that the funeral shall take place at Bournemouth Cemetery to-morrow afternoon at a quarter past two o'clock, and arrangements have been made for those attending to leave Waterloo Station by the 9.35 a.m. train, returning to London by the 3.45 p.m. train from Bournemouth.

A memorial service will be held at Westminster Abbey on the same day at half past twelve o'clock. No tickets will be issued, but admission will be given to personal friends on presentation of their visiting cards at the entrance to the choir.

Reference to Lord Cromer's work in Egypt will be found elsewhere, but it must necessarily be inadequate; for to tell all that he did for that country, it would be necessary to write another history of "Modern Egypt." The condition of the Nile Valley to-day is the best testimony to his work and ability, and neither Englishmen nor Egyptians are likely soon to forget the debt they owe him.

TWO GALLANT BROTHERS.

We regret to learn that Mr. C. J. Giraud, of Smyrna, has lost two of his sons in the War. One, Sergeant Noel Edward Giraud, is believed to have been killed on June 29, 1916; and Caporal Herbert Giraud fell on October 21, 1916. A correspondent writes:—

Noel Edward Giraud, Sergeant 173ème de Ligne, and Herbert Wilfrid Giraud, Caporal 52ème Infanterie Coloniale, were the sons of Mr. Charlton J. Giraud, of Smyrna, and grand-nephews of the late Sir William Whittall of Constantinople. Both were educated at Berkhamsted School, and answered the call to the French Army on the outbreak of the war. The former received the Croix de Guerre and was made Sergeant for very gallant conduct in June, 1915, when with a lieutenant and only five men he held an isolated advanced position for twenty hours. He was "cité à l'ordre du régiment" as follows:—"Le caporal Noel Giraud, demeuré seul comme gradé avec son chef de section a fait preuve du plus grand sangfroid en portant en avant les hommes de sa section sous un feu intense d'artillerie, de torpilles et de bombes."

The second son, having passed safely through five attacks, and having made numerous prisoners, was buried by a shell. His body was recovered, and a friend writes that his gallantry had made him such a favorite with his regiment "that he was buried with all honours, as though he had been the colonel of the regiment."

A third brother, Raymond, the eldest son of Mr. Giraud, has just been awarded the Croix de Guerre "avec palme" for his conduct in Athens, where attaché comme interprète aux détachements français en pays hostile s'est acquitté de sa tâche avec beaucoup d'intelligence et de calme. Pris dans le piège-à-mus de grec du 1er Décembre il ne s'est pas départi de son sangfroid en présence du danger."

DR. SHIBEI SCHEMEIL.

Dr. Shibeï Schemeil, a well known Syrian writer and patriot, died in Cairo on January 1, aged 66. He was (says the *Egyptian Mail*), a native of Mount Lebanon, and studied medicine in the American College, Beyrout, being one of its very first graduates. As soon as he left college, Dr. Schemeil went

to France, where he perfected his knowledge of medicine, and came to Egypt over forty years ago, making Tanta his home. His fame as a skilful physician having gone beyond the limits of that town, he moved to Cairo about thirty years ago, where he has lived ever since, and where he acquired a reputation second to no physician in the country, native or foreign, and was often appointed as expert by the Courts to decide important medical matters.

But Dr. Schemeil was not only noted as a great physician; he was also one of the very ablest scientists and writers in the country, in both Arabic and French, as is proved by his works on Darwinism and his frequent articles in the magazines and newspapers on various scientific, philosophical, social, political, and literary subjects, written in a vigorous, terse style which has come to be known as peculiarly his own. His acceptance of Darwinism made him many enemies, owing to bigotry, but their attacks, which he easily parried, made him adhere more strongly to his ideas, and he continued to his death to be the champion and exponent of Darwinism in the East.

For a number of years Dr. Schemeil published a monthly medical magazine, but, owing to want of support from the Government, he had to give up editing it. He also published a book entitled "Al-Hakika," and a collection of his articles in two volumes, besides a large number of pamphlets on philosophical and other subjects, all of which testify to the depth and width of his scientific and literary attainments, certainly unrivalled in an Oriental of the present day. He was also a poet of no mean order, and without fear of contradiction it can be said that Dr. Schemeil was the greatest living Syrian, both in Egypt and in his own country, and that he leaves a void which will not be easily filled.

For many years Dr. Schemeil was one of the greatest critics (enemies would be a more correct word) of the Turkish Government, owing to its tyranny, particularly to his countrymen the Syrians; and the articles he published in the newspapers were written in as severe and trenchant language as was ever used by a man against the oppressors of his race. Unfortunately he has not lived to see his country liberated from the heavy yoke of the Turks.

It is said that Dr. Schemeil has written his memoirs, which will appear in the Arabic magazine *Al-Bayan*.

The death of Sir Robert Bouchier Sherard Wray, eleventh baronet, of Tawstock Court, Barnstaple, took place at a nursing home in London last week. He was formerly major and lieutenant-colonel in the Royal North Devon Hussars; served in the Zulu War (medal with clasp), in the Egyptian campaign, 1882 (Egyptian medal and Khedive's bronze star), and in the Burma Expedition, 1885-6 (medal with clasp). He was sixty-one years old. In 1905 he married Jessie Maud, daughter of the late William Thomson Fraser.

Lieut.-Colonel Francis Tichborne Wilkinson, R.A.M.C. (retired), died on Thursday of last week at The Maples, Blackheath, aged fifty-nine. He took part in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and was awarded the Egyptian medal, with clasp. He also served with the Isazai Expedition (1892) and in the South African War.

Colonel Arthur Montagu Bowles, 2nd North Staffs Regiment, died on Sunday at his residence, Sutherland House, Kensington, at the age of sixty-nine. He took part in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, when he received the medal and bronze star.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee, 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., is presenting to the Queen of Roumania, through Mme. Misu, wife of the Roumanian Minister in London, drugs and surgical instruments to the value of £500 for the benefit of Roumanian sick and wounded, as well as £100 worth of hospital stores.

The Roumanian Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, S.W., acknowledges, in response to an urgent appeal for comforts for the Roumanians, the receipt of a large consignment of soap from Sir William Lever.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.),
Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.53; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.
Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine.
Moderate Terms.
Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores,"
Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.
All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA & ROS.,
22, Gr. Canal St., Oxford St., W.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

IN

PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1917.

A GREAT IMPERIALIST.

By the death of Lord Cromer the British Empire has lost more than a successful administrator. He was essentially a great Englishman, embodying the characteristics associated with the race, but which only here and there in a generation are to be met with combined to a similar extent in one and the same person. A contemporary French writer has found in the romance of "Robinson Crusoe" the best handbook and guide to the English character. Crusoe, it is pointed out, is practical, but is conscious of the overshadowing presence of the things that are greater than man. The whole bent of Lord Cromer's mind was essentially practical. The facts of life and the facts of the immediate situation were there to be faced, to be made to serve the purpose he had in view, if possible; in no case were they simply to be ignored. To a military training he added accurate scholarship and devotion to classical literature, which throughout a long career engrossed in public affairs never lost their grip on his whole outlook on life; they contributed in no small measure to his faculty for clear reasoning. At no time hasty in making up his mind, he never lacked confidence in his own judgment, nor hesitated to accept responsibility. A man so sure of himself in connection with all that concerned the sphere in which he was placed must have been far less amenable to those who had authority over him if he had not found in his philosophy a place for the "things that are greater than man." Lord Cromer was indeed a loyal subordinate to the Home Government, not only when he was proving his capacity in Egypt, but also when, his position already established beyond challenge, it was not always possible that his recommendations or wishes should be adopted as Great Britain's policy. In turn, he looked for the same readiness for responsibility, the same cult of efficiency in those who served under him. But, however much his personality might be stamped on his work, there could be no question of the unselfishness of his motives, of his genuine interest in the welfare of the country for whose destinies he was mainly responsible. Lord Cromer had the intellect to see the task before him in Egypt as a whole, and he set himself to carry it out in its entirety on lines with the correctness of which he was thoroughly satisfied. To this work he brought the marked aptitude for rule so often displayed in the class of Englishmen to which he belonged that goes hand in hand with courage and perseverance, as well as those other special qualities which are summed up in the hall-mark of a successful administrator, *Mens aqua in arduis*.

Lord Cromer's association with Egypt, apart from the few years which he spent there as Commissioner of the Debt, extended uninterruptedly from 1883 to 1907. He was confronted with chaos in the Administration, an empty exchequer, and unrest both in Egypt proper and, still more ominous, in the Sudan. The country was at its lowest ebb, morally and financially. The task of setting it upon its feet again was rendered the more difficult by the fact that the British Government was unable to make up its mind with regard to the attitude to be adopted towards the problem of Egypt's rehabilitation. Not the least of the services which Lord Cromer rendered the Egyptians at this time was to stand himself for a definite policy, which in spite of the vacillation and timidity of the Home authorities kept the goal steadily in view, and ultimately im-

pressed itself both on the Government and the public mind as the only line of action that could be reconciled with Egypt's interests and those of Great Britain. Into the details of the administration which Lord Cromer was instrumental in establishing and maintaining it is unnecessary to enter here. Through many vicissitudes it brought Egypt's finances to equilibrium and then to a condition of settled prosperity, while keeping State expenditure under careful control and taxation low both in Egypt and the Sudan; it opened the way for the unlimited development of the country's agricultural resources by providing funds for the necessary public works; it infused a new spirit into the relations between the governing classes and the governed, and revolutionized the popular conception of justice; in a word, it enabled Egypt to regain her self-respect. How thoroughly the work has been accomplished may be gauged from the fact that a generation has sprung up, which, forgetting the days of the Khedive Ismail, has produced those who would have it believed that the country was ever thus, and is in a position to-day to dispense with the guiding hand. Before Lord Cromer left in 1907 the movement was one that had to be reckoned with. He dealt with it in a farewell speech in Cairo, sympathetically but candidly. Changes there would have to be, but the difference which divided him from his critics was "not so much one of principle as of degree. They wish to gallop. I consider that a steady jog-trot is the pace best suited to advance the interests of this country. It is a pace which has done us good service in the past. I say it should be continued, never relaxing into a walk or breaking into a gallop; and my strong conviction is that, if the pace be greatly mended, a serious risk will be incurred that the horse will come down and break his knees."

Shortly afterwards, as is well known, an attempt was made to force the pace. It proved a grave failure. Since then the political destiny of Egypt has at last been definitely settled by incorporation into the British Empire. Commenting upon this step, Lord Cromer wrote: "No other solution was possible. Provided that the statesmanship be skilful and that there is no undue haste, the adoption of this measure, far from hindering, will tend to facilitate the execution of that rationally Liberal policy to which Great Britain is wedded in dealing with its outlying dependencies." His Imperialism was broad-minded, but it was pre-eminently sane. He was accustomed to face facts as they were, and not as he might have liked them to be. All his work in Egypt was directed to improving the conditions of life for the *fellaheen*, but this did not prevent him from recognizing their limitations. "Personally," he wrote in "Abbas II.," "I do not believe that such education as can be imparted in the schools and colleges will ever render the Egyptians capable of complete self-government without some transformation of the national character, which must necessarily be a slow process. . . . The cornerstone of Egyptian and Sudanese policy should be a full recognition of the fact that, in the absence of ties, such as community of race, language, religion, and social customs, the only link between the governors and the governed is to be found in material interests, and amongst those interests by far the most important is the imposition of light fiscal burthens." The same views Lord Cromer held in regard to India. "The foundation-stone of Indian reform," he wrote, "must be the steadfast maintenance of British supremacy. In this respect something of the clearness of political vision and bluntness of expression which characterized the Imperialists of Ancient Rome might, not without advantage, be imparted to our own Imperialist policy. Nations wax and wane. It may be that at some future and far distant time we shall be justified in handing over the torch of progress and civilization in India to those whom we have ourselves civilized. All that can be said at present is that, until human nature entirely changes, and until racial and religious passions disappear from the face of the earth, the relinquishment of that torch would almost certainly lead to its extinction." In the long run the straightforwardness of such a policy as Lord Cromer advocated must appeal more strongly to the governed than a régime of uncertainty and vacillation.

THE KING OF THE HEJAZ.

(FROM A CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

The official recognition by England, France, and Italy of the proclamation of the Grand Shereef of Mecca as King of the Hejaz invests a really remarkable figure with singular interest. The following is a character sketch of him, given by one who has been favoured with an intimate knowledge of the great man of Mecca, his entourage, and his epoch-making movement. Present circumstances, however, impose special discretion, and only a selection of facts can be made from the material available.

His Majesty the King of the Hejaz, Hussein Ibn Ali, has the distinction of being able to claim what is probably the purest and oldest lineage of all the crowned heads of the world. Added to his personal qualities and achievements, this fact goes far to account for the remarkable phenomenon of a practically unanimous acknowledgment of him as their supreme lord by the great chieftains of Arabia, whose mutual jealousies and exaggerated love of personal authority are proverbial. Purity of lineage is a source of great pride with the Arabs, and, when it is traceable to their Prophet, it commands the highest veneration on their part. The high value they place on documents attesting the descent of their thoroughbred horses may be cited as a proof of the value they attach to the principle of selection. Shereef Hussein Ibn Ali comes from Beni Hashem, the quintessence, so to say, of the tribe of Koreish. His descent is traceable, through his immediate ancestors, Ali Ibn Mohammed, Ibn Abdul Aziz, Ibn Aoun, back in unbroken line to the Prophet Mohammed. All the Moslems of the world acknowledge this lineage, and believe in Ishmael as being the original ancestor of the Arabs, whose lineage is again traced back to Noah.

His Majesty was born in Mecca the Honoured, and as soon as he attained manhood he went to Constantinople. It was the traditional custom of the Turkish Government to endeavour to win the goodwill of the Emirs of Mecca, to attract them by every possible means to the capital, and to impress them with the power and splendour of the Empire. To that end they built for them palatial residences in the city and its suburbs, provided education for their youths in the highest schools, and appointed private tutors to give them a special course of instruction; conferred on them some of the highest Government posts, and lavished on them the highest grades and decorations. This policy succeeded so well that in the course of time there grew up a group of the nobles of Koreish so imbued with Constantinopolitan ideals, and brought so thoroughly under the influence of the Turks, as to like what they liked and dislike what they disliked, even though this should be their own nation and their own language. Indeed, many of these nobles do not even speak Arabic properly, and have lost all touch and sympathy with Arabian life and ideals. A striking example is that of Shereef Haidar, the vice-president of the Majliss (Parliament), who has almost outdone the Unionists themselves in their Chauvinistic policy.

King Hussein Ibn Ali received the largest share of attention and favours at the hands of the late Sultan, who sent for him twenty-seven years ago, and continued to pay the closest attention to him. By special Imperial order, a sumptuous palace was built for him on the shores of the Bosphorus. During his long sojourn in the capital he won the esteem and love of all the high personalities with whom he came into contact, by the nobility of his character, the soundness of his judgment, and the keenness of his intelligence; so that, throughout the Hamidian régime, the Porte consulted him on most of the important questions of State. Thus, during his nineteen years' almost continuous sojourn in Constantinople, he was able to render, and did render, his Government and his nation the highest services. It required the exercise of rare tact and judgment to conciliate these jarring interests and serve them equally well, but history will record to his undying credit that he did so.

At the time when the Constitution was proclaimed the Vali of the Hejaz was Ratib Pasha, a notoriously corrupt tyrant, while the Emir of Mecca was Shereef Ali Pasha, actually residing in Cairo. When the people of the Hejaz were apprised of the proclamation of Qanun el Assasi (Constitution) and the downfall of the despotic régime, they rose as one man and expelled their Vali, heaping upon him insult and opprobrium. The new Government then recalled

Ratib Pasha and the Shereef as well, desiring to question the latter about certain flagrant abuses in which he was said to be also involved. Shereef Ali obeyed the call and departed for Constantinople; but on passing through Suez he found an opportunity to land in Egypt; and there he has remained ever since. Soon afterwards an Imperial Iradé was issued—on the 1st of Zil Kade, 1328 (about seven years ago)—appointing Shereef Hussein as Emir of Mecca. It may be mentioned in this connection, that Shereef Ali Numai el Koreishi, of happy memory, was the first to assume the Emirship of Mecca in 1525, and this high office has since been held, in unbroken succession, by his family up to the present day.

From the day when he took over the Emirship, Shereef Hussein was a faithful counsellor and sincere supporter of the Ottoman Government. In 1909 the people of the Hejaz Province elected his second son, Emir Abdullah (now Minister of Foreign Affairs in the new Arab Government) as Deputy in the Majliss el Mab'outhan (Parliament), and he proceeded to Constantinople a few days after the opening of the Ottoman Chamber. While acting as deputy for the Hejaz, Shereef Abdullah was the mouthpiece of his father, and a faithful agent in endeavouring to smooth away the growing friction between Arab and Turk. He thus ably represented his father in carrying out his policy, which coincided with that of the Liberal Party—namely, to insure the harmonious working of the different constituent elements of the Empire for the good of all and for its greater glory. Indeed, this policy was so faithfully and honestly pursued that when the troops of Sayed el Idrissi revolted in Assir against the Turkish Government and besieged the Turkish force in Ubha, the Grand Shereef raised a large Arab force and relieved Ubha. The Constantinople journals then filled their columns with articles headed by the picture of the Shereef, and extolling him and his splendid loyalty. Special reference was made to this his toric incident in the first manifesto which the Grand Shereef issued to the Moslem world, on the proclamation of his independence, wherein he used the terse and forceful sentence: "And I have fought the Arabs by the Arabs."

He and his four sons—the Emirs Ali, Abdullah, Faisal, and Zeid—adhered so faithfully to this loyal policy that some of the Arab Emirs ascribed to him arrant Turkophilism. Then the "Unionists" started their violent anti-Arab campaign of persecution and extermination. Free-minded Arabs in Syria and El Irak thereupon naturally turned to the great Emir of Arabia, the guardian of the Holy Shrines of Islam, for succour and redress. He tried then to calm them and comfort them with earnest promises of intervention, and at the same time he represented to the Unionists the gravity of the situation and the danger to which the Empire would be exposed if such a policy were persisted in. Soon afterwards the Great War broke out, and the Unionists were not long in siding with the Germanic Powers and throwing the fortunes of the Empire into the melting pot. They had consulted the Grand Shereef, informing him, at the same time, of their resolve to join the Central Powers. He wisely advised the strictest neutrality. Their object in consulting him, however, had doubtless been to sound his own and his people's feelings and intentions, rather than to seek his advice.

About four months later a rumour was circulated in Constantinople as to the existence of a movement in Syria and El Irak unsympathetic to the alliance of Turkey with Germany. The Unionists seized this as an occasion, or rather pretext, to send out to Syria Jemal Pasha, in order to carry out, with ruthless rigour, their programme for crushing out the life and spirit of this "Arab movement," by hanging its leaders, exiling the Arab notables, and starving the masses. On his arrival, however, Jemal found that the inhabitants were peaceful, and practically all supporting the Government with their lives and property in its conduct of the war which it had imposed on them; and that, therefore, there was nothing to justify the institution of a reign of terror. Thereon, he, with the characteristic cunning and deceit of the Turk, tried at first to pose as the friend of the Arabs, gathered round him the élite of Syria, and lured them into confidence by falsely pretending to approve and admire the Arab national movement. It is even said that he went so far as to make a speech, on the occasion of a banquet given in his honour at Damascus, wherein he said: "How can we expect the fatherland to



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
—
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.



KING GEORGE.



KIN

By Appointment to

progress when Arab and Turk forget and neglect their respective national ideals and when ignorance prevails?" On suitable occasions he gave expression to other views of a similar character, and thus entrapped the Arab patriots, who revealed to him their innermost hopes and aspirations, assuring him, at the same time, in all sincerity, that they were ready to sacrifice their very lives on the altar of Empire, provided the Government respected and recognised their national claims and rights. He then started dispersing Arab officers and men in the outlying provinces of the Empire, in the Caucasus, the Dardanelles and Persia, and organised an elaborate system of spying; and when finally he saw the country cleared of its militant elements, and his position absolutely secure, he brought down his heavy hand on the helpless population and indulged in that series of atrocities that has horrified the civilised world.

When all this was reported to the Grand Shereef, he at once sent his son Emir Faisal (now Minister of War) to remonstrate with Jemal against this suicidal policy, and to advise him to refrain from it. The Pasha promised to do so; but hardly had Emir Faisal arrived back in the Hejaz when the same ruthless policy was revived with even greater violence. Cases of hanging and exile became more frequent, and, worse than all, the wilful starving of the population was inaugurated. Meantime, the blockade of the Turkish coasts had been declared, and as the Turks stopped the carriage of all foodstuffs by the railway and by caravan to the Hejaz, a state of famine was brought about.

The Unionists, meantime, had become so drunk with the lust of blood that they actually set about condemning, wholesale, Arab officers who were fighting for them on distant fronts, and degrading Arab soldiers to the position of slaves, driving them to menial work and calling them on every occasion "traitors." As a crowning of this mad career they finally attacked the Arabs in their most sensitive and vital point, the Sheriat, a well-known member of the Committee, going so far as to declare publicly his contempt for Islam and its teaching.

Finding that persuasion and argument were worse than useless with a people of such temper and mind, the Grand Shereef finally drew the sword as the final arbiter.

CONSTANTINOPLE BEFORE THE WAR.

Last Friday, before the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, Syed Ehsan El-Bakry gave an account of Constantinople as he remembered it immediately before the war. He said that he was a native of Egypt who had spent much of his life in England; but he had been taken as a child nearly every year to Constantinople; and, after an absence of several years in this country had visited that city again shortly before the outbreak of the present war. The first impression of Constantinople when one arrived by railway was, he said, unfavourable, for the station was in a bad part of the town; but, coming by sea, one entered near the islands, and saw the beautiful gardens on the Bosphorus and the hills rising behind covered with minarets and domes. Of his personal experiences, one of the first was somewhat amusing by its contrast with anything he had been used to in the West. He had gone to a village on the Bosphorus where he had been recognised by the boatman, who had been accustomed to row him as a child. "Praise to Allah, how you have grown!" said the boatman, and immediately embraced the young man. Then, turning to some Turks standing by, "Has he not grown?" he asked. They had never seen Mr. El-Bakry before, but "Praise to Allah, he has indeed grown," they all replied; for it would not be good manners in Turkey not to agree in such a case.

Constantinople, said Mr. El-Bakry, he had found a good deal changed and very much improved under the Young Turks. The old horse trams had been replaced by electric ones, and there was a new bridge over the Golden Horn. The police and soldiers were no longer dirty and dressed in shabby uniforms; they were smart and well looked after, and the police, in particular, he considered to be as efficient as those of any city in the world. The city, however, still suffered greatly from fires, and he saw more than one great blaze while he was there. The houses are built of wood upon a few courses of stone. They are not insured, and the fire service is inefficient. Of the inhabitants of the city, he said, the Turks were quiet, dignified, pious, and law-abiding; the disorderly elements of the population were all to be found in the non-Moslem quarters.

The Turkish Minister of Instruction has decided upon the construction of a university building in Constantinople. Hitherto the various faculties have been housed in various parts of the city.

A Reuter's message dispatched from Jassy on January 25 says:—The *Official Gazette* announces that fourteen generals of division and of brigade have been placed on the retired list, and have been succeeded by junior officers. This infusion of young blood into the Army is well received.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

Under date of January 23, Reuter's Berne correspondent reports that the International Committee of the Red Cross has issued the following *communiqué*:—

M. Alfred Boissier and Dr. Vischer, delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, have returned from visiting prisoners' camps in the Ottoman Empire. It is the first time that neutral delegates have been authorised to make a tour of Turkish camps. Up to now none had entered certain camps but a Councillor of the United States Embassy and two Catholic priests sent by the Papal Nuncio, Mgr. Dolci. M.M. Boissier and Vischer, who were received in Constantinople by the Society of the Red Crescent, stayed some time in the city, and then for a month travelled through Asia Minor by train and by coach.

After leaving Constantinople the delegates successively visited the camps at Brusa (British officers, Russian officers, Mussulman soldiers, and Indian soldiers), Eski-Shehir (Mussulman and Indian officers), Kutaia (Russian officers), Afion-Kara-Hissar (British and French officers, British, Indian, and Russian soldiers), Kir-Shehir (Russian soldiers), Konia (Indian officers), Yuzgat (British officers), and Ismid (British officers).

At Constantinople the delegates visited the Jedi Kule camp (Russian soldiers), the sanitary establishments, the Harbie Hospital, the School of Medicine, and the military hospital at Haidar Pasha. They were accompanied throughout the tour by one of the most active members of the Central Committee of the Ottoman Red Crescent, Izzet Bey, and by Colonel Yussuf Zia Bey, commander of the camp at Eski-Shehir, since then appointed Inspector-General of Prisoners' Camps. Despite their repeated demands, the delegates were not authorised to visit the camp at Bilemedik Bozanti, on the Baghdad Railway, as it was considered to be within the war zone.

On their return to Constantinople the delegates submitted to the Ministry of War their report, which it was promised would be considered. They emphasise the necessity of England and the Ottoman Empire coming to an agreement for the exchange of men who are severely wounded and seriously ill. The garrison of Kut-el-Amarah had suffered severely through the siege and the long marches across the desert after the surrender of the place. With regard to the distribution of parcels, which has been made the subject of numerous representations, the difficulty of communications easily explains the delay. The Society of the Ottoman Red Crescent, which was always ready to give its best assistance to the delegates, suggested that officers should be allowed to receive two parcels a month and the men one, as a maximum.

PLOT IN EGYPT.

A Reuter's message reports:—A military court assembled at Cairo on December 20 and following days to try the five men who were caught on their way from Baharia into Egypt carrying arms and letters inciting to treason. Dahman Ben Heyin, a Tripolitan Arab, who was an officer of the Senussi forces, was charged with attempting to enter an area occupied by British troops in the guise of a non-combatant, and with carrying bombs, pistols, and documents inciting to disloyalty and revolt in Egypt. Musa Saleh, Mufti Sneida, Yusef Mohammed, and Ali Mohammed were charged with acts of treason and rebellion in that they, being Egyptian subjects and under martial law in Egypt, aided Dahman in his attempt, and thereby assisted the enemies of his Britannic Majesty. The party were caught by an armed motor-car patrol on September 19, thirty-five miles north of Baharia, travelling in the direction of the Nile. They had with them camels loaded with dynamite, bombs, pistols, and letters from Saved Ahmed el Senussi. It was proved that before they left Baharia they had avowed their intention of blowing up the railway line at Amria. Dahman had no uniform with him when he was arrested, and evidence was forthcoming that the day before he set out on his mission he had changed his uniform for the dress of a peaceful trader. It was conclusively proved that the party were acting in concert and had been in close association for some time. After a long and careful inquiry all the accused were proved guilty. One of them, Ali Mohammed, a boy of 16, was pardoned in consideration of his youth, but two others, Mufti Sneida and Yusef Mohammed, were sentenced to penal servitude for life. The offence of Musa Saleh was aggravated by the fact that he had twice acted as an envoy from the Senussi to the Commander-in-Chief. Though an Egyptian subject, he was on these occasions, out of consideration for his character as an envoy, allowed to return to the Senussi forces, but on the second occasion he received warning that if he were caught he would be dealt with under martial law as a rebel. In spite of his life having thus been spared, he was found guiding into Egypt a disguised officer of the Senussi forces who was carrying a quantity of fire-arms and explosives for use against the British. He was condemned to death along with the spy, and the sentences have now been carried out.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has received the bâton of an Austrian field-marshal.

Two Englishmen have been sentenced at Cairo to twelve months' imprisonment for stealing and selling petrol belonging to the Flying Corps.

A British motor-lorry, which had been used by the Germans for a year, was towed into Salonika from Monastir recently. It was left in German hands when we were retiring in December, 1915, and the enemy in their turn had to leave it behind when the French and Serbians re-entered Monastir. The car had evidently run hundreds of miles without tyres.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Italy and Greece.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, who was, we understand, formerly in Athens, and certainly displays an intimate knowledge of Greek affairs, sends to his paper an interesting message regarding the relations between Italy and Greece. He reports that "M. Alexandrès, the representative of M. Venizelos, who has been in Rome about three weeks, has had conversations with the British, French, and Russian Ambassadors, and has exchanged cards with Baron Sonnino, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs." And he adds:—

It is a sign of the times that, although no Italian newspaper has yet been allowed to allude to his presence here, there has appeared for the first time in the Italian Press a defence of M. Venizelos in the shape of a very able letter from a very distinguished Italian official, Commendatore Federico Zapelloni, Inspector-General of the Treasury.

This gentleman, who spent four years on a financial mission to Greece from 1912 to last year, and therefore writes with special competence, remarks that M. Venizelos, far from being an enemy of Italy (as has been asserted here), has shown his friendship for that country not only by words but by deeds, as when he entrusted to Italian missions the reorganisation of the Greek finances and police and the development of the fishing industry. "M. Venizelos," he adds, "never asked any assistance or advice from Germany," while, under his administration, the Minister of National Economy, M. Michalopoulos, not only modelled many of his enactments upon Italian precedents, but tried to improve the commercial relations between Italy and Greece. Commendatore Zapelloni ends this letter to the *Piccolo Giornale d'Italia* with the hope that when the difficulties of the moment have been overcome the cloud of many misunderstandings which have contributed to create so much distrust between Italy and Greece may be dispelled.

"B.B.B.B.B.B."

Under the above title the *Independent* (New York) of January 15 publishes an article which begins:—

The aims of the Allies are vague and various. The aim of the Germans, according to Herr Hamburg-Amerika Ballin, is plain and direct. It is the Berlin-Budapest-Belgrade-Byzantium-Baghdad-Bahin, or, as we Americans would express it, the B. B. B. B. B. R. R. To connect the Orient and the Occident by land, as the British have by sea, has long been the German ambition and now it has been attained. The announcement comes from Germany that the Taurus Mountains have been pierced.

After discussing the possibilities thus opened up, the writer of the article points out that "so long as the British hold the mouth of the Tigris and Euphrates the Germans can never attain their seaport on the Persian Gulf, which was to give them entrance to the East." The most interesting part of the article, however, lies in its references to Constantinople. Says the writer:—

At Constantinople, the crossroads, the two came into conflict. Russia demands passage through the straits from north to south. Germany demands passage across the straits from west to east. The two crossings might easily be accommodated so far as traffic goes, since a tunnel, a ferry, or even a bridge, would not interfere with the passing of ships. But both Powers demand exclusive control of the straits, for each is, not without reason, unwilling to trust the other.

Up to the very eve of the war it was an established part of the British policy that Russia must, at all costs, be kept out of Constantinople. With this object sixty years ago Great Britain joined with France in the Crimean War; with this object three years ago she was almost willing to join with Germany.

The authority for this statement is not given. But the article concludes:—

This, then, was the traditional British policy up to three years ago. It would be interesting to know at what time since and under what influences it became completely reversed. As soon as peace terms began to be discussed openly the Russian Premier hastened to announce that Great Britain and her Allies were committed to the Russian possession of Constantinople. Since all of the Allies are pledged not to make peace so long as any one of them has not attained its aims, it would seem that the English will have to fight on until Constantinople is captured and handed over to Russia—the very thing which a few years ago they were willing to fight to prevent. Russia has not changed her nature; it is only that a new and more formidable foe to British trade and dominion has arisen. In themselves, the Russian claim of a water route and the German claim of a land route are commendable and not incompatible; but the British have good reason to suspect that the Germans are not content with their string of B.'s, but would like to add Brussels to one end of it and Bombay to the other.

If only by reason of their air of complete detachment, the views expressed are certainly interesting; but it is hardly necessary to say that they will not find a perfect echo in any of the Allied countries.

Hindenburg's Miscalculations.

In reviewing the military situation, the military correspondent of the *Morning Post* on Monday devotes considerable space to "Hindenburg and Roumania." "There is," he writes, "little doubt that if the Germans have not attained the goal of their ambitions in Roumania, they have at least reached the limit of their powers. We may still expect to see them attempting local enterprises, such as the attack which resulted in the occupation of Namesti on the 19th inst.; and minor operations are likely to continue in the mountain region, where the Russians and Roumanians appear to have established themselves firmly on the heights which command the approaches to the Trotus Valley. But so far as its main objects are concerned all indications point to the campaign having come to an end." Amongst the reasons which led Hindenburg to undertake the move against Roumania on such a large scale, the writer mentions the following:—

The Hungarians, weary of fighting Germany's battles, were fired with fresh ardour at the prospect of an attack on Roumania, which promised at once to gratify their private animosity and to bring them territorial acquisitions in Wallachia. The assistance of Bulgaria would be secured by the promise of the Dobrudsha; while the Turks were too deeply committed to the German cause to jib at any demands that might be made upon their resources. Hindenburg could, therefore, count on putting larger forces in the field against Roumania than on any other front, while, owing to Roumania's isolated position, which exposed her to attack in front and rear, the strategical conditions were exceptionally favourable for their employment.

But Hindenburg has miscalculated, as the declarations made by himself and Ludendorff regarding their designs are made to show.

In fact, he fell into the vulgar mistake of undervaluing the enemy. The despised Roumanians baffled for two months Falkenhayn's efforts to force the passes, enabling the Russians to arrive in time to bring Mackensen's formidable armies to a halt on the Sereth. At the end of five months' fighting Hindenburg's proclaimed intentions remain unfulfilled. The Roumanians are unconquered, their armies, in spite of heavy losses, are still full of fight, and the "war of positions" has merely transferred itself to a new front. Nor have the Germans realised their other expectations. Their hopes of economic relief have been disappointed, the Allies have been brought no nearer to a recognition of Germany's invincibility, and the Germans are no nearer to dictating a German peace.

It is not to be expected that Hindenburg will unburden his mind on the present situation. There would be too much to explain, and he is too preoccupied with the problems of the future. If taken to task he would probably dilate on the conquest of Wallachia, which has added a new strip of territory to the "pledges of victory" which Germany had acquired in other regions, though it would not compare well with the programme which he advertised with so much assurance four months ago. In his own mind he probably thinks that he has come rather fortunately out of an adventure which proved more difficult than he anticipated. . . . For the time being Hungary has been saved from invasion, and the road to Constantinople and the East has been made more secure. These, however, are merely defensive gains, won at a considerable cost, which the Germans can ill afford. Nor can the defensive position be regarded as ideal so long as the Allies hold the Trotus-Sereth line and the delta of the Danube. The situation is not unlike that which existed on the Dvina in the autumn of 1915, when the Germans had to abandon their campaign against Russia in order to hasten to the relief of Turkey.

Mr. Edmund Dane, writing in the *Daily Express* (January 29), also gives it as his opinion that the miscalculations as to Roumania will cost the enemy dear.

Unfortunately for the calculations of the enemy, the "push" in Roumania shows no signs yet of having entered into the clearing-up stage. On the contrary, the forces forming Mackensen's left wing—entrusted with the decisive operation of turning the line of the Sereth by a flank attack—have not only been thrown on the defensive, but have failed to stand their ground. There is all the making here of a grave situation. Between the Sereth and the Danube Mackensen is in a terribly awkward corner.

It is idle to conclude that he can pursue offensive operations along his centre and right so long as his left is thus menaced. The very fact that his troops have there been thrown on the defensive leaves it perfectly clear that the strength at his disposal has now become insufficient. In brief, and short of a large increase in that strength, the enterprise of forcing the line of the Sereth has broken down. The finishing touch has really been put on the German "push" in Roumania by the battle in Courland.

Yet abortive though it has proved to be, the Germans cannot withdraw from this Roumanian adventure. If they do not persevere their "conquest" will be lost, and their prestige in the Balkans, already damaged by their check, as well as by their failure to aid the pro-German Greeks, will collapse like a house of cards. If they persevere, they will add to the emphasis of the check and inflame their losses.

Germany and Turkey.

"Are the Germans preparing to cast Turkey adrift?" asks the *Western Daily Press* (January 26). Probably nobody except the Turks would be surprised if such should prove to be the case; and what the *Press* says on the subject might give even the Turks cause for uneasiness, if only they could read it.

When Turkey entered the war she was offered by Germany adequate rewards, including the expansion of the Ottoman Empire in Europe, and the preservation of Turkish supremacy at Constantinople and over the Dardanelles. An influential German newspaper yesterday gave a hint to Turkey that her aspirations in this direction might cease to command German support. The comment ran as follows:—"The neutralisation of the Dardanelles under a general guarantee would find many supporters in Germany, who, of course, would desire that the waterways of Suez and Gibraltar should not be forgotten." These insinuations about the abolition of the Turkish control of the Dardanelles will scarcely be relished in Constantinople, where it is already known that the Powers of the Grand Alliance demand the expulsion of the Turk from Europe. That Germany should aspire to a voice in the control of the Straits of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal is quite characteristic.

The whole attitude of Germany to Turkey is, of course, "quite characteristic."

Removing the Greek Danger.

In a leading article, "The Military Movements," the *Daily Chronicle* remarks that news which comes to us at present regarding movements of German troops "must usually be received with caution," and that some of it may be put about by the enemy in their own interests. The writer goes on to say that "the features which seem best established are that the Germans are taking divisions away from the Roumanian theatre and concentrating strong forces within striking distance of the Alsace front. If they ever had the intention of pushing their Roumanian drive through to Odessa, it seems for the moment to have been abandoned." After expressing admiration for the way in which the Russians fight under winter conditions, the writer asks: "Do the Germans plan an offensive at Salonika?" and adds:—

It is, perhaps, the most interesting of the unanswered questions. On the whole, the chances of their doing so have waned. The season would scarcely permit it till long after hard fighting has been practicable elsewhere, and it is not the German way to be the last to begin. In any case, the Allies seem at last to have taken adequate steps to remove the Greek danger in their rear. The transfer of King Constantine's army to the Peloponnese is in full swing, and some progress has been made with the dissolution of the Reservists. The blockade still continues, and we hope that the Allied Governments will be firm about not relaxing it until the whole of the measures necessary for our military safety have been completed to our satisfaction. . . . The Greek Court, acting on German instructions, has made a pretty full surrender to our actual demands, but has not changed its heart in doing so. While freeing the imprisoned Venizelists, on whose release we insisted, it has proceeded to arrest a great many others. The Allies ought to show the King, with all necessary firmness, that this kind of chicanery will not be tolerated, and that after what has passed we shall expect him not merely to carry out the measures of redress which he has promised, but to abstain from further provocations.

Athens in Chastened Mood.

The following are the concluding paragraphs of an interesting despatch sent off from Athens on January 26 by Mr. George Renwick, and published in the *Daily Chronicle* on Tuesday. The writer has just described some anti-Royalist demonstrations at Patras. He continues:—

In Athens the temper of the people is very much subdued. The rigorous blockade brought them face to face with the fact that Greece can be dealt with sternly without war. The greater portion of the Press, too, reflects this calmer spirit. The wildest section of the newspapers is now engaged in pointing out that, after all, the Entente Powers have protected Greece in the past, and there is no real reason for hostility. Especially is *Neon Asty*, the organ of the Goumarists, strong on this line of policy, and it is actually taking upon itself the task of sternly rebuking those journals which continue to spit fire.

There are two reasons for this change of attitude. The first is the blockade, which, for the first time, is regarded as effective. The second is equally persuasive, and that is the death of the hopes of the arrival of a German army from the north.

I can state it as a fact that King Constantine was advised directly by the Kaiser to accept the Allies' ultimatum, as it was impossible for Germany to dispatch a force to aid Greece.

So, to sum up, the position is becoming normal again. But it is idle to think that the last phase of the Greek tragedy has been played out. There is still in official Greece strong Liberal feeling. A successful offensive by the Allies would enormously strengthen this, and as the predominant idea of the Greeks is

to be on the winning side, Allied successes, coming at a time when the first doubts of the Royalists are springing up as to the triumph of Germany, would most certainly swing round the great body of public opinion.

Mr. Renwick concludes his message thus:—"I am quite firmly convinced, therefore, that the two sections in Greece have still to face one another in the last and stern reckoning, and that with the moral help of the evidence of the approach of the Allies' war triumph, the forces of Venizelism will prove to be much stronger than is dreamed of at the present moment."

"The Real Queen Sophie."

Under the above title "A Lady of the Greek Court" gives, in the *Sunday Times* (January 14) her impressions of King Constantine's consort. We quote a few passages from this interesting character sketch, which certainly is not lacking in frankness.

I believe that her chief fault is a too zealous attachment to German ideals. It gives her greater pleasure to be a Hohenzollern than to be Queen of Greece. With her, it is essentially "Deutschland über Alles," although it must in all fairness be confessed in the same breath that, up to the moment of the war, she retained the liveliest regard for the land in which her mother was the Princess Royal. English, indeed, was the language she used—and still uses—in her private life with the King. When he is ill, she reads English novels to him. She has a strong sense of appreciation of English institutions also, and modelled her innumerable hospitals and soup kitchens for the poor on English originals.

She is really "not a bad sort." She used to express her opinions very freely before me, by the way. She impressed me with her remarkable tendency to form hasty likes and dislikes.

She was always very stiff and unbending before strangers, yet exceedingly charming in her private circle. While she was autocratic in her outlook, she would forgive anything in any German, and even Germans of low birth were sure of the Queen's sympathy.

I remember one case where a military doctor of German origin received her patronage—and was rapidly advanced—for no other reason than that found in his nationality. All persons in Athens with German blood get on.

Queen Sophie certainly has a great influence over her husband, but she does not dominate him!—as some people have suggested.

M. Venizelos, we are told, "she has disliked for a long time. He was one of the victims of her immediate dislike, I fancy." And the following extract will be read with interest in this connection:—

A rather strange incident occurred during the Emperor's visit to Corfu in 1914. On the day appointed for the ball at the Russian Legation at Athens the Queen came over from Corfu. That night she attended the ball, and when Admiral Kerr, the head of the British Naval Mission, appeared before her, arrayed in full uniform, her Majesty cut him dead. People believed that she came from Corfu simply to have an opportunity of behaving as she did, owing to a disagreement about the Admiral between Venizelos and the Kaiser. As a matter of fact, Queen Sophie returned again to the island immediately.

Her Majesty appears to have been at some pains to show her bad manners!

Articles to Note.

"Turcs et Alliés en Asie," in *Correspondance d'Orient* (January 25).

"Austria and Europe," by H. Wickham Steed, and "The End of Greek Monarchy," by John Mavrogordato, in the *Edinburgh Review* (January).

"East of Suez," in the *Evening Standard* (January 30).

Dr. Kramarz, the Czech leader, whose death sentence the Emperor Charles commuted to penal servitude, has appealed to the Austrian High Court for a new trial.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessities of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund: they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I am informed that the head office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank has cabled to its Egyptian and Cyprus branches inviting them to make advances to clients who desire to participate in the new War Loan. The advances are to be made at 1 per cent. below Bank Rate, with a minimum of 5 per cent., and the bank making them will cable advices over here so that the application may go in. Thus, Government officials and others in Egypt and Cyprus who wish to participate in the loan are placed on the same footing as if they were resident in this country. If other banks followed this lead subscriptions to the War Loan would be materially increased. Congratulations are due to the wise and patriotic management of this famous concern, which, notwithstanding the enemy association in its name, is under British and Allied control.

The result of the inquiry which Sir John Jackson demanded should be conducted into the hut contracts which his firm undertook on behalf of the War Office early in the war, when the need of the great War Department was so great, has still to be made known, and it would in these circumstances not be proper to comment on the evidence placed before the Commissioners. I may be allowed to refer, however, to one notable passage in the evidence given by the famous master of industry. When he spoke of the great Mesopotamian irrigation contract with the Turkish Government, Sir John declared that, although the sum involved was expected to amount to £15,000,000, and the Ottoman Government paid a preliminary deposit of £75,000 into a bank at Baghdad for salaries, he did not pay a single "stiver" of "backsheesh" to any Turkish official. He spoke in high terms of Nazim Pasha. I wonder how many people who have had business transactions with the Turk could say the same!

I am glad to observe that the work of liquidating—and, let us hope, the despatch on the long, lone trail—of enemy prizes in Egypt is proceeding, if not with haste, methodically. The latest issue of the *Journal Official* to reach this country contained notices of sale of two considerable cotton ginning factories belonging to the Egyptian Cotton Ginning Factory Company. The factories are at Kafr el Zayat (Gharbia) and at Wasta (Beni Suef Province) respectively, and both are on the banks of the Nile and are also connected directly with the Egyptian State Railway, the former, in addition, being in touch with the Delta Light Railway. I hope these important factories will now pass into the hands of British subjects.

Development by the State for the State is the keynote of the work to which the Empire Resources Development Committee has pledged itself. There is no room for doubt that we want something of the kind. In the past, speaking generally, the development of industries, the utilisation of resources, both in kind and communications, and, indeed, the planting of the staff from which the Empire flag

is to fly has been left mainly to private enterprise. The result has not always been happy. In such circumstances it is inevitable that adventurers of the most shady description would attempt to exploit opportunities which, in the hands of honest men, would lead to profitable success. The committee would have none of that, and, allowing for certain ambitions, which I fear will be found to be the outcome of a too optimistic estimate of human adaptability, appear to have in view a goal which may be reached with the aid of intelligent effort.

The objects of the committee, as they were set out in a recent manifesto, are:—(1) "to advocate (a) the conservation for the benefit of the Empire of such natural resources as are, or may come, under the ownership or control of the Imperial, Dominion, or Indian Governments; (b) the development of selected resources of the Empire under such conditions as will give to the State an adequate share of the proceeds; (c) the appointment in due time of a Board for the conservation and development of the resources of the Empire, so that Imperial effort may be concentrated on assets ripe for development for the common good of the Empire. (2) To take such action as may from time to time appear to be desirable in order to disseminate information in regard to the objects of the committee, to arouse and maintain public interest, to enlist public sympathy and support, and to co-operate with other committees and associations having similar objects.

The people whose names are attached to this document are not only well known: they are regarded as leaders in political, social, and economic life. Sir Starr Jameson, Lord Selborne, Lord Plymouth, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Lord Dunraven, Mr. H. Wilson Fox, Mr. W. H. Lynch, Mr. Victor Fisher, and Mr. Alfred Byland are among them, and they represent a variety of interests and stand for a variety of achievements. Some of the problems which they propose to tackle, and as many of the remedies which they suggest should be applied, will lead them to ground which has never before been broken, and will furnish risks of error which must not be overlooked. Nevertheless, the men behind the committee's propaganda stand for practicality, and my readers will join me in the hope that their success will be in proportion to the greatness of their aims.

One of the problems which has been created by the Huns' slap-dash advance in Roumania is connected with their railway transport, and hits them in a very vital part of the economic body. Many thousands of railway wagons were sent post haste to Roumania and to Transylvania with troops, and were detained to take back to the Fatherland the huge stores of foodstuffs and other products which the Germans hoped to gain. But up to a very recent time neither the food nor the wagons had made a reappearance. This fact has led to trouble, and has necessitated the publication in the *Journal* of the Union of German War Administrations of a laboured, if obviously inspired, explanation of the shortage of coal, which causes at the moment nearly as much distress in Germany as hunger.

The *Journal* declares that the shortage in coal is due entirely to transport difficulties. It observes that at the beginning of the war "the railways were well armed and achieved splendid results in the mobilisation. Since August, 1914, the rolling stock has been increased by 3,600 engines and about 70,000 wagons. Thirty-six new engines are still provided every week, but the supply of new wagons is 'irregular.' Meanwhile, the strain on the engines has become so great that 23 per cent. of them are under repair, as compared with 18 per cent. in times of peace." It is added that 10,000 miles of new railway have been opened in the occupied enemy territories, and have to be run mainly with German materials. At the same time there are many thousands of wagons which cannot yet be brought back from abroad, especially from Transylvania and Roumania. In these circumstances the restriction of traffic, with consequent shortage of coal, is described as "inevitable." Germany, let us hope, is faced by a good many "inevitables" just now.

Sir T. H. Holdich, in his recent presidential address to the members of the Geographical Association, had some terse comments to make on the average Briton's ignorance of "the map." Business men, he said, were among the chief delinquents in this respect, and it was largely owing to their lack of geographical knowledge—with particular emphasis on economic geography—that they steadily lost ground in the world markets before the war. I agree with Sir T. H. Holdich, and have myself been frequently astonished at the geographical ignorance of men who, from their commercial position, ought to have known better.

The fact is, in our schools, attention is called almost exclusively to political geography as opposed to economic geography. The latter is carefully taught in German schools. British ignorance is to be deplored because it gives the German trader a tremendous advantage over us, and nowhere has this been more noteworthy than in the Near East. What is wanted is (1) a radical reform in our methods of teaching geography at school and (2) the publication of one or more economic-geographical text books, made thoroughly up-to-date, reliable in all details, and of easy acquisition for students and, generally speaking, for people who are interested in our foreign trade.

"Empire tobacco" is coming very much to the fore just now, and I am pleased to see that good reports are forthcoming from Cyprus, where experiments with Latakia leaf are progressing favourably. This tobacco obtains its peculiar—and pleasant—flavour from a secret curing process, and it appears that refugees from Asia Minor have discovered in our little island the tree which yields the wood necessary for the process. This is good news and should do much to give Cyprus tobacco cultivation a much-needed push forward. Good tobacco, of the Turkish type, is already grown in Cyprus, and ought to do something—though at present little—towards replenishing the very small stocks of Turkish held in this country. As for Egypt, it is a proved tobacco grower, but whether it will ever revert again to that particular cultivation remains to be seen. It is doubtful, however.

COMMENTATOR.

No. II.—The Berber Campaign.

BY PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

[The first article of this series appeared in THE NEAR EAST on January 12, 1917.]

Ranking as one of the largest of the administered areas in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the Province of Berber was about the earliest to benefit from the new régime introduced by the well-intentioned Khedive Ismail of Egypt, in 1870. He it was who divided the Sudan into provinces, each of which was governed by a separate and responsible official, instead of serving under one Governor-General residing at the far-distant town of Khartoum. Berber, moreover, was fortunate in its first-appointed Governor, one Hussein Khalifeh, who appears to have been an exceptionally intelligent official, while ranking at the same time as a great Sheikh of the desert. He became extremely popular with the numerous powerful Arabs, but Sir F. Reginald Wingate, the recently-retired Governor-General of the Sudan, did not consider that Hussein Pasha was altogether honest, and in his work entitled "Mahdism and the Egyptian Sudan" he tells us that Hussein's defence of Berber, at the time of the Mahdi's attack, May 26, 1884, "was only half-hearted."

Romance in History.

The whole early history of the province of Berber is full of interest and even romance, but, unfortunately, there is no space available to tell it here. Rather should we seek to describe the economic resources of the district, and trace the improvements that have been effected in its well-being dating from the triumphal entry of the Sirdar—the late Earl Kitchener—with the captured Mahmoud in chains, on the eventful day of April 13, 1893, after the battle of the Atbara, which by its completeness practically decided the fate of the whole country.

The Province of Berber differs from either that of Halfa or Dongola inasmuch as it contains several large blocks of good, irrigable land, running some way back from the river, especially suitable for crop-growing, and varying from 500 to 10,000 feddans. One may mention, for example, that located at Zeidab, one of the several estates belonging to the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. Agriculture is, and always has been, the main industry of the province, and, in connection with the pre-eminently successful experimental plantation established at Zeidab, it has become well known as a cotton producer. Another agricultural possibility, however, lies in the opening of new, or the reopening and extending of some old, canals for the purpose of basin-irrigation; this class of enterprise, nevertheless, would probably be best undertaken by the Government, since there would then arise no question of any fresh installation, the upkeep of elaborate machinery, or the need of any considerable staff. Many old canals still exist; the more immediately promising among them is that which waters the Kelli basin near Shendi, where, it is hoped, about 7,500 feddans will eventually be made irrigable. A somewhat smaller scheme, embracing the cultivation of no more than 1,500 feddans, could meanwhile be carried out there experimentally at a very low cost.

Potential Crops.

In addition to cotton, other crops which would most probably prove profitable include *dura*, maize, wheat, millet, (*dukkh*), barley, lubia, berseem, peas, Egyptian beans, butterbeans, etc. The cultivation of the profitable *keenna* bush might, also, be extended. An effort is likewise contemplated in connection with systematic date-cultivation, an impetus having been given by the successful

introduction of the fruit to the London market through the good offices of the Sudan Economic Board in conjunction with the assistance of the London Imperial Institute, at South Kensington. At present, however, the Berber dates, as grown in the Abou Hamed district, are of a distinctively inferior quality, and they would have probably but little chance of finding a ready market in London.

Limitations.

Apart from agriculture, the economic possibilities of Berber seem to be somewhat limited. A fair but not greatly increasing cattle trade is carried on, with El Damer as the centre, and here, for some six or seven months of the year, an average of from 4,000-5,000 sheep are sold weekly, principally for export to Egypt, at prices varying between 75 and 100 piastres (say 15s. 3d. to 20s. 6d.) per head. The British authorities consider that this industry might be very considerably extended, and that the possibilities of sheep-fattening are scarcely realised by the indolent native of the Sudan. By the sinking of additional wells in the extensive grazing grounds, which stretch away both south and east, there would be made available much new excellent pasture-land, at present lying useless owing to the lack of water. A modest trade in horned cattle is likewise carried on so long as cattle-plague does not interrupt the movements, while camels are very largely owned in this province.

Basket-making, from the fibre of the dom palm, bids fair to become, in course of time, a profitable industry for women and young children living in the northern parts of the province. Woven baskets are already supplied in considerable quantities to the Sudan Government Railways for use at the extensive coaling and other yards at Atbara. They are delivered there at 7 milliemmes per basket, a price which compares favourably with that for the Egyptian-made article—17 milliemmes—composed of date-palm fibre. A wide increase in the Sudan output should soon take place, since large quantities of the baskets will be required for carrying material for the earth-works on the Gezira in connection with the great irrigation project—just now in suspense so far as its main features are concerned, but being proceeded with in other directions.

Yet another local industry is that of the preparation of the material obtained from the dom-palm-nut kernel. A factory for shaping this substance into buttons exists at Atbara, and it is progressing well. This method for using the nuts is considered to be preferable to exporting the whole nuts in bulk.

Goldfields.

The Berber Province is distinguished among other political divisions of the Sudan by reason of its owning the only worked goldfields in the country. But it is not the only province wherein the precious metal has been found. The Um Nabardi mines are supposed to have been operated by the ancients as far back as 2,000 years, while the Arabs undoubtedly worked them in the early years of the Christian era. To-day they are the property of the Sudan Goldfield Company, Ltd., and give employment to some hundreds of natives and about 15 Europeans (of whom 12 are Englishmen), and they pay a modest profit to the London company of about £700 monthly.

The more important towns of the province include El Damer, Abou Hamed, and Shendi. The modern town of Atbara is the headquarters of the Sudan Government Railways, while Abou Hamed, formerly the terminus of

the railway from Halfa to Khartoum, now forms a junction upon the Khartoum-Halfa (Cairo) line. Metemneh is also a notable place, lying distant about four miles from Shendi, on the right bank of the Nile. The town was prominently concerned in the abortive 1884 expedition operations to relieve Gordon at Khartoum.

Administration.

For administration purposes the province is divided into four districts or *mamurias*. These are Abou Hamed, Berber, El Damer, and Shendi. The governing staff consists of the Governor, one Senior Inspector, one First Inspector, and two Third Inspectors. Mr. C. P. Browne, the Governor, has seen some fifteen years' service in the Sudan Administration, and is one of the few civil officials holding this high office. The others are Mr. G. E. Iles, of the Blue Nile Province; Mr. C. E. Lyall, of the Halfa Province; Mr. R. E. More, of Khartoum Province; and Mr. K. C. P. Struvé, of the White Nile Province. With Mr. A. J. C. Huddleston, who, in the absence of Mr. Browne, has filled the position of Acting-Governor, as Senior Inspector, and Messrs. E. W. Drummond-Hay, W. P. D. Clarke, W. D. C. L. Purves, and Mr. J. G. Monteith as Inspectors, the administration is considered a strong and capable one. Mr. F. P. Osborne is the Province Judge, but has latterly been absent from his post, due to ill-health. The extensive area of the province, nearly 92,000 square miles, with its considerable population of over 122,500, and its generally rich and loamy soil, cause it to stand out prominently as an important contributor to the general revenue of the Sudan Administration.

GREEK'S 10,000 REVOLVERS.

At a London police-court recently, before Mr. Clarke Hall, Ehotion Georgiades, a Greek export merchant and shipper, of Chiswell Street, was fined £50 and ordered to pay 15 guineas costs on a summons under the Defence of the Realm Regulations for proposing to deal in war material without a permit.

Mr. Bodkin, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that defendant was in partnership with another Greek named C. Kanditzki, the greater part of the trade being done with Athens and with a firm of importers and merchants there. Last year the defendant sent a letter to this firm offering 10,000 revolvers of military pattern, sleeping-bags, khaki cloth, boots, and other military articles. He said that his firm was in a position to supply them from London or elsewhere. The letter was opened by the Censor and the prosecution ordered. During the whole of the correspondence the defendant's partner was in Paris, and knew nothing of the matter. The defendant, in a voluntary statement, said that he had served in the Greek Army until it was demobilised, which, remarked Mr. Bodkin, must have been in 1915, and not recently—probably at the end of the second Balkan War. The defendant further said he had known the Greek firm—Messrs. Distinos and Kriesis—for fifteen years. In November, 1916, he entered into partnership with Mr. Kanditzki, putting in £6,000 out of £9,000 capital. In October he met a Greek named Costellos at the Imperial Restaurant. Costellos offered him 10,000 revolvers, and these, together with other things, he (defendant) offered to the Greek firm. Counsel added that there seemed no reason to doubt the statement, but the authorities wished to impress upon the defendant and other merchants that to deal in munitions without a permit was an exceedingly serious offence. To send or get into Greece for the purpose of the Greek Government military equipment would have been exceedingly serious for this country.

Mr. Patrick Hastings declared that the defendant had acted in ignorance. He was a Venizelist, and was registered as such in this country.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfred.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.

Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniform Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Ice system) ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 730.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 256.

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan."
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR"
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD, and
THE HERKFIELD FILTER CO.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The turnover throughout the market during the past week has again been very disappointing, and there is still that lack of confidence in prices which results in buyers operating as sparingly as possible.

It is feared in some quarters that the output of Egyptian cotton this season will be less than at one time expected, and those who have anticipated a yield of about 6,000,000 cantars do not now expect more than 5,500,000 cantars.

The absence of workable demand in yarn and cloth has again been very marked, and there is no doubt about the determination of our customers to adopt a waiting policy. Operations in piece-goods for Egypt have been very limited. Occasional offers mentioned in sized shirtings have been quite impracticable. There has been very little doing in fancies.

India has continued generally quiet. The comparatively few bids put forward have been a long way out. Order lists in grey shirtings are rather rapidly running down. Producers of dhooties and jaconets are losing ground.

An increased inquiry has come through in bleaching cloths for China, with fair sales in some directions, without the buying being of a general character.

Not much has been heard of the South American outlets. The position of manufacturers has tended to become worse, and although in some quarters engagements are still extensive, the position is nothing like so strong as at the end of last year. All kinds of yarn have been purchased in retail lots. Further ground has been lost by American spinners. Stocks can be found in medium wets, and there is some pressure for delivery instructions.

Export demand continues very disappointing. Restricted operations have again occurred in Egyptian spinnings.

MOROCCO AND ALGERIA.

The British Consul-General at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.) has forwarded an extract from the *Cherifian Bulletin Officiel*, dated November 27, from which it appears that a Commission, especially appointed for the purpose, has reported as to the measures that should be adopted to render the existing military railways in the French zone in Morocco more useful for purposes of commerce, and that effect is shortly to be given to the recommendations of the Commission. Among these are the unification of the tariff of rates on the different railways; the modification of existing tariffs; the suppression of the present limitations as to the weights to be carried, and the waiving of the requirement of a special permit to send goods by the trains.

The *French Journal Officiel* for December 30 last contains a Presidential Decree, dated December 21, relative to the application in Algeria of the French Law of August 1, 1905, as modified by subsequent laws, respecting the adulteration of foodstuffs. The decree contains regulations as to the chemical products and colouring substances which may be used for preserving or colouring foodstuffs, the tins or wrappers in which such foodstuffs may be put up for sale, the sealing or soiling of such tins, and the colours or varnishes with which they may be painted. It also prohibits the application of any false trade description to the goods—whether such description refers to their origin, to the nature of their contents, or to their volume or weight.

Besides various regulations of general application, the decree deals specifically with various meat preparations (such as galantine, sausages, etc.), *paté de foie gras*, preserves of tomatoes, and preserves of fruit and vegetables. It is prohibited, *inter alia*, to sell or to have in possession for sale under the name of "sardines" any fresh or preserved fish other than "*alosa pilchardus*." The text of the decree (in French) may be consulted at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The British Consul in Moscow (Mr. R. H. B. Lockhart) reports that a firm in that city desires to get into touch with United Kingdom rope manufacturers who would be interested in "*Apocynum neneti*," a plant which is grown in the Turkestan districts along the river Amu-Daria. The firm states that the plant is little known, although its fibres possess many qualities and could be used for manufacturing ropes similar to Manila ropes. Mr. Lockhart has forwarded a sample of fibre from the plant, and this may be inspected by British firms at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where also the name and address of the firm referred to may be obtained. In making application for the name, the reference number (45) should be quoted.

Mr. H. E. White, British Consul at Tangier, has forwarded a copy of a notice of an adjudication in connection with a call for tenders by the special committee of Public Works for (1) the construction of a roadway 14,000 metres long between Arzila (Chemin des Jardins) and Ain Hamam; and (2) the construction of a roadway 16,315 metres long between Ain Hamam and Sidi ben Terik (Plateau du Jemis), both being on the route from Tangier to Rabat, between Arzila and Larache. Sealed tenders will be received by "M. le Président du Comité Spécial des Travaux Publics, Dar-en-Niaba," Tangier, up to 11 a.m. on March 8. The estimated values of the contracts are placed at 395,000 and 480,000 Spanish pesetas respectively, and to qualify any tender a deposit of 2,500 pesetas (25 to £1 par) is required in the case of (1) and 3,000 pesetas in the case of (2). At least 40 days before the date of the adjudication, certificates of competency must be forwarded to "M. l'Ingénieur en Chef des Travaux Publics," Tangier.

The cahier des charges may be consulted at the offices of the "Comité Spécial" and the "Ingénieur en Chef" above mentioned, as well as at the offices of the Development Committee, Tetuan, and of Public Works at Rabat.

Prohibited Exports.

A supplement issued with the *Board of Trade Journal* last week contains complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported to various destinations from the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Gold Coast, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and British Guiana. Part I. of the supplement was issued on January 18, and contained the lists of export prohibitions in operation in British India, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, Egypt, Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius, and Ceylon.

Liquidations, etc.

Notice has been given that the licence granted to Marie Welay, Alexandria, has been cancelled, and the liquidation of the business will be carried on by the Receiver.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief his Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt has appointed Mr. E. D. Joyce, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, Receiver of the property and assets in Egypt of Marie Welay, Alexandria, with instructions to liquidate the same.

Accepted Tenders.

The tender of the Vacuum Oil Company, Cairo, has been accepted for the supply required, in bulk and in tins, during six months, commencing January 1, 1917, at £E13.160 mills per metrical ton, for petroleum in bulk delivered into the Egyptian State Railway's tank wagons at Gabbary, Alexandria, and £E0.240 mills per tin for petroleum in tins of 14.75 kilos, net weight, delivered free into the Administration's Stores at Gabbary, Alexandria. The petroleum to be supplied will be of the "Elephant" brand.

The tenders presented by the following firms in the adjudication for uniforms, boots, shoes, and tarbushes, which was held in the Administration on October 12, 1916, have been accepted:—J. Compton and Sons, Ltd., £E1.354.760; J. Vidon, £E205.380; Th. Hinshelwood and Co., Ltd., £E115.940; Cordouerie Parisienne, £E92.500; Fabrique

Nationale Egyptienne de Tarbouches, £E91.000; Khalil el Kashir, £E70.200.

Licences.

The following persons have been granted licences to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain:—Toumangeloff, Mosko Todoroff, 110, Rue Prince Abdel Moneim, Alexandria; Levy, Israel P., 7, Rue Antoniadès, Alexandria; Potocnjak, Antoine, 20, Haret Abou Houssein, Sharia el Farahda, Alexandria; Tocatljan, Gabriel S., 17, Rue Heliopolis, Camp de Cesar, Alexandria; and Fratelli Zecovin, 1, Sharia Saber, Bulâq, Abu el 'Ela, Cairo.

TOBACCO DUTIES IN ERYTHREA.

The Italian *Garzetta Ufficiale* for December 27, 1916, contains a Royal Decree, dated October 1, which provides that Customs duties on tobacco imported into the colony of Erythrea are to be levied at the following rates, as from the date of publication of the Decree in the *Bolletino Ufficiale della Colonia Eritrea*:—

Cigars of all kinds, 15 lire per kilogramme; cigarettes, 10 lire per kilogramme; other manufactured tobacco, 8 lire per kilogramme; leaf tobacco, excluding "Surati," 5 lire per kilogramme; "Surati" tobacco in leaves and stalks, 75 centesimi per kilogramme.

TOBACCO IN EGYPT.

Estimates regarding the stock of tobacco in Egypt are very confusing. A "crisis," due to shortage, is spoken of every week or two; but now the *Egyptian Gazette* declares that the statement that the stock will not suffice for more than three or four months is incorrect.

"We learn on good authority," says our contemporary, "that the present stock amounts to 97,000 bales, and this will keep the country well supplied for about seven months. During the last month about 13,000 bales were withdrawn from the bonded stores, and nothing was received in the same month from abroad.

"The tobacco which was saved from the Dutch steamer fire a few weeks ago, and discharged in Alexandria in order to be sold here by the insurance companies concerned, is estimated at about 600,000 kilos. Some of this tobacco has been brought to the Customs tobacco stores, and will be sold by auction. The first auction may be held to-day or tomorrow. The tobacco is for cigars, but can be used for cigarettes. Its flavour, however, is not like that of the Turkish or Greek tobacco."

PINK BOLLWORM IN BRAZIL.

Egyptian cotton cultivators will sympathise with Brazilians who, according to an American cotton expert in the employ of the Brazilian Department of Agriculture, are menaced by the appearance of the pink bollworm (*Gelechia gossypiella*, Saund.) in the northern districts of the country. These districts have shown the greatest interest in cotton, and many persons are urging upon the Government the adoption at once of some system of plant quarantine which would tend to prevent the introduction of the insect and limit its sphere of action. No reports of any material damage to the crops from this source have been received. Thus far the programme for the development of a prospective cotton industry in Brazil seems limited to the Northern States, but many claim that it could become a national crop.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, February 1.

Currants.

There has been only a moderate demand this past week, with business done at late rates. Prices are very steady for all qualities, although a decline is considered probable on the raising of the blockade, when further shipments may be expected.

Sultanas.

Small transactions in Afghan and Australian fruit have taken place at recent prices, but the tone of the market is generally quiet.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm, but with little doing. London-Calcutta spot, afloat, and for Jan.-Feb. shipment are noted at 105s. Bombay ordinary, Jan.-Feb., 106s., and small grain ditto at 103s. Rapeseed is firmly held, with apparently higher expectations. Ferozepore to Hull, Jan.-Feb., is quoted at 91s.; Toria, Feb.-March, 93s. 6d.; and brown Cawnpore, Jan.-Feb., London, at 88s. 6d. Cottonseed is comparatively dull at closing: London-Egyptian, f.a.q., Feb., £17 15s.; and Sakelides, spot, £17 per ton. Rangoon beans are steady at £42 to £43 for spot lots, whilst for arrivals £41 to £42, c.i.f. terms, is quoted. New crop for later shipments vary from £35 to £39 per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is a little easier to-day; spot pipes, landed, are quoted £47 10s., barrels

ditto £48 10s. Rape oil is firm, but with little doing; ordinary brown, naked, spot, £54 to £55; English refined barrels, £58 to £59. Cotton oil is firmer. Crude spot, pipes, is quoted £50; refined, pale, £52 to £53; and barrels, sweet, £59 to £61, as to make. Olive oil is in good demand, but at present in short supply. Prices are unchanged.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—A large quantity of Egyptian that has arrived this week is offered at the reduced price of £15 2s. 6d. to £15 5s., but with very little response. English-made are also cheaper at £15 12s. 6d. to £15 15s. **Linseed Cakes.**—Pending the possible Government action as regards a regulation of prices, and, owing to the entire absence of consumptive demand, quotations are purely nominal; thus, best London-made has been offered this week at £18 15s. to £18 10s., and Western American, prime, at £17 10s. to £17 15s. per ton.

Maize germ meal is in moderate demand; English-made is offered at £16 12s. 6d., with American, arrived this week, at £16 15s.

The North British and Mercantile Insurance Company have increased their holding of War Loan to £5,000,000, of which £1,000,000 is new money, and the remainder conversion of 4½ per cent. War Loan, Exchange Bonds, and Treasury Bills

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Offers are invited in the *Journal Officiel Egyptien* for the purchase of the Old Lady Strangford Hospital at Port Said.

The quantity of sponges exported from British Honduras last year was increased owing to the operations of a Greek, who gathered them by means of a diving apparatus.

The presence is notified of the wreck of a large vessel in approximately N. 24deg. E. (magnetic) ten miles from Port Said Light-house in thirteen and a-half fathoms of water. A danger line should be drawn round this position on charts for five cables.

The announcement made in certain news papers of the creation of an Egyptian postal tax for redirection of registered correspondence and the imposition of demurrage fees in connection therewith is without foundation; the tax proposed concerns insured letters only.

An Alexandria message of January 29 states: The cottonseed market closed firm last week at 107p., spot, equivalent to £9 11s. 8½d., and 108p., February-March, equal to £9 13s. 6d. The week's arrivals were 7,430 tons and shipments 6,400, leaving stocks at 129,420 tons, against 72,670 a year ago.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT**COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.**The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.**

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

TURKISH NEWS.

The New Bank.

According to information through Italian sources, writes the Paris Correspondent of the *Financial Times*, the recently constituted "National Ottoman Credit Bank" is not meeting with the desired response, despite strong official pressure, in the matter of subscriptions to its capital. The capital was fixed at £T4,000,000 in 400,000 shares of £T10 each, which can only be held by Ottoman subjects. The share warrants are printed in Turkish, which is the only language to be spoken in all business transactions carried on in the premises of the bank. According to the articles of association, the main object of this new Turkish banking institution is to co-operate in all national agricultural, industrial, and commercial enterprises of a strictly Turkish nature. The board of directors, managers, officials, and employees of the bank are all Ottoman subjects. In order to facilitate the widespread division of the share capital among Turkish subjects, agents have been appointed throughout all parts of the Turkish dominions to gather in subscriptions, but, so far, according to the source of information, the results have not justified the expectations of the official promoters.

Hun Activity.

Commenting on the fact that a number of Austrian and German banks have recently increased their capital, the *Berliner Tageblatt* says that this is not a mere coincidence, but a carefully-thought-out decision, come to with the object of creating fresh resources for the development of new enterprises in the Turkish Empire. The banks which have so increased their capital are all more or less associated with the Kreditanstalt or with the Vienna Bankverein, with the object of bringing about an "Oriental Financial Association" in Austria-Hungary. The object of this association, according to the *Berliner Tageblatt*, is to deal with all kinds of Turkish concessions. As regards purely banking business, each member of the association will be free to do as it pleases in Turkey. The "Oriental Financial Association" has already entered into an undertaking and has secured appreciable results in Turkey. The Kreditanstalt of Austria has an important interest in the Oriental Deutsche Bank, and the German financial papers consider that the new association will be a powerful instrument in furthering the economic and financial interests in Turkey of the Central Empires.

Constantinople Harbour Works.

With the assistance of Austro-German and—so it is stated—of American capital, the Ottoman Government has decided upon a great extension of the Port of Constantinople. Whatever the political destiny of Constantinople may be, nothing can prevent this huge city—with its unique position at the gateway of Asia—from becoming in a commercial sense the London of the East. It is this knowledge and the probability of an immense commercial development of the city after the war that has, according to semi-official or inspired statements, induced the Ottoman Government entirely to reorganise the seaport of Constantinople. With that object in view a special committee has been appointed to decide as to whether it is advisable to enlarge the Golden Horn by demolishing a large part of Galata, or to construct an entirely new harbour outside the limits of the capital. It appears that the majority of the members of the committee are favourable to the proposal for building a new harbour on the shores of the Sea of Marmora, between Jedikul and Kumpaku, where several miles of coast free of encumbrances are available for the construction of a modern seaport. In connection with this scheme there is a proposal on foot for establishing a direct line of weekly steamers between Constantinople and New York, calling at all the Black Sea ports.

The mails from the United Kingdom which were on board the steamer Ingeborg when she was intercepted by the enemy on the voyage to Sweden included bags for Persia and Roumania, containing letters which reached the London Post Office between January 6 and January 8.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Exhibitors' Space Already Crowded Out.

Too much attention cannot be paid to the British Industries Fair, which will be held in London from February 26 to March 9, 1917. The arrangements are all well in hand, and friends in Egypt who are interested in the project will do well to communicate with the committee.

The Fair will be greater than was at first anticipated, and an increased space has therefore been found to be necessary. It will be held partly, as last year, in the Victoria and Albert Museum, and partly in the Great Hall and certain galleries in the Imperial Institute Building.

The allotments of space have already been sent out. There are many more entries than last year, and the exhibiting space of the Fair will be increased by about 12,000 feet. The space applied for has been again far in excess of the amount at the disposal of the Board of Trade, and, therefore, all applications have had to be cut down by 30 to 50 per cent., and some of the large applications to an even greater extent. Late applications, of which there were between twenty and thirty, could not be entertained.

About 20,000 invitations to attend the Fair have been forwarded to firms in the Dominions, India, Egypt, and the Colonies, and in foreign Allied or neutral countries; and 80,000 invitations will be sent to firms in the United Kingdom before the Fair opens.

Admittance to the Fair is confined to *bona fide* trade buyers, and the exhibits will include glass, earthenware, china, fancy goods, toys (including games of all kinds), printing, and stationery. These classes of goods were to a large extent formerly imported from enemy countries, but since the Board of Trade held their exhibition of samples of enemy goods at the beginning of the war, they have been increasingly produced in this country, and the forthcoming Fair may be regarded, therefore, as the reply of the British manufacturer to the foreign competition from which he has suffered.

In view of the risk of interference with the output of munitions of war, it has not been possible to include in the Fair certain trades which would otherwise have been invited to participate. The Fair, therefore, will be confined to the trades mentioned above, which are the same as were sanctioned by the Minister of Munitions last year.

An important development, however, has taken place since last year, in that the municipality of the City of Glasgow is organising a Fair at Glasgow which will take place concurrently with the Board of Trade Fair in London, and will include certain trades not comprised in the London Fair. The Glasgow Fair, which is being held under the auspices and with the support of the Board of Trade, will include textiles, ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, foodstuffs (prepared and preserved), and domestic chemical products. The extension of the number of articles exhibited simultaneously cannot fail to increase the importance of the Fairs in the eyes of foreign buyers, more especially as both Fairs are being brought to their notice at the same time.

POTATO CULTIVATION IN EGYPT.

The British military supplies department, being in possession of a large quantity of Italian potatoes suitable for cultivation in Egypt, has agreed to give up the same to Egyptian agriculturists who are desirous of growing potatoes on their land, on condition that when the potato crop comes out they will sell to the British Military Supplies Department a certain quantity in proportion to the amount of Italian potatoes taken at £8 per ton.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, therefore prepared a special form of contract, which the agriculturists will be asked to sign, and has undertaken to distribute the potatoes on behalf of the British military authorities. No doubt this arrangement will prove to be of great help to the military authorities as well as to the public, as the price of potatoes, which had gone down to P.T.2 per oke, has again risen as fresh supplies arrive from the outside in very limited quantities.

EGYPTIAN STATE ACCOUNTS.

November Results—Another Increase in Revenue.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 16.

Last night's *Official Journal* contained the November statement of the Government accounts. The month has been a good one from the point of view of revenue, no less than £E2,251,669 having been collected against £E2,045,637 the previous November. Comparing the months in question Land and other Direct Taxes are down £E81,312, Rent of Government Land, £E1,993, Investment of Funds £E31,238, and Telegraphs £E3,276, but, on the other hand, Customs are up £E138,626—almost double the amount—Legal Fees, £E21,487; Railways, £E87,150, and Domains, £E63,475. Expenditure during the two months was practically the same. For the eight months of the financial year revenue amounts to £E13,448,733—only three millions of the total budgeted for the whole year—as against £E11,432,390 at the end of November 1915, while the figures for the expenditure are respectively £E11,859,354 and £E10,968,134. Thus revenue has increased by £E2,016,343, but the other side of the account has only gone up £E891,220, as a result the position is £E1,125,123 better, there being a surplus of £E1,589,379 as compared with one of only £E464,256 at the same date last year.

It is interesting to note that Assay Fees, Rent of Government Land, and Sale of Land and Domains Receipts have already exceeded the amount put down against them in the budget and that Customs and Railway Receipts are respectively within £E100,000 and £E400,000 of what they were expected to reach in the year's estimates. As the monthly average of these last two items has been £E200,000, and £E350,000, there is little doubt that they will both produce a large excess over the estimate, and that with the other items also showing a tendency to exceed budgetary figures and ordinary expenditure keeping within its present limits we may look for a very substantial surplus.

BANNED FIRMS.**Further Additions to the British List.**

The following additions have been made to the statutory list of firms in foreign countries with whom trading is prohibited by persons and firms in the United Kingdom:—

GREECE.

Farkouh, Constantine, Salonika; Farkouh, George, Salonika and Athens; Farkouh, Hadzi Daoud, Salonika and Athens.

Hasson and Recanati, Emniyet Han, Salonika.

Recanati, Fils de Joseph, Sibi Gumruk Han, Salonika; Recanati, H. J., and Company, Sibi Gumruk Han, Salonika; and Spiedel and Co., Island of Thassos and Suja, Crete.

ORIENTAL RUGS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Bedros Kazanjian, the well-known New York importer of Oriental rugs, recently spoke to a representative of an American paper of the difficulties in importing Oriental rugs. He stated that over two years had been required to transport one shipment of fifty bales from Persia to Archangel, Russia, whence it was coming by boat to New York.

The goods were taken by caravan from Hamadan to Enzeli, a port on the Caspian Sea, thence by boat to Baku, thence by train to Archangel. Another shipment from Hamadan went by caravan to Ahwaz, on the Karun River, thence by boat to Bombay, India, by way of the Persian Gulf, and from Bombay round the Cape of Good Hope to New York. Another route open for shipments from Persia is by boat and rail to Batoum, thence by rail to Karlow, and from there over the Siberian Railway to Vladivostock, and across the Pacific to Seattle or San Francisco.

Mr. Kazanjian said that on account of the invasions of Persia, alternatively by the Turks and Russians, the Turks being now in control there, rug weaving in Persia had practically ceased and would not begin again until the end of the war. The present high cost of Persian rugs was caused not only by their scarcity but by the rate of exchange.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

How we Lose Trade.

An Oxfordshire farmer who, evidently responding to the appeal to increase our food supplies, has extended his sowings of potatoes this year, writes to a London paper that owing to the scarcity of farm labour for digging the potatoes, he has now twenty-five acres rotting in the ground! An American replied to his lament, saying that he saw in Canada a machine which dug potatoes faster than they could be picked up and put in baskets. This brought forward a British engineering firm, who hastened to inform the embarrassed farmer that he has no need to go to America to see a digger working satisfactorily, because there are British-made machines doing this work, and he offered to put him in touch with a large number of farmers in this country who are using them. This correspondence reminds us that some time ago, before the war, we described in these columns, for the benefit of our readers in the Near East, a British machine for digging and picking up potatoes. Before the paper was mailed abroad we received inquiries from readers in this country asking where the machine could be obtained! With this case in point, and the admission of the embarrassed Oxfordshire farmer, is it not evident that British manufacturers' methods of advertising and introducing their goods, not only abroad, but at home as well, require reform? A farmer in an important and most central district of England is not aware that there are British machines that can be obtained for his work!

Pumping Machinery for the East.

We had, however, alluded previously in these notes to the fact that among the goods

which find a ready sale in the Near East are pumps and pumping machinery, and we pointed out that designs of simple construction, compact, and easily operated, with as few as possible working parts, are the kinds generally favoured. Such characteristics are of great importance, and desirable in those districts because of the difficulty that is experienced in finding skilful mechanics, either as attendants or for the necessary repairs in case of breakdowns. With this point in view, American and German firms, with their characteristic business methods, have managed, in recent years, to introduce in those markets certain types of rotary or centrifugal pumps which soon gained favour among buyers in towns and rural districts to the detriment of other ordinary types which were imported mostly from the United Kingdom and France. Apparently, no efforts were made by British manufacturers to regain the lost ground; thus, their foreign competitors had a free run in that particular line of engineering goods, and succeeded in securing the orders for two-thirds of pumps and pumping machinery imported in the various districts of the Near East. Yet there are several types of such machinery of British design and construction, much superior to the foreign-made in all points, which would entirely satisfy the requirements of Oriental markets if they were properly introduced. The present writer saw recently a new pump at work on the Thames, pumping muddy water with perfect mechanical efficiency and without any vibration or noise.

The New Pump.

The pump here referred to can be adapted for coupling direct either to oil engines, electric motors, or steam engines. It needs no clutch because an open by-pass from the delivery to the suction side gives the effect of a no-load start until full speed is obtained. There are no valves, consequently there is no

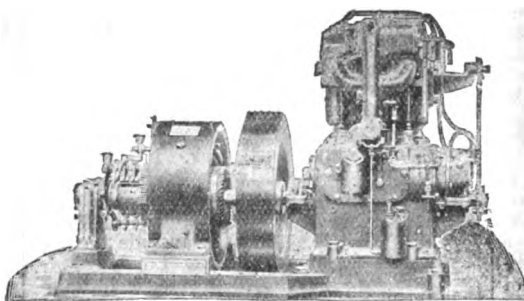
danger of foreign matter clogging the pump. It lifts and discharges its fluid with a minimum of agitation, an advantage over other types, which will be found serviceable in olive oil mills and stores, wine depots, breweries, etc., while its great suction enables it to handle molasses, tar, heavy fuel oil, and other viscous products with remarkable efficiency. It can also pump sewage without difficulty. Other interesting features of the new pump are that, coupled to a steam engine, it is claimed to be the only pump that gives the service of a good condenser. On high suction lifts, by turning the exhaust of the engine into the suction side of the pump, striking figures of efficiency are obtained. It can also be used as an air compressor for blast furnaces, etc., or for the transmission of power. It is said that sizes at present, are made to pump from 60 gallons to 120,000 gallons of water per hour, running at any speed from 300 r.p.m. to 1,000 r.p.m. All parts are easily accessible, as the pump can be taken to pieces by removing one cover, and, owing to simplicity of design and minimum cost of maintenance, the price is moderate.

Mr. Hewins, the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Soudan Economic Board, has been appointed Licensing Officer, under the proclamations prohibiting and restricting exports and relating to trading with the enemy. He is authorised: First, to grant permission for the export of articles the export of which may for the time being be prohibited or restricted except with the permission of an officer appointed to grant such permission; and second, to grant licences under the authority of the proclamations relating to trading with the enemy, for any transactions of things prohibited by the said proclamations.

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, ENGLAND.

OIL AND GAS ENGINES.

Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.



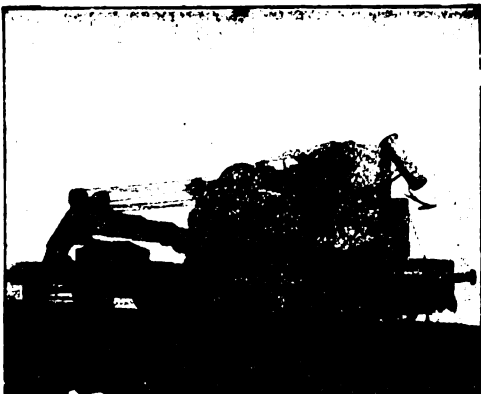
Suitable for
driving:—
Dynamoes, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.

Foreign Branches and
Agents:

INDIA.
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dilair Zade Han,
Stamboul, Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.,
Cairo.



30 Ton Steam Breakdown Crane.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS

AND OTHER
RAILWAY PLANT

(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers).

SUCH AS

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes, Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements.
Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "SLUICE, LONDON."

SALONIKA MARKETS.**Demand for Paints and Paint Materials.**

We take the following interesting note, which deals with certain trade conditions at Salonika, from a recent despatch by the United States Consul at that port. He writes:—

The attention of American exporters is directed to the fact that there has always been a good market in Salonika for paints and paint materials, practically all of which are imported from European countries.

Under normal conditions the annual consumption of dry paints (earthen and metallic) by Salonika and its commercial hinterland was estimated at 100 tons; that of ready-mixed paints, 50 tons; varnish, 20 tons; linseed oil, 100 tons; and turpentine, 5 tons; making a total annual consumption of 275 tons of paint materials.

The international situation has had a tendency to restrict paint imports, as shown by the figures of 1915, which total only 152 tons. The institution of a tariff in 1914, levying a duty of about £5 per 281.86 pounds on paints mixed with oil has had a tendency to greatly reduce the imports of mixed paints and has increased the consumption of dry paints. Of the paint materials mentioned in this report, turpentine is the only product produced locally. However, a small amount of turpentine is usually imported.

Dry green colours, chiefly of German origin, are imported in kegs of 50 kilos (110.23 pounds). Prussian blue of French origin and ultramarine blue from England, Belgium, Holland, and Germany are packed in barrels of 125 kilos (275.57 pounds). Mineral colours of various hues, mostly of Belgian and Hungarian origin, are imported in kegs of 50 and 100 kilos (110.23 and 220.46 pounds). Red mineral colours are supplied from France in barrels of 200 and 250 kilos (440.92 and 551.15 pounds).

Mixed paints contributed by various countries of Western Europe, are packed in cans ranging in weight from one-fourth kilo to 12 kilos. The cans commonly used weigh one-half kilo (1.1 pounds) filled. Varnish is usually of German origin and is packed in tins of one-half kilo to 1 kilo. Turpentine is chiefly of domestic origin, the local demand being supplied from the Greek island of Euboea. Small quantities are imported from England and France. Turpentine is contained in kegs of 150 kilos (330.7 pounds). linseed oil is usually of English origin and is imported in standard drums.

FRANCE AND PERSIAN TRADE.

It will be seen from the following translation of an article which appeared last week in *La Dépêche Coloniale* that French trade with Persia is on the decline, and that the writer of the article advocates a more energetic policy on the part of his countrymen in order to secure a larger share of the trade. He says:—

The last commercial statistics published by the Administration of the Persian Customs relates to the period March 21, 1914, to March 20, 1915. During that year the imports attained the value of 499,322,010 krans, and the exports 396,057,863 krans, or a total of 895,380,773 krans—fr.358,152,309. It is the Russian and the British Empires which absorb three-fourths of these figures. The trade with France, which was 24,218,223 krans in 1913-1914, was only 12,217,860 krans in 1914-1915, viz.: Imports, krans 11,096,312; exports, krans 1,121,548.

In the preceding year French imports represented 19,629,020 krans. This was, therefore, a decrease of 8,532,708 krans, mainly in lump sugar, automobiles, cottons, haberdashery, clothes, powder, wines, and liqueurs. It is to be noted that in 1906-1907 the importation of French sugar alone showed a value of fr.17,770,597.

French imports into Persia consist of sugar, woollen goods, silk, cottons, haberdashery, clothes, brandy and liqueurs; copper, nickel in bars, plated metals, etc.; powder and cartridges, drugs, wine, motor-cars, paper, lace, leather, leather-work, furniture, perfumery, preserved fish, preserved fruits, etc.

The export trade from Persia to France has suffered a great decline in the course of the last few years. In 1910-11 France bought goods from Persia to the extent of 12,244,022 krans; in 1913-1914, 4,589,203 krans; and in 1914-15, 1,121,548 krans. In these figures is included the value of the antiquities of Suse consigned to the Louvre Museum, Paris.

The other articles bought by France are: Unpurified petrol in bulk, woollen carpets, unmanufactured tobacco, silk in cocoons, fruit, gum, etc.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned and as compared with the corresponding dates in 1916:—

	1916.	1917.
	Frs.	Frs.
January 23 and 24	520,000	630,000
January 26 and 27	480,000	340,000
January 28	110,000	180,000
January 29	360,000	130,000

COMPANY NOTES.**Dividends, Payments, Etc.**

Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants 5 per Cent. Sterling Loan.—The half-yearly interest, due February 1, will be paid on that and any succeeding day (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock, at the offices of Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Nestor Gianaclis Five per Cent. Debentures.—The coupon due on February 1, 1917, will be paid on and after that date at the London office of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Meetings.

The adjourned general meeting of the bondholders will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, on February 8, 1917, for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, passing as an extraordinary resolution, the following resolution: "That this meeting of holders of the 5 per cent. Sterling Bonds of the Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants secured by trust deed dated June 3, 1910, hereby assents to the annual redemption of the bonds being held on February 1 in each year, instead of August 1—the next redemption which would have taken place on August 1, 1917, to take place on February 1, 1917—and to the rights of the bondholders against the company and its property being modified accordingly, and hereby authorises and directs the trustees to concur with the company in the necessary amendments in the said trust deed to give effect to the foregoing."

The one hundred and eighteenth half-yearly ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin Company will be held at Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Tuesday, March 27, to receive the report of the council, statements of accounts, and balance-sheet to December 31, 1916; to elect two members of the council, Mr. W. H. Swaffield and Mr. J. Henry Trewby, who retire in accordance with the company's statutes, offering themselves for re-election; to elect two auditors, Messrs. G. S. Oldfield and W. S. Sneath, who retire, offering themselves for re-election; and for the transaction of the general business of the company.

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LTD.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL - £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.
PAID-UP CAPITAL - £3,500,000. **RESERVE** - £4,000,000.

Chairman - THE RIGHT HON. THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
Deputy Chairman - WALTER LEAF, ESQ.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

PARIS: LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK (PARIS) LIMITED, 22, Place Vendôme.

Sums of £10 and upwards received on deposit, and interest allowed thereon.

Every description of British and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET,
THURSDAY EVENING.

Business this week has been practically at a standstill in view of the Government's prohibition as regards the export of securities. Yesterday various regulations were published, under which the export of certain securities will be permitted; but further particulars are awaited before normal conditions are restored.

Prices, on the whole, have kept quite firm, and there has been no pressure to sell. Some small transactions have taken place in Agriculturals round 5 1-16, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks are rather firmer, having been taken up to 11½.

In Alexandria Waters some small transactions took place up to 11½. Khedivial Mails were done in a small way round 25s., and United Egyptian Lands changed hands at 6d.

In Greek securities prices were firm, and there were again some transactions in 1881's round 51, and in Rente at 40½.

Oil Shares.

Business has fallen off again and several declines have to be recorded.

North Caucasians were firm at 26s. and New Caucasians maintained their rise to 7s. 6d. Black Sea Amalgamated were dull at 2s. 4½d. Roumanian Consols were rather offered and weakened to 8s. 9d.

Anglo-Egyptian "B" were quiet, but Constantinian were a shade off at 8s.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Thursday.

Despite the very marked activity in the War Loan, supplies of floating credits have not been depleted. During the earlier hours of to-day short loans were in fair demand at about 4½ and 4½ per cent., but these quotations towards the close came down to 4 per cent.

Discount, however, was quiet with rates well maintained at 4½ to 5 per cent.

New Russian Treasury Bills, running into January, 1918, were dealt in at about 6 per cent., and for March, 1917, at about 5½ per cent.

Exchange on Alexandria stands at 97½ piastres.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Russian petroleum, 54,000 poods and 51,400 poods; Anglo-Egyptian: Gensah, 789 tons and 222 tons; Hircada, 1,519 tons and 1,319 tons; Black Sea Amalgamated, 20,888 poods; Maikop Combine, 16,014 poods; North British Maikop, 2,165 poods; Ural Caucasian, 606,444 poods; Baku Russian, 81,600 poods; Bibi Eibat, 49,400 poods; British Maikop, 2,165 poods; Ural Caspian, 2,517 tons and 2,360 tons; Spies Petroleum, 211,810 poods; and European 82,100 poods.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended Jan. 20.	1917. Week ended Jan. 18.
Cattle markets	1,015 ..	1,350
General markets	360 ..	431
Cattle markets closed	2 ..	11
Receipts (£)	1,375 ..	1,781
Total from commencement of year (£)	3,904 ..	4,275

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohi, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc. Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Jan. 26	Pre- sent Price.
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	72	68
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	48	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	48	48
City of Alexandria 4½, 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5 % Bnds	96	—	67
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	69	69½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	78	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	66	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	52	60
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (24½)	80½	—	67
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	50½	50½d
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	49	50½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	47	47
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40½	40½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	49	50
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	57	49	49
Do. 4 % Rents, 1902	77	61	61
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	87½d
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52	50½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., £800	92	69	67½
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	77	75
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	—
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	66	—
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	50
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	38
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	38½

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6½	6½d
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8	8½
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	82½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	—
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	3½	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	5½	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	78½	—
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	10	10
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	13	13
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	54	54
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	57½	57½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ % Do. do. 3 % Bonds	90	—	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	17/-	9½
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	89½	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Do. do. Def.	2½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	7	7
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2½	2½	2½
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9½	8½	8½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	85½	83½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	5½	6½	6½
Do. and Foreign Trust	12	—	—
Gharbiel Land Co.	—	—	—
Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	97	97
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	9½	6½	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	73½	73½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	8½
Sidi Saleh Co.	10½	10½	10½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	25/-
United Egyptian Lands	1½	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12½	100	100
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	1½	1½	1½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	93½d	93
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	96	20½	21/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	97	97
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	26½	25½
Do. do. Pref.	90	94½	94½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	94½	72½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	144	144
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	Price on Jan. 25.	Feb. 1.
Anglo-Persian	10½	10½
European Oilfields	21½	21½
Roumanian Consolidated	3/-	3½
Do.	9½	8½

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 25.	Feb. 1.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	420	415
Canal de Suez	4400	4400
Credit Foncier Egyptien	673.50	675
Turkish Unified 4%	61	62.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	89	89
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 13.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£ 13½	to
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 100	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 12½	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 6½	—
Do.	L.E. 3½	—
Lots Tuross, oblig.	Frs. 126	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. —	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) Do.	Frs. 67	—
Cheikh Fadl	Priviliée Frs. 95	—
Urbanes et Rurales	Frs. 74	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£ 2½	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ —	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 1	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4½	—
Unifiée	L.E. 81	—
Priviliée	£ 70	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—
Do.	Fondateur	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 34	—
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 38	—
Do.	Ord.	27½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 4	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5½	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 101½	—
Do.	Jouissance	Frs. 155
Egyptian Markets	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 270	—
Do.	Div.	Frs. 200
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. —	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£ 21½	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 620	—
Do.	1886 Oblig.	Frs. 325
Do.	1903 "	Frs. 259
Do.	1911 "	Frs. 264
Delta Lands	—	—
Port Said Salt	36½ ex. opn.	—
Cotton Ginners	£ 8½	—
New Egyptian Co.	P.T. —	—
United Lands	£ 28½	—
Levant S.S. Co.	£ 160	—

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Novembre, 1916, publiée en conformité
de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	£E. 3,906,191
Titres divers	244,519
Comptes-Courants	—
Avances sur Marchandises	3,058,410
Avances sur Titres	1,441,336
Avances sur d'autres garanties	769,313
Avances sans garantie spéciale	428,937
Effets sur l'Etranger	4,305,338
Effets sur l'Egypte	115,790
Immeubles et mobilier	238,833
Placements à courte échéance	9,500,000
Comptes Banques	1,083,148
Gouvernement du Soudan	432,547
Comptes Divers	247,514
Encaisse: Billets de Banque	£E. 1,843,215
Or	£E. 59,142
Argent, nickel, etc.	£E. 85,824
.....	1,988,181
.....	£E. 19,235,057
.....	£E. —

Capital (300,000 actions de £10 chacune
entièrement libérées)

Réserve Statutaire	2,925,000
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	1,267,500
Tribunaux Mixtes	7,282,264
Gouvern. Egyptien	1,452,009
Comptes Banques	4,909,662
Chèques et effets à payer	387,271
Comptes Divers	250,898
.....	761,053
.....	£E. 19,235,057

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Or	£E. 11,325,000
Titres	£E. 11,325,000
.....	£E. 22,650,000
Billets émis	£E. 22,650,000
.....	£E. 22,650,000

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au Décembre 31, 1916.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Catégorie "A"	3,314	867
Catégorie "B"	4,933,553	4,553,549
Total	4,936,867	4,554,416

Echéances: Dues	1,001,304	820,192
A échoir	—	—
Total	1,001,304	820,192

Perceptions: Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	1,209,187
Restant	993,721	761,529

Perçu	400,825	447,658
Echéances: Perçu	722,949	691,057

Total perçu sur annuités échues	1,123,774	1,138,715
--	-----------	-----------

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 301.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	337	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The Penultimate Phase and		Notes and News	353
Cyprus	340	the Near East	348	The Science of Agricultural	
Syria (via Cairo)	341	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	345	Banking	354
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Why Not Postal C.-O.-D.? ..	355
“The Sudanese”	339	The Balkan Tangle	344	Cyprus Notes	355
With the Enemy in the		PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	346	Produce Report	356
Balkans	340	LETTER TO THE EDITOR—		Engineering Notes	358
Archæological Notes	342	“The Future of Palestine”		Company Notes	359
The Black Sea and the		(Lieut.-Com. Victor L.		On ‘Change	360
Caucasus (M. A. Poynter) ..	349	Trumper)	343	Stock and Share List	360
		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	350		
		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	351		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The grip of a winter of exceptional severity has fastened upon all the theatres of the war from the Ancre to Armenia, and has caused the temporary suspension of major operations. Syria and Mesopotamia alone, apart from the closing phases of the East Africa campaign, are outside the cold belt. In the former we have yet to learn how far the rout of the Turks from Sinai Peninsula may encourage the British forces to continue their pressure on the enemy. As for Mesopotamia, though it is nominally the campaigning season, we cannot forget the terrible experiences of the Relief Expedition which just a year ago was trying to fight its way to Kut: incessant rains, the Tigris in flood, the country water-logged or deep in mud. Wet weather has again interfered with the investment of Kut, but not to the same extent as before, and progress is being systematically made. But while there may be an absence of notable developments on the other fronts, there is little rest either in the firing line or among the masses of troops behind it. Nothing could be more striking than the regularity with which slight successes on the Western theatre are being recorded these days, culminating on the British front in the evacuation of Grandcourt. In themselves they may seem to amount to little; but in their cumulative effect they represent the constant harassing of the enemy, who can never be sure that one or more of these seemingly minor attempts may not prove to be the forerunner of a big attack.

At the present moment it is impossible for the public in this or any other country to keep the submarine question for long out of its mind. The gravity of the danger requires no emphasis. In Great Britain the daily toll of ships is an indication that the German threat is no idle one. Confidence in the ability of the Navy to grapple with the new problem as successfully as it has with every other one that preceded it remains, and will remain, unabated. But it is recognised that time is required to cope with the latest developments of Germany's submarine warfare, and meanwhile the diminution in the world's tonnage has a direct effect on conditions in the United Kingdom, and on every other country, for all are dependent on sea-borne trade. The United States Government is credited with the desire to avoid a rupture of diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary on the ground that the Dual Monarchy may disassociate itself from its Ally's policy. There has been

no cessation of submarine outrages in the Mediterranean, and it will be difficult to exonerate Austria-Hungary from complicity in the campaign. If the boats are exclusively German, they will hardly have been able to operate without Austrian assistance either in the provision of bases or in the matter of revictualling. In some cases the boats may have been sent overland or down the Danube under Austrian charge.

In this connection it is of interest to note that emphasis is being laid in German military circles on the effect of the submarine campaign on the Allies' position at Salonika. It is pointed out that the weakness of the Macedonian undertaking lay in its long sea communications. A great deal of tonnage was required, and this diminished the amount available for other purposes. With increased activities on the part of submarines the oversea communications of General Sarrail's army will cost considerably more sacrifices, and will be still more uncertain and unpunctual. "It should be added," continues the Military Correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* quoted in *The Times*, "that the abandonment of the Salonika undertaking, which has already often been considered, will have its difficulties in the present circumstances." The wish is here father to the thought. Any considerable successes on Germany's part in her submarine policy will cause inconvenience to the Allies' Mediterranean forces; but the commitments in this part of the world are now inseparable from the conduct of the war as a whole, and cannot be regarded in the light of a detached enterprise, as the German critic would like to have it. Moreover, the idea of the Salonika force depending for its supplies on the punctual arrival of a steamer service from England is somewhat naïve. No doubt the Germans have based great expectations on the damage to be done by their submarines; but the stress laid on the possible effect upon the Macedonian campaign may be regarded as a recognition of the embarrassment which General Sarrail's force is causing the enemy, even when its activities fall far short of the hopes formed in the Allied countries.

If the rupture between the United States and Germany should result in a declaration of war, the former will have to decide what attitude they will adopt in regard to Bulgaria and Turkey. America has close ties with the Near East; a number of prominent Bulgarians and Turks have received their education at Robert College, Constantinople, or are in other ways indebted

to American institutions. Moreover, America has not been a member of the Concert of Powers, whose existence has not always proved an unmixed blessing to Near Eastern States, and for this reason she compares favourably with the Great Powers of Europe. In these circumstances the Washington Government might be unwilling to extend the sphere of hostilities to Bulgaria and Turkey. It must not, however, overlook the fact that Germany, in the event of a complete rupture, will not allow her scruples to interfere with the determination to take what vengeance she can on those who have refused to support her. American interests in the Near East will be as much at Germany's mercy as if they were on German soil. For this reason the American Government will do well not to copy the mistake made by Roumania in imagining that she can declare war on the Central Powers and remain on friendly terms with their allies. The wiser course, as is suggested elsewhere in this issue, would be to take the opportunity of serving the interests of peace by bringing home at least to Bulgaria the futility of further resistance. The Turkish Government, which now knows that it has to face the loss of Constantinople, may be less amenable to argument. But no harm would be done by representing to both countries that Germany's acts of despair prove conclusively that they can no longer count on any improvement in the military position calculated to relieve them from the full effects of their unsuccessful appeal to the sword.

From the Roumanian front only isolated actions are reported. Inasmuch as these are either initiated by our Allies or end in their favour, it would seem that they have the situation well in hand. Just north of the Roumanian frontier, in the south-western corner of the Bukovina, the Russians have achieved a more notable success, again surprising the enemy as the result of an attack through deep snow and securing a second batch of over a thousand prisoners. The marked superiority of the Russians in these encounters, in which the personal element plays such a prominent part, points to an army better equipped for winter conditions than the Austro-German forces. Reports, indeed, speak of prisoners being taken still wearing their summer uniform. In view of the economic situation in Germany and Austria, it would be strange if at some points of their long battle line a failure of the war machine could not be detected. The more thoroughly German organisation succeeds in extracting the maximum value from human and material resources, the more certain will be the collapse, when every part of the wonderful machinery comes to be tested simultaneously, and it is no longer possible to make good the deficiencies at one point by denuding another which has escaped their enemy's attention at that moment.

In the absence of definite news from Greece it may be presumed that the work of transferring the army and munitions from the northern portion of the country to the Peloponnese is being carried out according to the stipulated programme. The chorus of approval which the ceremony of saluting the Allied Flags evoked from susceptible correspondents has given place to more discriminating reports of the situation. The Greek Government has applied to the Allied Powers to have the blockade raised. It points out that it has carried into effect all the immediate demands of the Entente Governments, and that only the question of fixing the compensation due to the Venizelists remains to be adjusted. The reply to this request is understood to have held out prospects of relief for the poorer classes of the population, without an actual termination of the blockade. The caution of the Allies in this matter cannot be regarded as unjustifiable. Apart from the difficulty of making sure that the Reservists have not only been disbanded, but have delivered up their arms, the Allies are under an obligation to the National Government of Defence to satisfy themselves that all imprisoned Venizelists have been released, and that there

are no others who have to be accounted for as a result of the events of December 1 and subsequent days.

The statement that the British Minister had again taken up his residence at the Legation in Athens has since been contradicted. It is certainly more in keeping with the elements of the situation that he should remain on a man-of-war until normal relations are restored with the Greek Government. The anxiety to represent the whole Greek episode as closed when the Allied Flags had been saluted was putting temptation in the way of King Constantine and his advisers, and argued inability to appreciate the unfinished nature of the task which the Allies had to a large extent brought upon themselves. It is unfortunate that the only method open to the Entente of bringing King Constantine to realize the facts of the position was to interfere with the conditions of life of the Greek population. The latter, however, are aware of all the circumstances, and the remedy is in their hands. Until they devise means of restricting their Sovereign's capacity for independent action inimical to Greece's interests, they must be content to be "beaten," as of old, for the madness of their kings. The Allies must be most anxious to see conditions in Greece restored to the normal, but they have become in an increasing degree trustees for the people's welfare, and must safeguard them from the danger threatening from the licence of the King's Praetorian Guard.

The rôle of Job's comforter in regard to Greek affairs has fallen upon the Anglo-Hellenic League, which is issuing far from reassuring reports of the position in Athens and elsewhere. From the first doubt has been thrown in many quarters on the genuineness of the Government's compliance with the demand to transfer the army to the Peloponnese. It was alleged that numbers of soldiers were returning to northern Greece in civilian garb after their despatch across the Corinth Canal had been duly recorded. Now comes the intimation that another method of circumventing the Allies' demands has been found in granting leave to a large proportion of the army. It is hardly credible that the Allies' representatives will allow themselves to be hoodwinked by these or any other subterfuges. On the other hand, if there is the least suspicion for believing that the Government or the military authorities are conniving at them, it would be well to lose no time in bringing home to King Constantine that the Allies' patience is exhausted, and that they must have a régime in Athens capable of acting honourably.

The suggestion made in a leading article in our issue of January 26 that the Allies might with advantage come to an understanding in regard to the future of Albania, in order that nothing should be done during the military operations to prejudice the future of the country, has received some measure of support from the Albanian news that has since been received. In Southern Albania and Northern Epirus something in the nature of a settled administration has been introduced by the Italians. According to an Italian newspaper, the occupied territory has been divided into three districts, the province of Valona, including Tepeleni, the sub-prefecture of Chimarra, and the province of Argyrokastro, including Delvino and Prmeti. The first two are administered by Moslem Albanians, and Argyrokastro is under the Italian military authorities. There is a law-court at Valona, and local tribunals have been established at the five other towns already mentioned. Thirty-six schools, it is added, have been opened in Valona province alone, "in which the Italian language is obligatory under the direction of military instructors." The value of introducing settled administration into Albania is obvious, and Italian energy in this matter is to be commended. A definite plan agreed upon beforehand among the Allies would

not only be ready for application, as the sphere of occupation is extended, but would serve the Italian military authorities as a guide in their treatment of the inhabitants in the conquered territories.

Further successes at Kut have cleared the whole of the right bank of the Tigris below the Hai branch of the enemy. Raids west of the junction of the Hai and Tigris have at the same time driven the Turks from a considerable portion of the right bank above Kut, and have brought their base in the Shumran bend under shell fire. The work of clearing the south bank has only been accomplished at the expense of much fighting. In all these engagements, extending over seven weeks, the enemy has lost heavily, the number of dead found in the captured trenches, put at 2,630, being a tribute to the stubbornness which has characterized the defence. Meanwhile, the Turks continue to hold the Sanna-i-Yat position on the left bank of the river, fifteen miles below Kut. The strength of their lines at that point, protected as they are on the left flank by the Suwaicha marsh, has proved too formidable for any further attempts at a frontal attack. The urgency that impelled the Relief Expedition to risk the effort a year ago no longer obtains. General Maude is not fighting against time; his aim must be rather to keep the enemy occupied and to wear him down with the minimum loss to the British forces. In the original advance the Turks made no stand between Kut and Ctesiphon. They will no doubt be better prepared this time; but their main effort will have been concentrated upon the defences of Kut and the immediate neighbourhood.

The resignation of Turkey's Grand Vizier, Said Halim, and the appointment of Talaat Bey to succeed him has little significance beyond the personal triumph it entails for the new Vizier. Said Halim was Vizier only in name; power rested with Talaat Bey and Enver Pasha, with Jemal Pasha for a time at least closely associated with them. To what extent the Triumvirate directed the affairs of Turkey or merely carried out the behests of the Committee of Union and Progress it is difficult to determine. The explanation given by the heads of the Committee is that, having once selected their Ministers, they give them a free hand, always on the understanding that they are the agents of the Committee, and are responsible to it for their acts. This statement doubtless corresponds with the theory of the organisation, but some allowance must be made for the personal ascendancy gained by at least two members of the Triumvirate. That Enver Pasha should now allow Talaat Bey seemingly to eclipse him is an interesting development; Jemal Pasha must have sacrificed much of his authority at headquarters by his absence in Syria, even if the post itself were not in the nature of a reprimand. But all that may safely be inferred from the changes in the Vizierate and Cabinet is that the same Committee clique is still firmly established in power in Constantinople. It knows that it is too gravely compromised with its own people to do anything beyond keeping close to the German war-chariot; but when once its confidence in itself and in Germany's victory has been shaken political changes in Turkey will acquire greater significance.

A Decree has been signed extending the mandate of the Egyptian Mixed Courts for another year from February 1. This step is in accordance with the practice introduced in 1915, when the quinquennial period, for which the mandate was regularly renewed up till that year, lapsed and the decision was taken to renew it for a year only. The idea, no doubt, was that the war would not last long, and that with the advent of peace it would be possible to introduce changes in the relations of the various local jurisdictions. Accordingly, a yearly renewal was introduced; but, as has been pointed out, a number of Chancelleries would have been saved some trouble if the renewal had been for an indefinite period regulated by the duration of the war.

"THE SUDANESE."

(By OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

The word Sudan is used in a variety of significations, to a Frenchman it means quite a different thing from what it means to an Englishman; and the term Sudanese is often applied in a way that seems ludicrous to those who live in the Sudan and know the implications of the word. In the Sudan the name Sudanese is used for those whose origin is derived entirely or mainly from the black or negroid tribes of the Sudan. Thus, an Arab would not refer to himself as a Sudanese, as he would thereby imply that he was not of pure-bred Arab stock; and although there are comparatively few, if any, of the Arabs of the Sudan who are pure bred, they are for that very reason the more particular to lay stress on their Arab strain. Many of the Arabs married with blacks in the past, as they do in the present, and the offspring of these marriages is known as Sudanese; and though it would probably be extremely difficult to define in accurate terms the exact meaning of the name, there is little difficulty in practice in knowing the Sudanese from the Arab. Besides the considerable numbers of the pure-bred black or negroid, such as the Nuba and Shilluk, which is the mass of the population in the south, there is a large number of more or less pure blacks living amongst the Arabs in the more northerly provinces, and the half-bred Arab-black which forms the labouring population all over the Sudan.

These intermarry with others of their own kind, or with the pure black, and practically never with the Arabs. They tend to lose the peculiarities of the tribes from which their forbears were sprung, and do not in many cases attempt to maintain the distinctions of tribes in the way that the Arabs do. Thus a man will describe himself as a Sudanese, and may have only a very vague idea of what tribes his parents came from; whilst an Arab is always sure of his tribe and keeps up the distinctions of tribes with care. Where an Arab marries into another tribe the descendants identify themselves with one or other of the tribes of their parents and keep up the tribal tie; whilst the black, once he has crossed with another tribe, tends to forget the distinction and becomes just a Sudanese. This applies, of course, more forcibly in the larger towns, where the tribal distinctions have little value. Outside, a Sudanese may attach himself to a tribe for the protection thereby afforded him, but he can only do so to a black and not to an Arab tribe. There are, indeed, certain exceptions to this. For instance, there is a considerable colony of so-called "Arabs" in the Nuba Mountains who are in fact the offspring of runaway slaves of a generation or two ago, and they have divided themselves up according to the tribes and sub-tribes of their original masters. There are colonies of this sort in various parts of the Sudan, and in some cases also the Arabs have intermarried so extensively with the blacks that it is difficult to tell them apart; but the people themselves know and maintain the distinctions in many small matters of family affairs.

Briefly the main point in the term Sudanese is that it implies a certain admixture of black blood, which is, after all, the original meaning of the word. For that reason the words "Sudanese Government" look queer to the members of the Sudan Government, who, as British and Egyptian, can hardly be called Sudanese. But the phrase is to be found not infrequently in the Press.



Incorporated A.D. 1720. Head Office ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued to cover loss incidental to	FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUARANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK, — THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —	at lowest possible premiums.
---	---	------------------------------

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. N. L. Bell, Manager
 EGYPT—CAIRO: Edward Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.
 Count Michel A. de Zoghbi, Cairo Manager.
 ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABBARI STORAGE COMPLY.
 CYPRUS: NAJEM HOUURY.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, January 21.

The Cyprus Museum.

A meeting of the Museum Committee was held on January 11, under the presidency of the High Commissioner, when various resolutions were passed and announcements made. The director of the American Mining Company, Mr. C. Gunther, who takes great interest in the matter of antiquities, has offered £550 for excavations in localities to be indicated by him, subject to the condition that any objects of antiquity not required by the Museum shall be reserved as his share. He has also presented some valuable objects of Mycenaean pottery and of glass to the Nicosia collection. A member of the Committee, Mr. Sevéris, M.L.C., has contributed £50 for excavations at Lápathos, in the Kyrenia District. The New York Museum has contributed a copy of a valuable work, the catalogue of the well-known Cesnola collection. Mr. Z. Pierides, another member, has also presented several objects of value. The Committee decided to buy up some of the hovels which still remain amidst the ruins of the great Temple of Aphrodite at "Old Papho," near Kuklia, in the Papho District. These were unearthed in 1887 by Professor Gardiner and Mr. D. G. Hogarth. Mr. I. K. Peristiáni, one of the leading Greek archaeologists and writers on Cyprus history, has long advocated the better preservation of the Temple ruins, especially of what remains of the mosaic pavement, and of many stones bearing inscriptions. These are now exposed to injury and to depredations by villagers. The difficulty in the case both of the old Paphian ruins and of others in Cyprus is to find funds for the proper protection and custody of these remains. The museum has before it a programme of what should provide interesting work during the present year, and add considerably to its treasures.

Cypriots in the Greek Army of Defence.

The President of the Alexandria Branch of the Committee of Relief, M. Michel Sinadino, has remitted a sum of money in aid of families of Cypriots who have joined the Venizelist National Army, accompanied by a letter to the Archbishop of Cyprus, begging that he will undertake its distribution according to his discretion. A list of the volunteers is sent, and the Archbishop is asked to cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the families concerned. General Lapathiotis states that the National Army at Salonika now numbers nearly 60,000, and should by the end of January reach about 80,000. The General is, as his name implies, a Cypriot from the village of Lápathos, in the Kyrenia District.

General News.

The Greek Christmas and New Year's Day were celebrated quietly on January 7 and 14. The food question continues to agitate the public. At Christmas very little meat was found in the Nicosia markets, and what there was was of the poorest quality. People had to be content with vegetarian fare. Regulations have been in many cases evaded, animals being slaughtered outside the municipal slaughter-houses, and the meat taken to private houses, instead of being exposed in the markets. Papers blame the police, quite unjustly, as they carry out their duties energetically. Government is said to contemplate further measures relating to prices and the protection of the public. Amongst the articles of which the export is prohibited are beans and meal made from pulse, rice and ground rice. Several bakers in the capital are now making bread made of one part wheat and two parts barley. This is sold at 3 piastres (4d.) the oke of 2 4/5 lbs.

The new Greek Archbishop is showing great activity in matters relating to the Church, including that of the better education of the priesthood.

A concert is to be given on January 26 at Nicosia by members of an English club, under the patronage of Sir John Clauson, in aid of soldiers and sailors who have been blinded in the war. It will be held in the Papadopoulos Theatre, and is sure of success.

WITH THE ENEMY IN THE BALKANS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Bucharest in German Hands.

From the Dutch papers it is possible to get a fairly accurate picture of the changes wrought by German rule in the Near East. The *Handelsblad* correspondent gives a description of Roumania under the new governor-general, which may not be without interest to those who knew the country in happier days. The change, so far as the capital was concerned, came suddenly. Until the invaders were almost at the city the Bucharesters maintained their round of pleasure—indeed, one correspondent compares them, not to their advantage, with the Parisian in August, 1914. Until the end of November the Capsa Restaurant went on catering lavishly for the idle rich, and not till the city was given up did the old order give place to the new, when the military took over everything, fixing prices and suppressing extravagance.

The *Handelsblad* writer gives an account of an interview he had with M. Peter Carp. It was difficult, he says, to get the old man to talk without reserve on questions of home politics; but he adds that it was not difficult to gauge his feelings, and the rest could be filled in from the conversation of his followers, who spoke their minds quite freely. They had no doubt that their country would retain its independence, but there would be another king. The Dobruja, they thought, would probably go and possibly a piece of Wallachia, while a portion of Moldavia might have to be ceded to Russia. They further expressed their thankfulness that so many Roumanians had been captured, and so spared for the future of the nation.

In Bulgar Prisons.

Another Dutch correspondent (this time in the *Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant*) gives details of the prisoners of war interned in Bulgaria. No official lists are issued, but the figures are approximately as follows: 37,000 Serbians, 12,000 Russians, 20,000 Roumanians, 900 French, 200 Italians, 500 British, together with a few Japanese who were with the Russian Army, a few Venizelist Greeks, and some Portuguese and Spanish volunteers in the French service. The camps in which they live are outside Philippopolis, at Stara Zagora, by Lovetsh, and at Uskub. The first named is described as being in no way inferior to the majority of such camps in other belligerent countries. It is situated a few minutes outside the town in a healthy location on the banks of the river. The men live in wooden erections, the various nationalities being quartered separately, though having their meals in common. It is said that the British and French consider the diet meagre, but the others are apparently satisfied. They get each day a kilo. of bread and each week three-quarters of a kilo. of meat, one kilo. of vegetables and one kilo. of potatoes, in addition to tea and sugar. The clothing, we read, is not satisfactory; but it is pointed out that the Bulgarians have difficulty in supplying their own army. The prisoners, therefore, are dependent on the Legations and various charities. The British, as usual, are best looked after from home, the French coming next. The poor Serbians, as might be expected, get little, and the Russians less. The Roumanians are worst off, because their organisations are not yet complete.

The officers at Philippopolis live in a stone building in the camp. Formerly they were quartered in hotels and houses in the town and given a fair amount of freedom. But some months ago there were attempts at escape by some of the British and French, and since then they have been confined to camp, being forbidden to leave without special reason, and then only under guard. It is said that the military authorities are considering the abolition of this restriction in the case of Staff officers and, perhaps, others as well.

A despatch from Athens reports that the Greek division in Corfu has completed its evacuation of the island.

A Paris court-martial has unanimously sentenced to death a Roumanian named Sani Lieberman, forty-two years of age, a chemist by profession, born at Tutova of German parents, who, while in Paris, furnished Germany with information likely to prejudice French military operations.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

NEWS OF SYRIA.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 19.

A Terrible Record.

The informant whom I quoted in my letter of yesterday's date* deals in some detail with the causes which have brought about the state of famine in Syria. These may be briefly summarised thus: requisitioning by the Government of staple articles of foodstuffs; commandeering of beasts of burden and the taking over of the railways exclusively for military transport; locust invasion; the paralysis of certain industries and trades, such as the silk industry, which used to provide employment for large numbers of the working classes; the blockade; the greed of a few unscrupulous individuals, who, profiting by the Government's apathy, played with prices at will; and, finally, the interruption of remittances from Syrian emigrants abroad.

Famine paved the way for sickness and epidemics, which, owing to the almost total absence of doctors and drugs, played terrific havoc. In the town of Homs alone, it is said, not less than 6,000 deaths from fever were reported. This state of things excited the compassion of the American missionaries, who formed societies for distributing food among the poor and tending the sick; but the authorities actually stopped this work of mercy, saying that they would undertake it themselves. The result was that the death-roll from hunger and disease assumed appalling proportions, so that by the end of last August the total number of deaths from hunger was estimated at 60,000, and from disease at a little less. These figures are borne out by the estimate of the American Government itself, which put the total at over 60,000.

Deportation of Armenians.

With regard to Armenians, it is said that Urfa, Tarsus, Adana, Casere and Mersine, and the whole of Northern Syria have been practically cleared of them, the Government having sent them all away to Mesopotamia, and that the majority perished on the way. Their properties and belongings have been distributed among the Turks who emigrated from Asia Minor. All that remains of Armenian property in Syria are the convents of El Sherfe and Bzummareen—the latter in Mt. Lebanon—the monks in these two convents having been allowed to remain.

Military Service.

As to military service, the first exoneration tax of £T1.44 remained in force for some time, when an additional tax of £T1.33 was imposed; and, finally, on October 26 the semi-official papers of Constantinople proclaimed the Government's intention of calling to the colours all Ottomans, including those who had paid the tax. In the latter case, it was added, the Government would refund the tax by monthly instalments of £T2, as from the beginning of this year. As the Turkish Government has lately denounced the Treaty of Berlin, it is expected that the Lebanese will soon be placed on the same footing as the inhabitants of the vilayets and will be similarly mobilized.

Relief from America.

Since the above information was made public, further news about Syria has been received, which relieves the gloomy picture. The writer has just received a private letter from an American lady in the States, dated December 7, saying that much food and funds are being sent to Syria; that when she left Syria in June last, figs and grapes promised to be abundant, and that the colleges and schools were opening. Shortly after this copies of Arabic papers published in New York were received, containing welcome news of the arrival of the relief ship *Cæsar* at New York to complete loading and proceed direct to Beyrout. The value of her cargo is estimated at about one-quarter of a million dollars. She will carry also the funds collected by the American Relief Committee in aid of the Syrians and Armenians—which are said to amount to 2,018,900 dollars—as well as those collected by the Syrian Relief Committee.

* See THE NEAR EAST, February 2.

THE PROGRESS OF SERBIA.

A course of lectures on the government of small nations is in progress at the headquarters of the Irish Literary Society, 20, Hanover Square. It was brilliantly inaugurated on January 8 by Dr. Sophie Bryant, LL.D., D.Sc., who expounded the principle of nationality—perhaps the most outstanding fact at this momentous crisis. On Saturday afternoon Mr. C. R. Cooke-Taylor, who has spent a year in Serbia under the Red Cross, took the chair at a lecture on that country delivered by Prof. Pavle Popovitch, of Belgrade University. The latter gave his audience a most interesting sketch of his country's early history, and of her recent advance from barbarism to civilisation. A century ago Serbia was a Turkish Pashalik, which is equivalent to saying that her people suffered from chronic corruption, lawlessness, and oppression. The little country had only ten inferior schools, and barely one in a thousand of its population could read or write. In 1815 a herdsman named Milosh Obrenovitch headed an insurrection which drove out the Turkish garrison in a single campaign. With Russian help he secured a measure of autonomy for Serbia; and in 1829 the Sultan was forced to recognise him as hereditary Prince. A new era opened under his grandson, Prince Michael. That enlightened statesman softened the acerbities of faction, maintained the supremacy of law, organized an effective citizen army, and placed foreign relations on a sound basis. To him Serbia owes the introduction of printing and an elaborate system of secondary education. At his death by an assassin's knife in 1868 Serbia had made giant strides on the path of civilisation. Prof. Popovitch touched lightly on the modern history of his country, the outlines of which are now fairly well known in England. Serbia's progress in education is not so generally recognized; and the audience was surprised to learn that, in 1914, she had a well-equipped university, with many schools teaching literature, arts, and crafts.

Speaking of the events that led to the present war, Prof. Popovitch said that when the last war with Bulgaria was over and the treaty of Bucharest signed, the people of Serbia hoped to devote themselves to the arts of peace; but, unfortunately, the present war followed. The Austrian Red Book contained a statement that the news of the assassination of the Archduke was received with transports of joy, but this was an abominable lie. It was said, too, that Serbia provoked the war; this was an absurd calumny, for the Serbs knew too well the odds against them, and were full of anxiety. At the time a peasant woman had said to him: "I have two sons who have been in the Turkish and Bulgarian wars. We beat the Turks, but my son told me they were good soldiers; we beat the Bulgars, though my son told me they were much better soldiers than the Turks. If we now beat the Austrians our glory will be known to all Europe, but my son told me the Austrians have so many soldiers that they almost swarm." When the enemy entered the country in November, 1914, with a vast army, Serbia shivered from head to foot, but arose as one man. Everyone was called to the colours. He remembered one snowy day about a hundred students from the university joined, and were distributed over various regiments. It was felt by some of those in authority that Serbia ought to conserve her supply of men of this class, and it was proposed to give them a post in the rear. He (the speaker) had ventured to propose this to one of them; but, "No," was the reply. "Do not speak to me of that; I have been sent to the fighting line, and I am going. I do not want to be reproached all my life with having sheltered myself from dangers to which my comrades were exposed." Four days later came the news that the young man had met his death on the field of battle. When the time came that the Serbians would be able to re-enter their country they would find nothing left of what was once the fine university of Belgrade; for the students were dead, the buildings wrecked, and the books stolen or destroyed.

Miss Eleanor Hull, President of the Irish Literary Society, Mr. Alfred Percival Graves, and Mr. Francis H. Skrine took part in the discussion that followed. The speaker last-named drew a striking parallel between the Serbian and the Irish characters. Both races, he said, had an intense love of poetry, a disposition to "let things slide," and a disregard of monetary considerations. Both were quick-witted, emotional, and brave to a fault. The Entente's treatment of their brilliant and devoted ally was a discreditable episode in the world-war now raging; but there was still time to repair the consequences of vacillation and blundering diplomacy.

A vote of thanks to Prof. Popovitch was carried by acclamation, and he promised to deliver another lecture, on Serbian literature, at a later date.

The deportations in Belgium have now been extended to resident Roumanian subjects of sixteen to sixty years of age, who are being taken to Germany for internment.



**THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT**

may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Lescums, Walves,
Bamias, &c.

Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

By JOSEPH OFFORD, M.S.B.

When the celebrated "Code" of laws of the Babylonian King Hammurapi was found, at Susa, by the French explorers, about five columns which must have set forth some thirty-five sections of the Code were erased, probably because the Elamite king who carried away the stele from Mesopotamia had levelled the space to insert some record of his own. From time to time other copies of parts of the missing Code are found; for instance, several paragraphs are upon a tablet in the Constantinople Museum. Some seven or eight of the lost sections are preserved upon tablets in the University of Pennsylvania Museum, and were published in 1914 by Arno Poebel. These have now been edited by Père Scheil, the first editor of the Code, in the "Revue d'Assyriologie." They all concern loans, either of money or what was its equivalent in those days before the invention of a coinage, or of grain; and regulate, in some cases, the legal amount of interest and punishment, for having given short measure, or the commission of other irregularities. These new-found clauses will be particularly useful to scholars, because they concern cases of dispute which are described in hundreds of the, so-called, "contract tablets," and will enable us to follow the decisions of the magistrates as being based upon the ordinances of the Code.

It is well known that the names of Abraham and Terah, or Tarah, and Peleg, or Palga, have been found as borne by Babylonians of about the same time that Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees. A very old cylinder of the time known as the Epoch of Agade, that is to say, when that town happened to be one of the chief cities of Babylonia, bears an archaic inscription, the cuneiform characters being almost pictorial in their arrangement, which gives the name Ishre-il, or Ishre-el. This is really identical with the Biblical Israel, and is not surprising, because such names as Ishma-il had already been found in Babylonia. Its occurrence is important in connection with the fact of an Egyptian Pharaoh having recorded a war in Palestine with a tribe called Israel, at a date previous to Joshua's conquest of the country; because it tends to show that Israel was a not uncommon name, and, therefore, the foes of the Egyptian king need not have been connected with the Hebrews directly.

The permanence of the names of districts and cities in Western Asia is extraordinary, considering the vicissitudes of conquest by various races that these lands have undergone. The veteran scholar Professor A. H. Sayce has recently given further important illustrations of this in an essay, "The Northern Campaigns of Sargon of Akkad," published in the "Proceedings" of the Society of Biblical Archaeology. Sargon's career may be dated about 3800 B.C. An inscription of his, now in the United States, found at Nippur, records his conquest of cities named Mari, Ibla, and Earmutia, and towards the extreme north-western series of his foray, the "Cedar Forest" and the "Silver Mountains."

Mari is the Mrrha of the Classics, now Tel-el-Ishara, close to Der-az-Zor, on the Euphrates. It is mentioned by Thotmes III. of Egypt, about 1600 B.C., as also are Ibla and Earmutia; so are Amaiqu, the Amyke of the Greeks, and Khalbu or Aleppo. The "forest mountain" is Amanus, and the "Silver" one Mount Taurus. Amanus is Amanus in the Babylonian inscription of Gudea. The great production of the Taurus silver deposits under the Hittite dominion caused this metal—which at one time was, in Egypt, more valuable than gold—to become second in price of the then known precious metals for all time.

During the last twenty years some scores of large clay bowls have been dug up in Mesopotamia bearing Hebrao-Aramaic magical texts. Most of these have been edited by M. Moise Schwaab, of Paris, and Professor Montgomery in the United States. Their dialect is found to be identical with that contained in some of the ancient manuscripts discovered in the sand-covered cities of Thibet. As literature their value is nil, but their strange sentences and mystical words are now found useful as illustrating the Greek magical papyri from Egypt, all of which appear to ascribe their potent powers to Semitic names, repeated many times under various disguises, frequently written backwards and acrostically.

Dr. M. Gaster has been for some time publishing a number of Samaritan phylacteries and amulets, and finds the bowl inscriptions, the papyri, and his texts all mutually illustrate each other. They are also connected with the words and symbols upon the thousands of so-called Gnostic seals and amulets. The whole subject shows the depth of the folly of human credulity; for there can be no doubt that all these documents and inscribed talismans, as far as being protective or really prophetic, were absolute rubbish. They were only produced because they could be sold to people of

means at high prices. We, however, have recently seen how, notwithstanding the vast strides of science and civilisation, similar charlatans obtain a livelihood by kindred malpractices to-day.

JEW IN MODERN JERUSALEM.

Addressing a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie last Monday on the subject of her recent experiences in Jerusalem, Miss Helena Frank gave an interesting account of some of the Jewish inhabitants of that city. She said most of the Jews now there are of Polish birth or descent; but there are colonies from a number of other lands, and notably one of Sephardim Jews, who have been in Jerusalem now for three centuries, and speak old Spanish and Arabic. Between these and the Polish community there is not much connection. Outside the town there is a colony of Jews from Bokhara, who still dress in old-fashioned Persian costumes. You may meet a boy dressed in one very tightly-buttoned, cherry-coloured silk garment, or a group of ladies in the most beautiful sky-blue, green, scarlet, cherry, or lemon-coloured silks, wonderful to behold. The members of this community are fairly well off, but there is another colony of poorer Persian Jews. There is still another settlement of Jews from the south of Arabia. These work on the land, and are a very attractive, simple people.

The work that Miss Frank was occupied with concerned little Jewish *chedar* boys, whose days were passed in Rabbinical schools studying the Talmud. Of these *chedars*, she said the Persian was about the worst. She described her visit. Going into the school the atmosphere was enough to send her out again. It was a little room, nearly dark; if it contained a window, that window was not made to open. In the middle of the room was a little stove, behind the stove along the wall there was a shelf, and to the right of the door was a bedstead. The tutor was a nice old man, sitting on the floor. Besides him, there were in this small and half-dark room twenty-eight children, from three to seven years of age, all busy learning. On the bedstead a child of five was teaching the Hebrew alphabet to children of three or four. On the floor were other children learning from the tutor, while still others sat on the shelf waiting, with folded arms, until their turn should come. Of the twenty-eight children, twenty had some form or other of eye disease, and the teacher also was afflicted in the same way. The Polish *chedars* were not so bad as this. Some lady doctors, friends of Miss Frank, established a clinic for the treatment of children suffering from trachoma or other eye diseases. Of the patients, said Miss Frank, the most typical was little Moishel. He was five years old, fair-haired, with curly earlocks. He wore always two caps, an inner one of white wool and a heavy black cap outside. Besides these, he wore a kaftan coming down to his feet, tied with a girdle round his waist, and under his arm he always carried a large black book. He was one of the first to attend the clinic, and continued to do so until his father left Jerusalem.

CENTRAL ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

The Central Islamic Society is losing its president, for Prince Abdul Karim Khan of Sachin will shortly be returning to India after spending fourteen years in this country being educated. Last Saturday, at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, the Society gave him a farewell reception which was attended by about 130 people, among others whom we noticed as present being Professor and Mrs. H. Léon, Syed El-Bakry, the Hon. Mirza Ali Baig, Mr. and Mrs. M. Pickthall, Mrs. Ellen Dickinson, Miss Claridge, and Messrs. S. M. H. Kidwai, Duse Mohammed, J. Fisher, H. N. Flewker, and Sydney Moggeridge. Tea was provided, and there was a musical programme to which Miss Shirazi, Miss Romé, the Misses Sammons and the Versatile Four contributed.

Mr. Ispahani, acting President of the Society, wished the Prince a safe voyage home and a useful career in his new sphere of life. Among the objects of the Central Islamic Society, he said, one was to inform public opinion by lectures, publications, and in every possible manner as to the true spirit of Islam. Another was to enlighten our own and other Governments who had Moslem subjects—there were 140 million such in the British Empire—as to the inner thoughts of the Moslem world. Among problems raised by the war were those affecting the Khalifate, and he trusted these would be dealt with in a way that would not only have regard to Moslem feeling, but would also enable Islam to be again a power of light and leading in the world.

The Prince, replying, said that he felt a natural elation at the idea of returning home after so long an absence, and also at the thought of having achieved the object which he had come here to attain; at the same time he could not bear the thought of leaving so many happy associations of his young days, and so many kind friends.

Lecturing recently at the Jewish Institute, Bradford, Mr. F. C. Kramrisch (the Serbian Consul in that town) said that Serbia was one of the few States that treated the Jews with freedom and respect and allowed them full human rights. "At the present time," he continued, "we are cut off from our members abroad, and we must think of and sympathise with our co-religionists in the East of Europe, who are enduring the most appalling hardships and misery. We must hope and pray that after our victory in this unprecedented war Great Britain and her Allies will grant our suffering brethren a home and refuge in Palestine, where they can live unmolested and practise the religion of their forefathers."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

"THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Many are the speculations regarding the future of Palestine, but few people have anything very tangible to suggest, except the so-called visionary, who looks outside and beyond all present political considerations. Miss Blyth, in her most interesting articles, suggests various expedients, the most obvious of which is that Great Britain should take the southern portion of Palestine under her care, and administer it like Egypt. That may, and probably will, be the outcome of this present war, but what of the future?

Miss Blyth has, I think, underrated the idea of Jewish nationality among the Jews themselves, and compares them unfavourably in this respect with the Armenians. The Jew through centuries of persecution has been compelled to suppress any outward parade of his aspirations or nationality, but few doubt that it still exists. No one denies that among Jews there are many "freethinkers"; but if one takes the percentage of the devout amongst them, I think that it will compare favourably with any other creed. It is well known that one of the most solemn parts of the Passover service, performed by Jews in every country, are the words "this year here, next year in Jerusalem," which testifies to their national belief in their restoration to Palestine. Also it is a remarkable fact that immediately after the Constitution had been granted to the Turks, there was an extraordinary revival of Hebrew as a spoken language amongst the Jews of Palestine, so much so that it is now spoken, not only in the home, but in the shop, not only in the classrooms of the schools, but in the playground, taking the place of the Yiddish patois that had hitherto been used. Not only that but the British and Foreign Bible Society had to recast the whole of their printing arrangements to meet the demand amongst Jews for the whole Bible in Hebrew.

Political prophets have again and again proved themselves wrong, so that one wonders where we are to turn for any hint as to the future. Let us turn for a moment to the Law and the Testimony, and see whether the Bible gives us any light on the subject. The book by Daniel told the Jews of his day of the four world empires that were to arise, and although desperate and fanatical attempts have been made by the self-styled "Higher Critics" to discredit the book as a late forgery, the bricks of Babylonia, and the papyri of Egypt, have dragged him safely out of the critics' den. That is past; but what of the future?

Everyone acknowledges that Jerusalem has been trodden under foot by the Gentiles, that Gentile power being the Turk. Students of the Bible said that the Turkish power was to wane, and the Promised Land to be released from their domination. A few years ago when the Young Turk Party rose to power, political prophets said that a new era had arisen for the Turkish Empire, and from a human standpoint the power of Turkey was riveted more firmly on Palestine than ever. But what is the result? The very thing that was to have been the renovating of Turkey has proved the chief, if not the only, cause of its collapse, and the very thing that will probably release Palestine from its grip.

That is present, but what of the future? Let us again go to the Bible. There we find that the whole of the Promised Land was given by God unconditionally to the seed of Abraham. It is well here to realize what the Promised Land includes; Palestine is only a small portion of it. The land given to Abraham by God is that part of the earth between the Nile and the Euphrates, and includes British East Africa, Abyssinia, Sudan, Egypt, Arabia, Mesopotamia, and last, but not least, Syria—truly a good heritage.

The Jews are now (apart from war conditions) flocking back to Palestine, and form at present the most numerous of the races which inhabit Jerusalem; in fact, it can now be called a Jewish city. The Bible tells us that in the future there will be a Jewish state in Palestine, and that the Jews representatively will return there, aided and probably protected by Israel. Jerusalem will then become the metropolis of the world. How can an inland city become a world centre in these modern times? But wait; we are also told that the tongue of the Egyptian Sea will be dried up. This undoubtedly refers to the Gulf of Suez, and when that takes place the Suez Canal will become unusable. But the same convulsion of nature (or probably the same) will divide the Mount of Olives and cause a highway (waterway) to

appear from the Mediterranean through Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. That means that the level of the latter will be raised 1,300 ft., that again will cause it to overflow and join the Gulf of Akaba, which will make the most magnificent natural waterway that the world has ever seen, connecting East and West, with Jerusalem at its centre situated in the midst of an extraordinarily fertile country. And who will say that this convulsion of nature will not alter the features and climate of the Great Syrian and Arabian deserts, so that they, too, shall blossom as the rose?

The mind can hardly grasp the possibilities of this waterway, but we know it must come, and then the visions of Israel's seers will be an actual fact, and the future of Palestine will need no more discussion.—I am, etc.,

VICTOR L. TRUMPER

Port Said.

(Lieut.-Com., R.N.R.).

THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

Speaking last Wednesday at the London School of Economics on the Historical Causes of Problems of the Near East, the Hon. W. P. Reeves described the Byzantine Empire as it existed from about 400 A.D. to 1050 A.D. He said it was a despotism, but an enlightened one. It had a disciplined and very efficient army and navy, and a trained civil service. Its population was never completely reduced to serfage as was that of western Europe, and edict after edict of the Emperors showed the care that was taken by them to preserve the class of free peasant proprietors. Its law was the foundation of that of most civilised States to-day. It had country gentlemen who provided the civil service, and officered the army and navy. It had a great commercial class, and Constantinople was the chief trading centre of the epoch. Its galleys came as far as England. The greatest art of Byzantium was architecture, but it had many minor ones. It kept the light of civilisation shining at a time when the dark ages had spread over Europe, and in its death struggle with the barbarous or semi-barbarous nations that surrounded it, it handed over religion and learning to the nations of the West, thus creating the foundations of the Renaissance period which changed the iron-clad brutes of the Middle Ages into civilised peoples. It was a chapter of history that seemed to be forgotten in these days when some of us were inclined to look down upon the Greek Empire; but there was hardly any art in Europe that did not owe a great deal to it.

BELFAST AND SUDAN MISSIONS.

On January 30, at a meeting held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Wellington Place, Belfast, under the auspices of the Belfast and North of Ireland Branch of the Sudan United Mission, the Rev. C. N. Barton, B.A., of the Sudan, delivered an interesting lecture, illustrated by limelight views. The chairman, Mr. J. Hamilton McCleery, referred to the work of Mr. Barton in going through the country and stirring up interest in the Sudan. Before he left the Sudan a year ago, when he came home on furlough, he had been doing a splendid work, and they wished him god-speed when he returned to it. In the North of Ireland they had set themselves to raise £1,000 for a new mission station in the Sudan, and of that amount £400 had been subscribed. They hoped that the remainder would come in so that the work might grow more and more.

Rev. C. N. Barton, in the course of his lecture, referred to the extension of trade under the protection of British rule in the Sudan. He then described the people who, he said, lost a very large percentage of their children before they were one year old, as a result of superstitious practices. The people were constantly in dread of spirits, and it was pitiable to see mothers weeping over their dead, looking up to heaven, and questioning God as to why their loved ones had been taken away. Referring to the work of the mission, he said they did not go in for numbers, but to see that every man was a true believer in God. They had eleven stations and five out-stations at present, but what were they among so many people? Now was the time to go in and win these tribes.

NEW TURKISH CABINET.

According to a Constantinople telegram, the Grand Vizier, Said Halim, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health, says a Reuter's message sent off from Amsterdam on February 5. The Sultan has accepted the resignation, and has entrusted Talaat Bey with the formation of a new Cabinet, which is as follows:—

Grand Vizier, Minister of the Interior and temporarily Minister of Finance	Talaat Bey
Sheikh-ul-Islam and Minister of Wakuf	Moussa Kiazim Effendi
Minister for Foreign Affairs	Messimy Bey
Minister of Justice and President of the State Council	Halil Bey
Minister of War	Enver Pasha
Minister of Marine	Jemal Pasha
Minister of Public Instruction, Posts and Telegraphs	Shukri Bey
Minister of Commerce and Agriculture	Shereef Bey
Minister of Public Works	Ali Murad Bey, Governor of the Lebanon

The Sultan has conferred upon Talaat Bey the title of Vizier and Pasha.

The telegram adds that the new Cabinet will energetically prosecute the war in conjunction with Turkey's Allies until the attainment of final victory.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE BALKAN TANGLE.*

The Near Eastern question has agitated Europe without intermission for half a century, and has been a nightmare to every peaceably inclined Chancellery throughout that period. But the fact remains that until the outbreak of the present war there was in most countries a very indifferent appreciation of the full meaning—to say nothing of the details—of the problem. Even now it must be reluctantly admitted that the British public, although its interest has been stimulated, is far from being in a position to realize the significance of all that is at stake in a satisfactory solution of the vexed question. There is also reason to suppose that for at least some months after the outbreak of the war a considerable amount of ignorance prevailed in high quarters, and that no anomaly was found in attempting to settle one aspect of the question without reference either to the other parts of it or to the other parties interested. In these circumstances there can hardly be too many books on the subject of the Near East and the settlement. There are, indeed, enough angles from which the problem can be viewed to give variety to a large number of analyses, and it is only by a careful study of the different claims and aspirations that any solution which may hope to attain finality can be reached.

In the volume before us we have the Serbian point of view of the Near Eastern tangle and the best way of unravelling it. Probably we may regard it also as the point of view of the Jugo-Slavs or Southern Slavs, in this term being included the Serbo-Croat peoples and Slovenes inhabiting the Austrian provinces of Carniola, Istria, Croatia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro. The qualification of a "probably" is justified by the fact—to which the author calls attention—that, although a Jugo-Slav State is contemplated as a result of the war, it is impossible to state at this stage on what basis it will be arranged, as there can be no agreement reached between the component parts. The Croats are Catholic Slavs; but the exponents of Jugo-Slav views reject the contention that any differences of religion, customs, or dialect can in any way affect the solidarity of the future State. It must be accepted as an axiom that a Serbo-Croat-Slovene State can and will be formed, but, in regard to its actual constitution, "nobody is at present able fully to answer that question with even a shade of authority."

Any scheme put forward in this respect, however ingenious and well-founded, represents nothing but personal views, and is, therefore, of little value; and sometimes, if not stated with all necessary reserve or caution, may easily be misunderstood and lead to false conclusions." In this respect, it will be noted, Jugo-Slav aspirations differ from Roumanian, inasmuch as there can be no doubt as to the future of any additional territory acquired by Roumania; it will, of course, be incorporated in the existing kingdom. The point is perhaps not unimportant in a consideration of the Near Eastern question, for the reason that, if the establishment of Jugo-Slavia as a homogeneous State is likely to present such difficulties that warnings have to be uttered against any theories which may be devised now in regard to its future constitution, then the greatest care must be exercised in not overloading the embryo State with more problems in the matter of territory and mixed populations than it is likely to be able to assimilate. In other words, if Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes may be expected to have all their attention occupied for some time to come in arranging the basis of their own confederation, they ought to be on their guard against complicating their task with the presence in the new State of Italians, Roumanians, and Bulgarians. A *sine qua non* for the settlement after the war is that all concerned should be in a position to settle down to quiet, ordered government in the shortest possible time.

M. Vasitch is quite right in taking the British public to task for its ignorance of the Near Eastern question; he is equally right in assuming that Britons now approach the question with a strong bias in favour of the Serbians. At the same time he must not forget the ignorance and the past prejudices, and if he appeals to Great Britain as a final arbiter he ought to be careful not to overstate his case. Compromise is not, or ought not to be, the same as bargaining in the matter of judicial awards; and the Southern Slavs will do well not to strain the good case they have, with the idea, as they may persuade themselves, of having a margin to surrender in the final settlement without incurring any real sacrifice on their part. It would be most regrettable if those who may have the responsibility of fixing the frontiers in Near Eastern Europe were forced to the conclusion that the different nationalities were all claiming so much that it was impossible to arrive at an accurate determination of the

truth, and that therefore they would be adopting the safest plan in cutting off more or less haphazardly portions from each claim. An accurate delimitation or at least a satisfactory approximation to it, should be possible; but to enable it to be carried into effect will call for a dispassionate attitude on the part of the chief claimants.

The Jugo-Slav scheme which has the support of M. Vasitch is nothing if not complete. Italy is to be excluded entirely from Dalmatia and Carniola, and her claims upon Istria, Trieste, and Goritzia "are untenable as a whole." M. Vasitch, however, recognises that "here some compromise is necessary," and is of opinion that it could be easily effected "if both sides were equally animated by the sincere desire for a peaceful settlement." Unfortunately he does not suggest any basis for a compromise, as he leaves the matter with an emphatic "*Cave canem*" addressed to Italy in regard to the three districts where the compromise is to be effected. On the east the new Jugo-Slav State is to extend to the Isker river, for the reason that "Serbia must be protected from any future outburst of Bulgarian hate and vengeance." But in dealing with Italy our author uttered a very impressive warning against the argument of "strategic frontiers." Thus: "The reason of strong strategic frontiers has always been a trump card in the hands of the militarists of every State and a constant source of friction among European nations. . . . The direct results of such a policy have been fear and hatred, and their lawful heir the military burdens under which the European nations have laboured during the last sixty years. How can we expect or hope that an Italian occupation of the Serbo-Croatian provinces and the enslavement by her of a million of Southern Slavs can give different results?" According to this line of argument, it is very evident that there must be no "enslavement" of Bulgarians, Greeks, or Roumanians by the Jugo-Slavs. A potential Southern Slav State of fourteen million inhabitants has little reason to fear aggression on the part of a State of only five million inhabitants. The bogey of Bulgarian "hate and vengeance" conjured up in these pages could only materialize if the "enslavement" of Bulgarians took place. M. Vasitch would be on safer ground if he attributed to all the nations of South-Eastern Europe the sweet reasonableness he counts on finding among the Roumanians and Greeks. The claims of Serbia in respect of the Banat, he points out, are complicated by the presence of large numbers of Roumanians; but he hopes to find the Roumanians inspired "with a lofty determination for complete agreement." "No petty quarrel over a few villages in the Banat should mar the good relations between them." But just as the Italians have to give way all along the line to the Southern Slavs, so must the Roumanians. Again, Greece ought not to prevent Serbia "from completing her unity and independence by obtaining free access to Salonika." "It is in the best interest of Greece that the Allies should solve the question of Salonika, taking into account the real factors which dominate it." The Greeks "can be compensated by some other port and territories in Asia Minor." Surely the "lofty determination" which is to be met with in Roumania and Greece ought to exist to an even greater extent among the Southern Slavs and make them ready to incur many sacrifices of which M. Vasitch offers not the least hint.

"The Reconstruction of South-Eastern Europe" is not only instructive in the information which it imparts on the Balkan tangle, but it gives the reader an insight into the nature of the difficulties other than territorial which complicate the problem. On page 179 our author gives the following version of the formation of the Balkan League:—"Ferdinand approached Serbia at the moment when she was most disposed for making the greatest concessions in Macedonia in exchange for the promise of some help and co-operation against Austria-Hungary. Thus the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of Alliance was signed in 1912, and the Balkan League, embracing Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro, was formed in the same year."

Such a version can only convey an entirely misleading idea of the genesis and purpose of the League. It is generally accepted that the idea of a Balkan League originated with or at least was set in motion by M. Venizelos, and that it was directed against Turkey. The Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of Alliance was a part of M. Venizelos' scheme, and it is not correct to represent the Balkan League as growing out of the alliance between Serbia and Bulgaria. Clearly, when such recent happenings are liable to misinterpretation, the reading of anterior tendencies and events must also be checked, if the object in view is to gain an absolutely impartial knowledge of Balkan history. But that is the duty of the judge. Before he sums up it is the province of counsel to state his case as lucidly and as brilliantly as his powers allow. The Jugo-Slav cause has found an able exponent in M. Vasitch. His main contention, that the interests of Europe require the formation of a strong Southern Slav State, is an axiom with THE NEAR EAST, and the suggestion in this review that Serbia as well as Italy and Roumania must leave the door open for a policy of give-and-take is

(* "The Reconstruction of South-Eastern Europe." By Vladislav R. Savic, with a Preface by Sir James George Frazer, Hon. D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D. London. Chapman and Hall, Limited. Price 17s. 6d. net.)

put forward in the confidence that, when the details of the final settlement come be arranged, the responsible statesmen of all the countries concerned will have little difficulty in reaching an equitable understanding.

BOOK NOTES.

Among Messrs. Macmillan's announcements of new books we notice "British Foreign Policy in Europe: A Rough Outline," by Professor H. E. Egerton, who is Beit Professor of Colonial History at Oxford.

Owing to military reasons, we understand, Dr. Ball's "The Geography and Geology of West Central Sinai" will not be issued to the public for the present.

Part 128 of "The Times History of the War" deals with Sir Archibald Murray's campaign in Eastern Egypt in 1916. The Darfur campaign and the operations in the Aden hinterland are also described.

BOOK RECEIVED.

With Kitchener in Cairo. By Sydney A. Moseley. (Cassell, 5s. net.)

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The value of the work done in Egypt by Lord Cromer has been recognized for some time by his countrymen; and though he was not always regarded with unmixed admiration by the type of man who sets the worth of words above that of deeds and would sacrifice solid gain for the gratification of his own pet theories, he was, I think, sincerely respected by even the most ardent Radicals at the last. They were forced by the logic of facts to realize that his views upon Egypt were sounder than their own, and in their hearts they must to-day feel deeply thankful that his ideas, not theirs, prevailed. But it seems to me that the obituary writers might well have made more of two features of Lord Cromer's recent activities: his work in connection with the establishment of the London School of Oriental Studies, and his labours as Chairman of the Dardanelles Commission. For the former cause he worked hard indeed; for, though he never learned Arabic during all the years he spent in Egypt, he knew—no one better—the importance to any official of being master of the language of the country in which he has to work; and it is hardly an exaggeration to say that but for his steady persistence, we might still lack such a school in our capital. As to the Dardanelles Commission, it always seemed to me that his lordship's acceptance of the chairmanship was one of the bravest and most unselfish things he did for his country. At the time he took up the duties his health was already in a very precarious condition; and the prospect of presiding over a Commission which could hardly fail to have much painful evidence to examine, cannot have been a pleasant one. But Lord Cromer was not the man to ask himself: "Will it be pleasant for me?" or "Will it make me popular?" He saw his duty clear—and did it. And therein, I believe, lay the secret of his great success. Would that we had more public men of his stamp.

The Turk—even the Young Turk—has not yet lost the sense of humour—or is it the utter lack of the sense of humour? I can never feel quite sure!—that used to characterise him in happier days. The University of Constantinople has, I observe, recommended the Kaiser as a suitable candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize! That, surely, would take a great deal of beating? It is open to anyone, of course, to argue that the outbreak of "frightfulness" may quite well eventually go far to make war unlikely in the future. But one hardly imagines that the Turks looked at the matter in that light in making their recommendation. Personally I am inclined to suspect that they must have wanted to prove that if the Kaiser could make himself supremely ridiculous, as he did in his proclamation regarding the promotion of his hopeful heir to be a General of Infantry, they could go one better in that direction. But if that be so, I am not at all sure that they have succeeded. For to me it seems that the Kaiser's performance is quite unapproachable!

The Editor of *Poultry* has, I see, been studying my disquisition upon the eggs of the Near East, and he pays me the compliment of reproducing some of my remarks for the benefit (I trust!) of his readers. But alas! he then adds:—

"Corsair gloriously maintained his reputation as an egg manipulator, even in the City of the Seven Noisome Effluvia. Surely he has not forgotten the quantities he consumed in the form of prairie oyster while he resided

in Baghdad at a house euphoniously named "Angels' Rest," as guest of a certain Englishman now fighting for his country, as an artilleryman somewhere in France?"

It looks to me as if a little bird—or a big bird; for it may have been a Buff Orpington—must have been libelling me. For, if I am not mistaken, a "prairie oyster" is a rather deadly American concoction, in which whiskey plays a leading part; and if that be so, I do assure the Editor of *Poultry* that I never consumed even one P.O. Indeed, the City of the Khalifs did not produce such luxuries in my time, I fancy; though other mixed poisons in which whiskey was an ingredient were not unknown.

In case the reference to the "Angels' Rest" may puzzle any reader, I may add that it was an eminently respectable, if happy-go-lucky, bachelor establishment. How it came by the title would take too long to tell; but it was a joyous house, and I shall always cherish happy memories of my sojourn there. My host, the "certain Englishman" referred to, was one of the very best, and I regard the days spent in his company as some of the happiest in my life. May his guns give the Huns the hammering they so richly deserve, and may he soon return to Old England! But I should like to know the name of that libellous fowl that has been defaming my fair reputation in the matter of the "Prairie Oysters." *Poultry*, it seems to me, is uncannily well informed.

My recent reference to the Praying Mantis that befriended me in my journey up the Euphrates has led a correspondent to ask whether I can confirm stories he has heard of lizards acting as fly-catchers in Baghdad and Busreh. I am afraid I cannot recall seeing anything of the kind in Baghdad, but that is not to say that the stories referred to are not perfectly true. I do remember perfectly well, however, that in Busreh I saw at least one lizard acting as fly-catcher in a house—and doing the job remarkably well. It was at the old British Residency, where I was enjoying the hospitality of our Consul; and the lizard whose feats won my admiration was a little fellow who had his hunting ground in the dining-room. My attention was drawn to him by my host, who said the performance was worth watching; and so indeed I found it. The lizard had his "lair" behind a wall-hanging of some kind—a curtain, if I remember aright—and near a very brightly lighted patch of wall, which attracted the flies. On the advice of my host, I watched this patch closely, though there was as yet no sign of the lizard. Then, suddenly, a fly settled on the wall, and instantly the lizard emerged from his ambush, stalked the fly to within a few inches, then *jumped* and secured his prey most neatly. It struck me as a remarkable performance, and though I saw it repeated many times it never lost its fascination for me. It would have been quite clever on a floor, a table, or any other horizontal plane; but on a vertical plane it seemed almost marvellous. For, as you will understand, Mr. Lizard must have made just the right allowance to counteract the force of gravity that would tend to pull him below the level of the fly. And the fact that the wall was smoothly plastered added to the cleverness of his performance.

This reminds me of another lizard incident; and though I hardly like to recall it, I will do so, because it shows what pluck these little creatures will show. It was on the edge of the desert in Egypt, and I was returning to camp, carrying a steel-shod "lining up" rod. A number of small lizards were scurrying about over the pebbly foothills, and in a thoughtless moment I made a thrust at one of them with my rod. I meant only to strike the ground near him, in order to make him jump; but, by ill fortune, I just touched the tip of his tail. In an instant the poor little fellow had turned round and snapped at the rod; and, as his bad luck would have it, he actually shut his mouth on the iron point. To my regret, I saw that he had torn his mouth so badly that there could be no hope for him, and very reluctantly I resolved to put him out of his misery rather than leave him to become the victim of some hawk or any other of his natural enemies. So I struck again. But the lizard—he was about three inches long at the outside—was not to be so easily disposed of. He snapped at the rod again and sprang at me in the most gallant way. . . . Never, I think, did I feel so contemptible as I did a minute later. I gave him honourable burial, and no hawk, I trust, secured his remains. But I still blush at the recollection of that uneven combat, and never since then have I taken "pot shots" at any lizard.

CORSAIR.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. Feb. 9 10	1917. Jan. 27 28	Friday	1335. Rebi il. 16	5677. Sebat. 17
		Saturday	17	18
11	29	Sunday	18	19
12	30	Monday	19	20
13	31	Tuesday	20	21
14	Feb. 1	Wednesday ..	21	22
15	2	Thursday	22	23

To-morrow is the birthday of Princess Eugenie, the daughter of Prince George of Greece, who was born in Paris on February 10, 1910.

Tuesday is the birthday of Princess Irene of Greece, the second daughter and fifth child of King Constantine, who was born in Athens on January 31, 1904 (O.S.).

A message received in London last Saturday reports that the Sultan of Egypt, in addition to suffering from fever, has had to undergo a slight operation. The message added that he was progressing satisfactorily.

King Ferdinand of Roumania returned to Jassy last week from a visit to the front. His Majesty has been in the Casin sector, and he congratulated the troops there on the admirable spirit they had shown for several months past in face of enemy attacks.

A Reuter's message announces that Sir Walter Townley and Lady Susan Townley arrived in Holland last Friday and proceeded to Amsterdam, where they intended to spend some days.

We are glad to learn that Mme. Také Jonescu is making very favourable progress towards complete recovery from her recent illness.

Madame Nicola Filipescu and her daughters left London for Paris last Friday.

It is officially announced that Sir Paul Harvey, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been appointed Secretary to the Air Board.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated February 2, reports: Mr. Duckworth, the British subject who has been missing from Athens since the disturbances last December, and concerning whose safety anxiety was felt, is now at Salonika.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes (January 17):—The usual Levee was held at the Palace to-day in honour of H.M. King George's visit to the Sudan in 1912. The day is a public holiday, and the town has been decked with flags.

Colonel Kelly, D.S.O., has arrived from El Fasher, and will proceed North after a few days.

Colonel O'Sullivan, R.A.M.C., has arrived in Khartoum on a short visit from Egypt.

The Remnants Pierrots Team went to Atbara to give a performance there. Their visit was a great success, and the residents of Atbara kept their guests very busy.

The Hon. W. Erskine, First Secretary at the Athens Legation, has been appointed Counsellor of Embassy at Rome, in succession to Mr. G. D. Grahame, transferred to Paris; and Mr. Davrell Crackenthorne has been appointed First Secretary at Athens.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES,
London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.
OPENED on 18th JANUARY, 1917. Courses will be held in the Principal Languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East and of Africa. Courses will also be given on Oriental Religions and Customs.
Intending Students are invited to apply at once to the undersigned. E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

Mr. Trowbridge, of the American Mission in Asia Minor, and Mrs. Trowbridge and Mr. Jessop, world's Y.M.C.A. secretary in Egypt, and Mrs. Jessop arrived on a visit to the Sudan last month. After staying a week at Omdurman and Khartoum they left for Doleib Hill to visit the American Mission at that station.

Lady Maxwell, the wife of Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell, has offered the Government one-third of her capital, free of interest, for the duration of the war. The gift, which amounts to about £35,000, is made as a contribution towards the cost of the war. In the course of her letter to the Prime Minister, Lady Maxwell says: "There is so little that we women can do; but I know that one of the chief factors of victory is money. Therefore, I am writing to offer the Government, through you, one-third of my capital, free of any interest whatever, for the duration of the war." A certificate will be given to Lady Maxwell entitling her to repayment three months after the war.

In the list of honours appearing in *The Times* of the 2nd inst. we notice that Temporary Lieutenant S. Hubert La Fontaine has been awarded the Military Cross for services rendered in East Africa. At the outbreak of the war he was Assistant District Commissioner at Taveta, a station quite near the German frontier, when he and a party of eight policemen were attacked by the Germans. Promoted since then to the rank of Captain, and appointed Intelligence Officer to one of the divisions of the Army which invaded German East Africa under General Smuts, he was present at all the operations of that campaign now drawing to an end.

A London committee of the Roumanian Red Cross Society has been started. Its address is at No. 4, Hill Street, Knightsbridge. The President is the Roumanian Minister, M. Mishu, and Lord Bessborough is the treasurer.

M. Alexander Diomede, formerly Minister of Finance in Greece, is now in London, Reuter's Agency states, on a special mission from M. Venizelos. He has already spent some time in Paris, where he repeatedly saw M. Briand and other Ministers. He will remain in London during February, and will have conferences with the Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, Lord Hardinge, and others.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to sanction the appointment of M. Henri Edouard Naville an Honorary Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The *Gazette* last Friday announced that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the posthumous grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Humphry Osbaldeston Brooke Firman, R.N., and Lieutenant-Commander Charles Henry Cowley, R.N.V.R., in recognition of their conspicuous gallantry in an attempt to re-provision the force besieged in Kut-el-Amarah.

The General Officer Commanding, Indian Expeditionary Force "D," reported on this attempt in the following words:—

"At 8 p.m. on April 24, 1916, with a crew from the Royal Navy under Lieutenant Firman, R.N., assisted by Lieutenant-Commander Cowley, R.N.V.R., the Julnar, carrying 270 tons of supplies, left Felahiyah in an attempt to reach Kut. Her departure was covered by all artillery and machine-gun fire that could be brought to bear, in the hope of distracting the enemy's attention. She was, however, discovered and shelled on her passage up the river. At 1 a.m. on the 25th General Townshend reported that she had not arrived, and that at midnight a burst of heavy firing had been heard at Magasis, some 8½ miles from Kut by river, which had suddenly ceased. There could be but little doubt that the enterprise had failed, and the next day the Air Service reported the Julnar in the hands of the Turks at Magasis.

"The leaders of this brave attempt, Lieutenant H. O. B. Firman, R.N., and his assistant—Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley, R.N.V.R.—the latter of whom throughout the campaign in Mesopotamia performed magnificent service in command of the

Mejdieh—have been reported by the Turks to have been killed; the remainder of the gallant crew, including five wounded, are prisoners of war.

"Knowing well the chances against them, all the gallant officers and men who manned the Julnar for the occasion were volunteers. I trust that the services in this connection of Lieutenant H. O. B. Firman, R.N., and Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley, R.N.V.R., his assistant, both of whom were unfortunately killed, may be recognised by the posthumous grant of some suitable honour."

Lieutenant H. O. B. Firman was the only son of Mr. Humphrey Brooke Firman, late of Gateforth Hall, Selby, Yorkshire. Born in 1886, he served in the Navy for about fourteen years, and held the Persian Gulf and Somaliland medals. Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley was the son of the late Captain Cowley, formerly in the service of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, and of Mrs. Cowley, of Baghdad. Following in his father's footsteps, he entered the service of the E. and T.S.N. Company, and before the war had been for some time in command of the Mejdieh.

On Monday, February 19, at an evening meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, Mr. H. Charles Woods will read a paper on "The Baghdad Railway and its Tributaries." The hour of these evening meetings of the Society, it should be noted, has been changed from 8.30 to 5.30 p.m. Mr. Woods' lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. H. C. Woods gave evidence before the Dardanelles Commission on Tuesday.

At a Mansion House meeting on Tuesday afternoon, the 20th, Viscount Bryce, O.M., the Bishop of London, and Miss Frances E. Newton will speak of the pitiable conditions prevailing in Syria and Palestine owing to the ravages of war and starvation. The Lord Mayor of London will preside. H.R.H. the Princess Christian is President of the Fund for Relief in Syria and Palestine. Admission to the Mansion House meeting will be free, but a few reserved seats at half-a-crown can be obtained from the honorary secretary, the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth, the Church House, Westminster.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of January 20 says: "The Committee of All Saints' Church, Ramleh, have received a letter from the Bishop saying that he has appointed the Rev. H. J. Hoare, B.A., to the chaplaincy. Mr. and Mrs. Hoare were to leave England on the 13th, and may, therefore, be expected to arrive soon in Egypt. After a visit to the Bishop in Cairo, it is hoped they will take up their residence at Ramleh about the 25th inst."

"Mr. Hoare," the *Gazette* adds, "was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London in 1889 and priest by the Bishop of Lahore in 1890. He has had some twenty five years' experience in India as missionary and civilian chaplain, and has also been tutor of St. John's Divinity College at Lahore and Principal of the C.M.S. High School at Dera Ismail Khan. On the outbreak of the war Mr. Hoare, having already decided to leave India, took up a temporary post as an Army chaplain, and has now been released by the Chaplain-General in order to take up this work in Egypt. Nothing has been decided yet as to how long he will hold the appointment, as the Bishop has not yet had the opportunity of discussing the matter with him."

The Anglo-Hellenic League announces that General Sarraïl, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops at Salonika, has issued an order of the day, in which he mentions an officer of the Greek Army of National Defence, Major Verikios, for distinguished service in the air. This Greek officer, who is awarded the French Croix de Guerre with palms, recently engaged a hostile aeroplane and compelled it to land, wounding the pilot and seriously damaging the machine.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria, have arrived in London from Bournemouth.

Mr. Augustus van Millingen is leaving London on Sunday on his return to Alexandria.

On March 19, at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, to be held in the Theatre, Burlington Gardens, at 5.30 p.m., Dr. E. W. G. Masterman will read a paper, "Palestine: its Resources and Suitability for Colonisation."

Commander John Marshall, R.N. (retired), who took part in the operations in Crete when the island sought prematurely to throw off the Turkish yoke, died last Saturday. He was the fourth son of Colonel Sir Thomas Marshall, C.B., and was forty-eight years old.

FUNERAL OF LORD CROMER.

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster offered burial of the body of Lord Cromer in the Abbey. His family, however, while appreciating the honour, felt bound to respect his wish to be buried in the same grave as the first Lady Cromer in Bournemouth Cemetery. The funeral therefore took place at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Men of the Royal Artillery, in which regiment Lord Cromer was formerly an officer, were present, and the coffin was borne from the chapel to the graveside by eight sergeants of the regiment. The funeral was simple but most impressive.

The mourners were met at the doors of the cemetery church by Canon Daldy, vicar of St. Peter's Bournemouth, who conducted the service. It began with the singing of Psalm 90 by the choir, and included the hymn "Abide with me," which was sung by Lord Cromer's own request. At the grave the "Last Post" was sounded by five trumpeters of the Royal Artillery.

The chief mourners were the Countess of Cromer, Viscount and Viscountess Errington, Lieutenant the Hon. Windham Baring, Lady Gweneth Baring, Sir Hugh Shaw-Stewart, Brigadier-General Count Gleichen, Lady Beatrice Thynne, Lieutenant Oliver Baring, the Hon. Cecil Baring, the Hon. Lady Reid, the Hon. Lady Musgrave, and Lady Nunburnholme. The Hon. Evelyn Baring was unable to be present owing to an attack of influenza.

The congregation included Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Lord Ruthven, Lieutenant-General Sir H. C. Sclater, and Colonel A. J. Abdy (representing the Royal Artillery), Colonel A. B. Helyar, Major R. E. F. Wemyss, Major E. J. Jervis-Smith, Sir Daniel Morris, Professor W. T. Hewett (Cornell University), Mr. Francis C. Baring, the Rev. Algernon Ward (formerly Archdeacon in Egypt), Mr. John Ross (Alexandria), Mr. Charles Redman Bey (Egypt), and Mrs. J. T. Grafton Ross.

Among those who sent wreaths were: Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate; the Residency Staff, Cairo; Sir William Garstin, the Acting Governor-General of the Sudan; Princess Saliha de Yourkevitch; the Countess of Bessborough; Madame Carton de Wiart; Miss James; Miss Dolly Gorst; Mr. Wilfred Carey; and the Committee of the Serbian Society of Great Britain.

At half-past twelve a Memorial Service was

held at Westminster Abbey. The Dean (Bishop Kyle), the Sub-Dean (Bishop Boyd-Carpenter), and the Precentor (the Rev. L. H. Nixon), officiated, and Sir Frederick Bridge was at the organ.

The King was represented by Major-General Lord Ranksborough, Lord in Waiting; Earl Howe, Lord Chamberlain to Queen Alexandra, represented her Majesty; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray was present for Field-Marshal the Duke of Connaught and the Duchess of Connaught, and Colonel V. Chater attended on behalf of Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll.

Among others present were: Mr. Balfour, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, the Marquess of Lansdowne, the Earl of Bessborough, Lord Sydenham, the Serbian Minister (who was accompanied by the Secretary of Legation), M. Gennadius, the Earl and Countess of Desart, Princess de Yourkevitch, Viscountess Duncannon, Lord and Lady d'Abernon, Lord and Lady Oranmore, Lord Stamfordham, Earl and Countess Curzon, the Countess of Minto, Admiral Lord Beresford, Lord Sanderson, Lord and Lady St. Oswald, Lord George Hamilton, Lord Edmund Talbot, M.P., Earl Spencer, Lord Weardale, Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson, the Earl of Camperdown, Lady Edward Grosvenor, Sir Ronald Graham, Sir Charles and Lady Waldstein, Lord Francis Scott, General Sir Arthur Paget, Sir Henry Craik, Sir Charles Lyall, Sir Montagu Turner, Sir James Reid, Sir William Garstin, Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, Admiral Sir Edmund Poë, General Sir Albert Williams, General the Hon. Sir Reginald and Lady Talbot, Sir Arthur Webb (Egyptian and Sudan Governments), Rear-Admiral R. Massie and Lady Blomfield, Sir Mark and Lady Sykes, the Hon. Sir Derek and Lady Keppel, Sir John Hewett, Lady Victoria Dawnay, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Sir John Aird, Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside, Major-General Granville Egerton, Major H. G. Lyons (representing the Royal Society), Mr. O. G. Brooke (late Director Delta Barrage), Miss Chenevix Trench, Brigadier-General Everard Baring, Mr. J. T. Baring, Mrs. Pandeli Ralli, Miss James, Mrs. Coles, Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey, Mr. H. R. Beasley (Secretary Appeal Committee of the School of Oriental Studies), Mr. A. E. Robinson (Egyptian Educational Commission), Mrs. Manningham-Buller, Mr. P. J. Hartog (Hon. Secretary, School of Oriental Studies), Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P., Mr. E. Denison Ross (Director of the School of Oriental Studies), Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, Dr. John Pollen, the Hon. Charles Lawrence, Mrs. Moberly Bell, Miss Violet Cust, Mr. W. Wilson Bowness, and Mr. James Currie. Sir Walter Miéville, late President of the Egyptian Quarantine Council, was prevented from attending.

Messages of condolence upon the death of the Earl of Cromer were received from the King and Queen, Queen Alexandra, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Victoria, the Duchess of Argyll (Princess Louise), the Sultan of Egypt, the Lord Mayor of London (on behalf of the City), the High Commissioner of Egypt (on behalf of the community there), the Acting Governor-General of the Sudan, the Diplomatic Body in Egypt, the Commissioners of Public Debt, and various public bodies and institutions at home and abroad.

Reuter's Cairo Correspondent telegraphs that a Memorial Service for Lord Cromer was held on Saturday afternoon in All Saints' Church, the Bishop of Jerusalem officiating. The High Commissioner, Zulficar Pasha, on behalf of the Sultan, and various Ministers, Diplomats, and a representative congregation were present. The "Last Post" was sounded in the courtyard of the church, which Lord Cromer had so often traversed, and was particularly impressive.

Telegraphing on January 30, Reuter's Cairo correspondent says:—"The death of Lord Cromer has made a profound impression in Egypt. The papers publish eulogistic articles, and trace the history of the 'greatest figure in recent Egyptian history.' The success of his work is reflected in the tranquillity and ever-growing prosperity of Egypt. Flags are at half-mast throughout the country."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BAGGE.—On January 29, 1917, at the British Consulate-General, Odessa, the wife of John Picton Bagge, of a son.

DEATHS.

CAILLARD.—On February 1, at Eastbourne, Edith Elizabeth, wife of the late Alfred Caillard, C.M.G., a Pasha in the Egyptian Service.

MORTON.—On the 1st inst., Bertram Morton (Egyptian Army), youngest son of the late Robert Rutherford Morton, Star Stile, Halstead, Essex.

SPENCER.—On January 13, at Nicosia, Cyprus, Bessie Ellen, widow of Josiah Spencer, late Chaplain and Archdeacon of Cyprus, and daughter of the late T. Perry, Esq., of Bendameer, New South Wales, aged 72.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL, Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES, KHARTOUM.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

IN PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1917.

THE PENULTIMATE PHASE AND THE NEAR EAST.

It is no encroachment upon the realm of prophecy to discover in the events of the last few days the threshold of a new and important stage in the war. In regarding this as the penultimate phase we need not attempt to determine its length, nor do we rule out the possibility of surprises in regard to its details. Least of all would it be logical to hold that, because it is felt that things are at last shaping towards a destined end, circumstances are favourable enough to justify any relaxation of the national effort that has only just now begun to take effect. Rather the importance of the new phase lies in the novel opportunities opened up for the Allies. A year all but a few days has passed since the Germans launched their terrific attack on Verdun. While it was still in progress the Austrians made a successful thrust into Italy, and the Turks drove back the Russians in Armenia, captured Kut with its British garrison, and lightheartedly essayed an advance upon Egypt. Looking back over the interval we find grounds for believing that these operations marked the zenith of the enemy's power. The advance against Verdun was held by the French, and when the Anglo-French forces attacked on the Somme in July it was quickly seen that the German powers of resistance had been sapped in order to meet the exactions of the great offensive to the south. Austria-Hungary's successes in the Trentino were short-lived. A sudden advance on the part of the Russians in Galicia proved the rashness of the enterprise against the Italians, for the ground that had been gained was soon lost, and Russia was to the good with a substantial capture of territory and some 170,000 prisoners. In Asia Minor and Mesopotamia the Turks were unable to reap any considerable advantage from the numerical superiority they could temporarily claim. Part of Persia where no resistance was encountered was overrun; but little impression was made upon the Russian position in Armenia, and in Mesopotamia the local troops were seemingly as glad as the British to accept the enforced inactivity imposed by weather conditions and sickness. From the earlier months of 1916 until now the enemy, with a single exception, has allowed the strategical offensive to remain in the Allies' hands. The latter's gains on the Somme, before Verdun, and on the Isonzo have been consolidated and gradually extended; the Bulgarians have been on the defensive in Macedonia, and the Turks have been ejected from the Sinai Peninsula, and are relying solely on the strength of their defences to delay the British advance in Mesopotamia. The only offensive that the enemy has attempted during the period in question has been in Roumania. Here, his knowledge of the country and of the military equipment of the Roumanian army held out hopes of a striking victory at a small cost. The available forces of the Central Alliance were rapidly concentrated, and the Roumanians were overwhelmed up to a point. That point, there is reason to believe, fell far short of the enemy's expectations, and again he is everywhere on the defensive.

It is at this stage of the military situation that Germany has proclaimed with a flourish of trumpets a fresh development in her naval warfare. Henceforth there are to be no restrictions imposed on her submarine

campaign. Within a wide area round Great Britain all ships, presumably, are to be sunk at sight; neutrals, if they wish to escape this fate, must obey Germany's instructions in regard to the number of ships plying to and from the British Isles and in regard to the routes followed. Those who have examined at all closely the toll that German submarines have been taking of international shipping during the last few weeks will be inclined to think that this declaration on the part of the German Government will in reality introduce no new feature into naval warfare. Even the simultaneous announcement that hospital ships sailing between Great Britain and France are to be treated in future as *mem-of-war* merely promises repetitions of the outrages previously perpetrated on the *Portugal*, the *Britannic*, and the *Braemar Castle*. Why, then, should Germany go out of her way to call attention to a practice which has achieved, from her point of view, such satisfactory results already, without emphasising her hostility to neutrals? Her end, it would be thought, could have been gained by continuing to sink as many ships as she could, and leaving neutral States to find out that any escapes their shipping had were due to the limitations of submarine warfare and not to her solicitude for their welfare. We shall probably not be far wrong in supposing that the German Government intended its declaration to exercise a salutary influence upon neutrals, not, perhaps, so much upon the United States as upon the two States, Holland and Denmark, which together might yet materially affect the course of the war. The consciousness that the inability of the Central armies to make any real headway against the Allies can no longer be disguised has prompted those whose belief, in the moral effect of frightfulness has not yet been shaken to tap a fresh source of intimidation for possible waverers among the neutral nations. At the same time there is no doubt the conviction, or at least the faint hope, that a really successful submarine campaign will lead either to the defeat of the Allies or to a condition of military stalemate.

For the moment we are concerned with the confirmation that the German threat has given of the fact that the Central Powers have definitely entered a phase in which their military resources are no longer equal to the increasing strain imposed upon them. The attitude taken up by the United States in breaking off relations with Germany, on receipt of the Note dictating the terms on which American ships might escape being torpedoed at sight, comes as a dramatic development. Whether a declaration of hostilities follows or not, President Wilson is in a position to influence the course of the war more materially than by his luckless attempts to devise peace terms. Germany has made a false move which cannot be disguised from her allies, Bulgaria and Turkey. It is probably the first mistake on her part which it will not be possible to explain away or represent as a successful manoeuvre in Sofia and Constantinople. From the fact that the United States Government hopes to avoid a rupture with Austria-Hungary we may infer that there will be no question of withdrawing the United States' representatives from Turkey and Bulgaria. In both these countries the United States occupy a special position, and it may be taken for granted that the Ottoman and Bulgarian Governments have found no small measure of justification for their attitude in the strict neutrality of the United States, entailing, as it did, the maintenance of friendly relations with Germany. Those relations have now been severed, and we trust that President Wilson will instruct his representatives to make it very clear to the Governments of Sofia and Constantinople why the step has been taken. If he is still anxious to avoid unnecessary bloodshed and to hasten the return of peace, he can also see to it that those Governments, or better still the Bulgarian and Turkish peoples, are made to understand that they have nothing to gain and much to lose by further sacrifices on Germany's behalf. This point, it is to be hoped, will not be lost sight of by the Allied Powers. Already, to some extent, the scales have fallen from Bulgarian and Turkish eyes. The time would seem to have come to let these peoples learn the path along which their real salvation lies.

THE BLACK SEA AND THE CAUCASUS.

REMINISCENCES OF A JOURNEY.

By Mary A. Poynter.

It was in the last year of the Nineteenth Century, or at the beginning of this Twentieth Century, that a delightful article, with illustrations, appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*, describing a journey over the Caucasus mountains. It was written by Sir Henry Norman, as one remembers, and so attractively and invitingly was it portrayed that my father and mother immediately set about making plans for a similar journey by the same route as soon as opportunity should offer. Opportunity did offer in the month of May, 1901. The following account is drawn wholly from notes that were jotted down more or less hastily on our journey; notes which hold true, I think, to-day; for Nature and Man have made few changes in the sixteen years since gone by in that part of the world. It is still "off the beaten track" of travel, and suffers some inconveniences, as well as many advantages, on this account.

We sailed from Constantinople through the Bosphorus on May 11, a season of the year that finds those shores clad in their most attractive dress. With the deep crimson-pink of the Judas trees and the mauve of the blossoms of the wistaria, that seems to roll up the hillsides in fragrant waves, there is a riot of colour on all sides. The steamers all sail slowly up the strait, with something of an air of majesty quite in keeping with the environment and giving plenty of time as one passes to recognise each town, and sometimes to be saluted by friends therein with that flag of all countries—the white pocket-handkerchief.

Between the towers of Roumeli Hissar, on the European side, and the point where the Sweet Waters of Asia join the Bosphorus just opposite, the strait is so narrow that a voice might easily be heard speaking from shore to shore. Nightingales even can be heard answering each other across the swift tide on still, moonlit nights. Darius came with his army across here on his bridge of boats, after camping in the valley of the Sweet Waters long enough to get acquainted with all the surrounding region and with all the ins and outs of the strait. And it is a strait consisting mostly of turns, of "ins and outs," if one wishes to put it that way. Looking down upon it from the hills above, one can see that the path for the waters rushing down from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmora was opened out hurriedly by some convulsion of Nature in the long ago, and that if the hills were to be pressed together again the points on the one side would fit exactly into corresponding indentations on the shore opposite. Anyone who has had even a temporary home in that favoured region can but hope that that early "bridge of boats" will be the only one to span those blue waters. It would be almost a sacrilege—at any rate an unjustifiable intrusion on Nature's rights—were a bridge, no matter how light and graceful of design, to unite those shores for utilitarian purposes.

Our boat did not increase its speed until we had passed the Symplegades (which we skirted discreetly, remembering that legend has it that these rocks once guarded the entrance to forbidden waters), and had rounded the rocky and rather austere entrance to the Black Sea. High on a rock at this entrance, and on the Asian shore, in the old days, stood a temple to Jupiter, the "Distributor of Winds," which may account for some of the eccentric as well as forcible varieties that blow down the path of the strait from this direction in winter. Just because the ancients had a great dread of the Black Sea and its capacity for violent wave upheavals, I suppose, they named it the Euxine, "friendly to strangers," sea; possibly also to placate Neptune and to win his brusque favour.

One knows the Black Sea can be smooth; it has been so often when one has looked down upon it while in the company of friends picnicking on Giant's Mountain, which commands such a wide view of its surface. But it certainly was not smooth that day in May, that promised so fair when we committed ourselves to its uncertainties. During the five days we were on it we stopped five times at various towns on the southern shores, and thus were diverted from tossings and rollings by the interesting sights that awaited us on land.

The history-making process has been going on for a long time in this part of the world, and usually there was a ruin or ruins to each town, as well as a green mountain background. One of our early stopping points was at Ineboli, which is situated, as I remember, on a bold headland and in the midst of the rather wild mountain scenery which one associates with all that region.

Later came Samsun, a low-lying town that we reached by taking small boats from the steamer, which had to lie well out from the shore. On landing here we had some bother

with the Customs officials, and this occupied so much time that we saw little of the town, but we consoled ourselves by thinking that it was not a very interesting place after all. In the old Kingdom of Pontus times these towns bore other names and had an importance in the then-known world that one does not attach to them now. Still, Samsun is a fairly large town, has a flourishing tobacco industry, and is of considerable moment on account of its being the port of disembarkation for passengers (no tourist travel here) who are bound for Marsovan, Sivas, and other large towns far in the interior. Caravans of camels still come down to the sea bearing the rich produce of the upland country. But people tell us such slow commerce is not very remunerative—that camels "eat their weight" in a surprisingly short space of time: in other words, their appetites absorb the profit on long distance journeys, if the load carried be not a particularly choice and valuable one. Journeys by carriage are rather laborious undertakings, as the roads in this part of the world are very uneven and "jolty" at the best of seasons, and are "snowed under" for many months of the year. A railway, long projected, will some day bring the interior within easy access of the coast, and then, like Othello's, the picturesque camel's occupation will be gone.

To travellers, Trebizond is naturally the most interesting town of all those situated on the southern shore of the Black Sea. It claims much attention historically, associated as it was with Xenophon and the Ten Thousand in retreat, with King Mithridates, and with the later Byzantine rulers, and associated as it is in recent history with its capture from the Turks by the Russians in last winter's campaign. Trebizond is the sea port of Erzeroum, though the latter fortress city is situated many marches back among the mountains, and one who follows the strategic movements of this great war can understand why the Russians resolutely followed up their conquest of Erzeroum by the taking of Trebizond. It is a city that is a valuable asset to the Allies, and one that is worth holding on account of its roads, which furnish almost the only direct connection from the sea with cities like Erzeroum that have figured so largely of late in the Russian Caucasus campaign.

But apart from the glamour of its ancient history and its renown in the present war, Trebizond can lay claim to much picturesque charm and beauty of situation. It stands up and out boldly on a bluff that rises almost abruptly from the sea. It has fine overgrown walls and ruins, some of which date from its old pre-Turkish prosperous days—ruins to be found both in the town itself and in its immediate neighbourhood. So far as a walk and short drive about the place could show us, Trebizond has few modern buildings or conveniences; its very mosques and minarets—highly decorative features of this as well as of many another Eastern town—look mellow and time-worn, and as if they were marking the end of a régime and were ready to become ruins in their turn. As in olden times, the caravans come across the mountains from Persia, bearing frankincense and myrrh, or their more modern equivalents—rich carpets and embroideries—to be forwarded by boat from Trebizond to the bazaars of Constantinople for wider inspection and for the delectation of the greater world beyond. If we had had plenty of time at our command, Trebizond would have been a place pleasant to linger in, a place in which to study old peoples, or their representatives, and for the study of old customs that are so quickly supplanted by new ones when the steps of what we call progress are heard.

Passing on from Trebizond, there comes a little town called Rizeh, as I remember, hidden away on the shores of the very south-easternmost corner of the Black Sea (almost at the point where Russia and Turkey then met) that is guarded by high mountains in such a way that a really chill wind is never allowed to blow there, and where the climate is so mild that the palm tree flourishes and orange trees yield a fruit not second in flavour even to that of the orange trees of Jaffa.

Jason came through the Black Sea in search of the Golden Fleece; and as he found that shining commodity among the mountains of the Caucasus I fancy he, too, must have landed at Batum, although then there was no railway to take him on to Tiflis. Batum is at the eastern extremity of the Black Sea, and has changed national proprietors well within fifty years. On landing, our passports and luggage were examined with interest by Russian officials, and then we were permitted to go to the railway station and take the Transcaucasian train that runs daily between the Black Sea and the Caspian. It was on the morning of May 16 that I looked for the Russian word for "railway station," and found it, but could not pronounce it! We got to the railway station, however, and secured our tickets and seats in the train without difficulty. The road after leaving Batum passes at first through a level plain that is occupied with cultivated fields and jungles of luxuriant green. The yellow azalea sent whole breezes of perfume through the carriages that quite offset, when it came, the odour of petroleum with which product our engine was provided as a motive power. After two hours we began to get distant glimpses of white

mountains, and at each station there were interesting people to see, who did not conform to the fashions of the twentieth century.

It was evening when we reached Tiflis, and it was morning before we were able to receive "first impressions." Tiflis is situated on the southern slopes of the higher Caucasus, with the lesser Caucasus on the other side of the valley to keep the temperature at a warm level. But for these lesser Caucasus, if one were to put spectacles on his mind's eye, he could see Mount Ararat, which is less than a hundred miles to the south.

It is Russia there now; but it has been Persia, Georgia, Circassia, and it is still a good deal of all these countries. There is enough of Russia to make one part of the town quite European and Western, with its broad streets, electric lights, and tramcars. But the Oriental part is still Oriental, and descendants of all the lost tribes and those who never went abroad are still wearing their national dress and speaking their ancestral tongue. In one feature of adornment all the Transcaucasian men are alike; each carries silver-wrought weapons in such numbers that he might almost stand out against a whole Western regiment! Picturesque headgear seems to be a speciality also in this region. It varies from the huge fur caps of the Persian and Georgian to the soft, silken folds of the Turk, who here lays aside his fez. The Russians wear caps—caps of all colours and conditions.

We knew we were out of the usual routes of travel, for nobody spoke English, and the French tongue fared little better. But here was a city of some hundred thousand people, with a fine Caucasian museum, handsome parks, a botanical garden, bazaars that for riches of the East rival those of Damascus, and here were mountains, the highest in Europe, which travellers say are next to the Himalayas in grandeur and snowy solitudes.

It was the southern side of the mountains, however, that was in the old days, and still is, the most attractive; though in these days the country to the north stands more for progress and civilisation.

(To be continued.)

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS

The War in the Near East.

Feb. 7.

EARL CURZON expressed his sense of the distinguished services rendered by Sir Archibald Murray in Egypt and General Maude in Mesopotamia. He then went on to say:—With regard to the present position in Mesopotamia there is in every respect a vast improvement in that part of the war. There can be no doubt that earlier in the operations there were miscalculations, mismanagement, and mistakes, some of which are the subject of an inquiry that is still proceeding. Many of those mistakes were due to lack of facilities for handling the forces and transporting them up the river to the front. They were serious and lamentable. But all this is now changed, and every arrangement is now most excellent. In January the tonnage that went up the river to the front was ten times the amount of that sent in July, 1916. The result of the improved arrangements has been a wonderful recovery in the spirit and moral of our forces, as is shown by a large number of letters I have recently received from officers at the front. During the last ten days the British and Indian troops have driven back the enemy from the one bank of the river and both banks of the tributary, and have not only practically cleared the enemy out of those positions, but are now in a situation very seriously to threaten their front. Although these troops are sometimes regarded only as a secondary force, they are playing a large and vital part in the war. They are killing a large number of the enemy, they are holding up a very considerable portion of the Turkish Army, and thereby are relieving both Russia and ourselves in the Caucasus and Persia. Then I turn to Salonika, where we have one of the most composite forces that can be imagined. There are together British, French, Italian, Russian, Serbian, and Greek troops, the latter being the followers of Venizelos. They have done much hard work and have engaged in a good deal of useful fighting, and not the least of their achievements has been the wonderful dash and gallantry of the Serbian Army, which has recovered a not unimportant corner of their native land. In Egypt also we have attained considerable success. Our forces there have not only defeated on two occasions Turkish attacks, but have cleared the enemy out of the frontiers, and have now assumed the offensive.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Military Situation.

Feb. 7.

Mr. BONAR LAW, in referring to the military operations, said: Roumania is not a subject of which any of the Allies can think without distress. We all recognize the terrible disaster which has fallen on her—a disaster which this country and our other Allies would have done everything to prevent. But since the House met the position has not grown worse. Thanks to the fighting qualities of the soldiers there, Roumanians and Russians, although a large part of the country has been overrun,

a large portion of the Roumanian Army is still in being and ready to continue the fight. By their efforts the advance of the Germans has been stopped on the Sereth, and we have reason to hope, at least, that they will not be able to gain further successes in that field. The over-running of Roumania was a terrible moral and political disaster, but it is not a military success—at least so I have reason to believe—for our German enemies. They have not gained the objects at which they aimed. They have endured very heavy losses, and for that reason are less able than they would otherwise have been to bear the strain which will be put upon them on other fronts as the season advances. There is every indication that, thanks, I am glad to say, largely to the action of British officers, a great part of the corn which the Germans depended on getting from Roumania has been destroyed, and we have reason to believe that the oil wells have been scientifically and successfully closed, so that they have lost the advantage which they expected to get in that direction. If we turn to the British Forces, the position is, I think, not discouraging. About the Force in Salonika I shall say nothing, for there is nothing to say since the House met. Owing to the climate and to the severity of the season, which I am told has been unusual even for that part of the world, no operations have been possible, except raids. The Serbian troops are still prepared, though they have been despoiled of their country, to take part in the fighting when the time comes. In that theatre there is at all events this much to be said, that up till now everything points to our ability to defend the position in which we are placed.

If we look at the other theatres of war I think there is a more pleasant picture. Take first the position in Egypt. Towards the end of December an expedition, carefully planned and thought out long before, was made against El Arish. That place was taken. Two days afterwards our mounted troops moved forward and took Magdhaba and destroyed a force there of about 3,000 men, taking 1,350 prisoners. A fortnight later Rafa was taken, and a force of 3,000 men was destroyed there, with more than 1,600 prisoners. I am glad to say that in those two operations our total casualties were only 632 men. The result is that we have cleared the enemy out of the Sinai Peninsula, and the House will agree that both the General Officer Commanding in Egypt and those who serve under him deserve the highest praise for the skill and success with which those operations have been carried through. The next field to which I would refer is Mesopotamia. The expedition began with a great success, which was eagerly welcomed by the House and the country, for we were not getting many successes. It was followed by what was really a great disaster. But I am glad to be able to assure the House that the position has been completely retrieved, and that the picture which is presented there is one on which from every point of view we have reason to congratulate ourselves. Our troops have got complete possession of the whole of the right bank of the Tigris, and this has been done in spite of the fact that large reinforcements have come to help our enemies in that theatre. The House will understand that that in itself is a great military advantage, for it weakens the force which will be opposed to our Russian Allies when the time for movement in that direction comes. During the last few weeks extensive operations have taken place there. General Maude has told us that he estimates that, apart from other losses, up till February 3 the enemy had 2,630 killed and our losses were very slight. There is another side to this picture, which is equally pleasing. It shows that if mistakes are made, we, as a nation, know how to repair them. That has been done here. There are now no complaints about supplies of any kind, and some indication of what has been done during the last six months will be found in the fact that the traffic up the Tigris during January was almost ten times as great as it was during July. The success which has attended that expedition, the knowledge that it was well cared for, has had the most splendid effect upon our troops, who are showing there, as everywhere, a spirit of which, as a nation, wherever our soldiers are, we have reason to be proud. Of them General Maude, who himself deserves congratulations for the work he has done, uses these words: "The stubborn determination and fighting spirit of the troops and the complete co-operation of all arms have been superb."

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, Sir Charles Lucas in the chair, a resolution was passed placing on record the loss which the British Empire had sustained by the death of the Earl of Cromer.

According to a Berlin telegram from Main Headquarters, the Kaiser, with a large suite, on Saturday visited the King of Bulgaria at Poestyen, in Hungary, where the King is under medical treatment, says a Reuter's message from Amsterdam. A private conversation lasting several hours took place. The Kaiser returned to Headquarters late in the evening.

M. Alexander Diomede is now in London on a special mission from M. Venizelos, says Reuter's Agency. He states that his object is to explain on behalf of M. Venizelos to the British Government and people some points in the Venizelist programme that are not fully understood here. He will also set forth in detail the plans of M. Venizelos for the future of Greece and the Balkans generally, particularly emphasising what is the programme of the Provisional Government in reference to the present war and to what extent politically, and especially from a military point of view, it may assist the Allies.

Le Matin learns that Djavid Bey, the only Ottoman Minister who, at the time of the declaration of war, refused to sign the Imperial Iradé proclaiming the opening of hostilities, has arrived at Geneva. Noury Bey, who is still a prominent Turkish politician, is also displaying great activity in Switzerland.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Lord Cromer in Egypt.

Last Saturday *The Times* contained a fine tribute to Lord Cromer, by "A Friend"—"one who knew him for years, and was associated with him in carrying out many of the objects to which, after his return to England, he devoted the strenuous evening of his days."

The writer tells us that he

saw Lord Cromer in Egypt in the days both of Tewfik and Abbas II., and can recall the troubled period when his relations with both rulers, and especially the latter, were highly strained, when some of his Consular colleagues were scarcely concealed diplomatic enemies, while his own hands were tied by the almost inconceivable entanglements of the international system that existed in Cairo. In the midst of all these difficulties, inexpressibly thwarting both to personal temper and to public accomplishment, Lord Cromer pursued the even tenor of his way, serene, never openly complaining (however secretly chafing), a master of the necessary forms, receding at one point in order to advance at another, dealing with each situation with the surest intuition, never baffled or despondent, his eye steadily fixed upon the distant but clearly seen goal. The gifts that ensured his triumph were an exceptional power of self-control, wide knowledge of men, and a mental equipoise that enabled him to recover in a moment from shocks or reverses that would have daunted an inferior man.

A little later we read:—

His book on his Egyptian administration was remarkable, not merely as the history of an achievement rarely, if ever, equalled in the annals of British diplomacy, but as a monument of self-revelation, the cool analysis by a powerful and dispassionate intellect of the motives that had influenced his own action. There can be no doubt that he was profoundly out of sympathy with a career so emotional and wayward as that of General Gordon, and the difficulties that he had in dealing with that heroic but intractable figure are generously minimized rather than accentuated in the book. At each stage you see the trained diplomat coping with the impossible subordinate, but you also see the large-minded statesman struggling to make allowance for the impulses of a noble and sorely-tried soul.

This is as well put as it is true. It is interesting to be told that "of all the British Ministers whom he served, the intellect which Lord Cromer rated most highly, and which was most in tune with his own, was that of the late Lord Salisbury. In his later life he was perpetually quoting phrases that had occurred in the conversations or writings of that statesman; and the half cynical but profound philosophy with which Lord Salisbury would lay down rules of conduct in public life touched a quick and responsive chord in the mind of a follower in many respects so like his own." As to the position he held in Egypt in the last ten years of his work there, the writer describes it as "an astonishing and unique achievement."

He was nominally only *primus inter pares*, and he held no higher rank than that of British Agent. He had to be on pleasant terms with European colleagues, some of whom spent their entire time in obstructing him; with a Sovereign who visibly chafed under external control, and with native Ministers who often combined external subservience with the sleepless subtlety of the East. He moved amid them all, courteous, suave, unwearied, inflexible, the dominant figure of the scene. One of his main elements of strength lay in the fact that he knew how both to forgive and to forget. He was a man of strong likes and dislikes; but he never cherished an enduring resentment, and could work or serve without difficulty with an old antagonist.

"The Real Ruler of Egypt."

The *Nation* (February 3) also pays ungrudging tribute to Lord Cromer's work, in an article entitled "The Empire-BUILDER." We quote a typical passage:—

Lord Cromer had to deal in the early years with Governments of both parties which did not wish to make an occupation of Egypt perpetual, and with Liberal opinion all the time, which hesitated first over the occupation itself, and then over his omission to create any real beginnings of self-government. He won his battle by his own firmness of purpose, by his adroitness in handling men who were nominally his superiors, by the literary skill of his annual reports, and his power of creating a real popular interest in his problem. That he was the autocrat in Egypt was no miracle: he had the British Army behind him. That he became the real ruler of Egypt was a triumph of personality, rather because he made a legend which no Cabinet in London dare disturb. His ascendancy, in short, was won over his own countrymen. Very little of his power over the Egyptians was due to his personal qualities. He did not wield a human magnetism over them, as Lord Kitchener certainly did. He never tried to govern by private or public persuasion. He scarcely troubled to seek contact with the native mind. Though he was a good linguist, and learned Modern Greek in his first

official position in the Ionian Isles, it is significant that he had never tried to learn Arabic. The East did not allure him, as it allured all our greatest administrators, and the tone of his "Modern Egypt," especially towards Islam, is curiously external and even hostile. His immense success was not a psychological triumph. It was that of a very competent but rather hard intelligence, which set up a framework of an orderly Government as an engineer erects his plant.

The writer concludes his article by declaring that Lord Cromer "stands out the ablest, the most typical, the most famous figure in an age of capitalistic Imperialism whose final evolution none of us can read."

Regarding Kut.

Discussing the operations around Kut, the military correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* (February 1) writes:—

Taken all round, the progress made at Kut under General Maude seems to be all that in the circumstances could be expected; but there is still some very hard work to be done, and the ground in many places is in a very boggy state. Time is slipping away, and the Turks, under German guidance, are fighting what is virtually a series of delaying actions with very considerable skill. Meanwhile it is increasingly galling to think that the place was formerly in our hands, and was allowed to slide into those of the enemy through a series of ghastly mistakes, the responsibility for which still remains to be fixed. It is hoped, no doubt, that time and the recapture of Kut will assuage the bitterness of some of the memories connected with the earlier phases of the Mesopotamian campaign. But a more practical and pertinent, if somewhat painful, suggestion is that the appreciable casualties which are now being incurred in the attempt to recover this lost strategical position might never have been necessary but for errors for which even now we do not know officially whom we ought to blame.

Armenia and its Future.

In connection with Armenian Sunday (February 4) the *Westminster Gazette* last Saturday published an article written by P. W. Wilson, and entitled "The Resurrection of Armenia." The article opens with the statement that "on this Armenian Sunday . . . there is heroism to be considered, as well as horror."

Merely to contemplate the unmentionable outrages and bestial tortures by which about 700,000 men, women, and children have been done to death is not very helpful. It leaves the impression that the worse has finally crushed the better and that there is no help for it. But the real truth is that, in Armenia, good has triumphed. Nowhere on God's earth has the victory been more of a miracle. It is not money that has done it, or intellect, as such, or trade, or armies and navies, but faith—a faith unarmed, often uninstructed (though not always), and yet, like the burning bush in the mountains, unconsumed. While many of us are drifting from our worship into indifference, these ancient Catholics are dying for and living by what we neglect.

As to the future of the Armenians, we read:—

Although there only remains a remnant of the Armenians in the six Turkish vilayets now occupied in part by Russia, their power of recuperation is so extraordinary that no one doubts their ability, under decent government, to resume their historic status as the leaders of civilisation around the Caucasus. One hopes that they will be satisfied with the generous autonomy granted to their Church and schools by the Russians—say, at Tiflis—and will avoid a nationalism which cannot be sustained amid populations so turbulent, divided, and fanatical. The Armenian Empire must be of the mind and the soul—an Empire within, not an Empire of politics.

Whether such an "Empire within" would satisfy the aspirations of the Armenians it would be hard to say; and, indeed, if the principle of nationalities is to be given full play, it is difficult to see why, and how, the formation of a quite independent Armenia should be denied. That, however, is a question for the statesmen of the Allied nations. Mr. Wilson pays a well-merited compliment to British and American administrators, whose personal influence, he says, is often extraordinary.

Although they exercise no authority on behalf of any Government, they are trusted implicitly, and their advice is as law. In the distribution of cattle, the provision of agricultural implements, the repatriation of families in new areas, and the removal of families from danger zones, the English-speaking missionaries and nurses—men and women—have done wonders by their disinterested and sympathetic wisdom. Many thousands of children are supported by these agencies, and not only supported but

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.

F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers

educated, so becoming a nucleus for the nation of the future, bred up in the best western ideals.

What Armenia needs to-day, we are told, is "not proselytism but citizenship."

Equality of law, honesty of taxation, and suppression of brigandage would at once, as in Egypt, add a rich province to the world. Under Russian rule Tiflis, with its theatres and newspapers, has become a thriving and prosperous town. So will it be, given the same conditions, with Van, Trebizond, and Erzeroum.

Hopes of the Zionists.

The *Menorah Journal* (New York) for December contains the concluding portion of a paper entitled "The Hebraic Renaissance in Palestine," by Max Roseman, who here deals with "Zionism." The writer describes the difference between Jewish nationalism and Zionism as "the difference between a theory having a purely dialectical foundation, and a theory dominated by the same emotion that had caused the Renaissance—affection for Palestine. The Jewish nationalist emphasizes the necessity for a Jewish home anywhere; the Zionist emphasizes the necessity for the Jewish home in Palestine." He takes a hopeful view of the future of the Hebraic Renaissance, and his essay is well worth reading. We have room for only a few quotations. The first deals with rural life.

It is, of course, in the rural districts that the Renaissance stands forth in all its excellence. There Jews are making Palestine once more the land of milk and honey. A feature of Jewish, and especially of Zionist, endeavour is the reclamation and hygienic work being done by reforestation. To reclaim the barren districts, a special budget has been appropriated by the Jewish National Fund to be used in planting olive trees. These grow readily in sterile soil, yield fruit quickly, and give good pecuniary returns. The 30,000 trees already planted have not only refertilized large tracts of land but have provided immigrants with occupations and livelihoods. To stamp out malarial epidemics, some 400,000 eucalyptus trees have been planted. So peculiarly is this a Jewish undertaking that the eucalyptus tree has become known in Arabic terms as the "Jew's tree." In addition to reclamation service, Jewish effort is adding to the rural development by the establishment of agricultural schools and training-farms, while the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station at Haifa has already become famous through the discovery of wild wheat by its director, Mr. Aaron Aaronsohn. His findings have been considered of sufficient importance to be published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Aided by such agencies, rural life in Palestine before the war had anything but the weak, sickly, philanthropic character of twenty-five years ago. Not only are the colonies self-supporting, but they are self-governing and self-protecting. The *Wa-ad*, a committee of Jewish villagers, govern the hamlets, and the *HaShomerim*, a body of Jewish horsemen, guard them from the depredations of the Arabs. The latter have learned to respect the valour of the *HaShomer* and the rights of the Jewish colonists.

"Judaism" and "Hebraism."

In an earlier passage Mr. Roseman declares that "the importance of Zionism to Jewish progress in Palestine lies in the fact that it has made the Renaissance Hebraic. Within the past half-century, Judaism and Hebraism have developed separate and distinct connotations."

The former has a theological implication; the latter is an expression of all that is peculiar to the Hebrew; the first is merely the religious manifestation of the second, just as Mohammedanism is the religious manifestation of Arabian culture. Hebraism comprehends a whole theory of life, a definite political, social, and ethical outlook rising in the teachings of the Hebrew prophets.

Before the rise of Zionism, the Renaissance was Judaistic and philanthropic—not Hebraic. The miserable pilgrim who found his way to Palestine during the Middle Ages, the pious talmudical scholar who journeyed there to end his days, was governed not by a desire to give expression to the Hebraic tradition, but by his mystico-religious convictions. Hirsch Kalischer, instigator of the Renaissance, was motivated by theological principles—a return to Palestine must necessarily precede the coming of the Messiah. Baron Rothschild and the Jewish Colonisation Association looked upon their work in Palestine merely as part of their philanthropic undertakings. The *Chovevei Zion*, too, although beginning with a desire to establish a Jewish national life, had gradually narrowed its policy until that also became charitable in character. The weakness of the Judaists and the philanthropists had consisted in their concern with only part of Jewish life. They had not the broad, encompassing outlook of the Zionist movement. Consequently, such progress as the Renaissance made before Zionist influence was sporadic and unintelligent.

Zionism, attempting to gather up the threads of the whole of Jewish life, has developed its various components so that Palestine has again become the centre of a truly Hebraic civilization. Not merely has Judaism, the religion, been fortified against extinction, but Hebraism, the *Kultur*, has already expressed itself in the beginnings of a new art, a new literature, and in vital attempts to attain the social and economic justice first pro-

mulgated by the Hebrew prophets. The Mosaic injunction against perpetual private ownership of land, and the protest of Amos against the oppression of the proletariat, have found their echoes in the principles of two Zionist institutions—the Jewish National Fund and the co-operative settlement, Merhavia.

Palestine a Jewish State.

Finally, we may quote what the author has to say regarding the hope "expressed by many Zionists that the war may, after all, prove a blessing for the Jew."

The terrible cataclysm will end some day, and the Peace Congress will eventually meet. For this contingency the Jews of America are preparing by planning a Jewish Congress. Perhaps at this Congress the results in Palestine will be brought out to prove to the world that the Jew is morally and intellectually the equal of the Aryan. The Jewish farmer in Palestine, tilling the soil of his fathers, redeeming it from the hurt inflicted by strangers, belies the accusation that the Jew is physically lazy, unproductive, a parasite living on the fruits of others. The Bezalel School, with its beginning of a distinctly Hebraic art, is evidence that the Jew possesses originality—that he does not merely copy the masterpieces of others. The *HaShomer*, as he rides picturesquely and fearlessly over the plains, refutes the charge that the Jew is a coward—if the thousands of Jewish lives already lost in the war has not yet done so. The Renaissance by its very existence invalidates the allegation that the Jew is materialistic, that he cares merely for the belly and not for the spirit. Where so much idealism, where so much sacrifice, where so great an emphasis on *noblesse oblige* as in the New Testament? Give the Jew a chance to say "This is my own, my native land!" and he will prove himself fully capable of contributing his share to the world's culture.

"Not the Jew alone," he declares, "but all mankind will benefit if Palestine becomes again a Jewish state. Zionism is not a national, but an international movement. Progress is an exchange of national cultures; and a democracy of nations, each developing its particular contribution to the sum-total of civilization, is the desideratum whose realization will make wars like the present one impossible."

It is announced from Budapest that the second Mosty tunnel, near Jablunkau, in the Carpathians, has been opened for traffic. The completion of this tunnel has created a double-line railway connection from Breslau, through Hungary, to the Balkan States.

According to Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, a telegram from Constantinople to the *Düsseldorf Generalanzeiger* states that the University of Stambul has proposed the German Emperor as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Send for this New Book Now

IF you are not thoroughly pleased with it, send it back within seven days and we will refund your money. But we are confident that you will like it because it makes Company work easier, saves mistakes and money too.



CONDUCTING
THE BUSINESS OF
A COMPANY
is much easier
with this book
beside you.

In its 350 pages there is all you want to know arranged so that you can find it easily and quickly. It explains things as clearly as a human being would and contains draft forms of Memorandum and Articles of Association and a list of valuable tables and facts. Lastly, there is a fine clear Diary which will remind you of all your appointments.

3s. 6d. net. Postage 6d. Extra.

Our money-back guarantee will be substantiated by our Bankers
—Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Aldersgate Street Branch, E.C.

H. HOWES & COMPANY, LIMITED,

2, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The financial year of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt ended on January 31, and my latest news from the land of the Nile gives the impression that the results obtained will prove to be eminently satisfactory. Arrears of interest and principal by those who borrow from it have been paid up very largely, and as such payments go to the benefit of the year in which they are received, the bank should be in the position of having a greatly improved free balance. On another page in this issue of THE NEAR EAST is published, merely as a matter of interest, some views expressed on the bank recently by Mr. Henry W. Wolff, who is not unknown on the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean. I daresay some of my friends in Egypt would like to break a lance with that financial writer.

I am glad to see that the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt has again directed attention to the shameful abuse to which the description "British" is put in that country. "In our opinion" (wrote the *Journal* of the Chamber in its January issue) "the present tolerance of the authorities is conducive to bringing into disrepute, if not disgracing, the word. What can be worse than a low drinking or dirty eating shop being designated as the 'British Bar' or 'Restaurant,' flying British colours, and being kept by nondescripts not knowing any word of English unless it be the filthiest? Surely the word 'British' should convey the sense of genuineness and everything shipshape and above board."

Then there is the practice of foreigners trading under English names. "The prejudice this device causes to honest British trade is enormous. The *Journal* adds: "The reasons are obviously that a foreigner elects to eclipse his identity in order to trade under an assumed British name or title, only because he desires to exploit the 'prestige' which such designation may confer upon him—and as certain foreign methods of doing business are anything but 'British,' the prestige suffers, and the public become reluctant to deal with other bona fide British firms." I cannot say if, during the war, the authorities can take steps to remove these disabilities on British firms and traders; but the matter ought certainly to be one of the first to be taken in hand when the war has ended.

The death of Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley, R.N.V.R., has already been noted in the personal columns of THE NEAR EAST, but I would like to pay a personal tribute to this brave man who, for years before the war broke out, played his part in carrying the Flag. He was for some years a commander in the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company—like his father before him—and was known to all Britons whose avocations took them to Busreh. The Victoria Cross, a great distinction as the Reward for Valour certainly is, is not too great a tribute to the services which the man rendered, and to the man himself.

I may take the opportunity, too, to keep in the public mind the great services which the Euphrates and Tigris Company are

rendering to the Naval and Military authorities. River navigation always presents difficulties, and these are pronounced on the Mesopotamian rivers as elsewhere. We may be thankful, indeed, that British control over the river steamer companies was maintained and that the valuable organization of the company was available for the use of the State when it was most required.

I have frequently directed attention in these Notes to Germany's insidious commercial methods and the menace which they present against our trade in the East, but I doubt if many people are aware of the extraordinary skill and patient persistence with which these methods have been pursued. A book which has just been published by Eveleigh Nash, "Germany's Commercial Grip on the World," is an absolute revelation in this respect. It shows Germany as the great mercantile octopus stretching its tentacles throughout the nations, eternally plotting and planning to get industry after industry within its coils, and always with the State behind it, financing it, subsidising it, protecting it, favouring home manufactures by railway concessions, and systematising all its ramifications.

The book is by the great French economist, Professor Henri Hauser, of Dijon University, and it has been admirably translated and arranged by Mr. Manfred Emanuel. I have no hesitation in saying that it should be read by every British and Allied merchant in the Near and Middle East, and by every Government concerned in the development of commercial interests and the upholding of commercial morality. The first step towards meeting a great peril is to understand its fundamentals. In this instance, these are the "chain methods" which Germany has employed to gain a monopoly of industries in foreign countries. In laying bare these methods, M. Hauser and his translator have performed equal service to manufacturers and traders throughout the world, and, more than incidentally, to countries which have suffered in the past from the "peaceful penetration" methods which have made Germany notorious.

According to the returns and reports for January the cotton trade of Lancashire showed a distinct change for the worse. Demand in all oversea quarters was poor, and all along the line buyers appear to have adopted a policy of "wait and see." Compared with a little time ago, Egypt gave very little support to markets during the month. Egyptian spinners continued to be busy, especially those who were engaged on fine counts, but during the last few weeks the production of the mills has not nearly been sold.

What is to be the future of Syria? The question is interesting, not only because the Syrians have received such atrocious treatment at the hands of their Turkish overlords; but there is a commercial and industrial point of view which is forcing itself on public attention. In a lecture in London recently Mr. Steel-Maitland, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, discussed the "oils and fats in the British Empire," and emphasised the great need there was to secure as great a supply as possible for the needs of peace and war manufactures of the Empire.

Syria is a potential source of supply of fats and seed oils, and although the country may not become British, we ought certainly to be able to look upon this misgoverned Turkish dependency with a watchful eye.

I take the following illuminating passage from a review of the position regarding food and other essential products in Central Europe: "The military authorities are said to be keenly disappointed at the foodstuffs obtained by the Central Powers in Rumania. The expedition has been, in short, a fiasco so far as the expected seizure of huge supplies of grain is concerned, though the people are encouraged to expect a large measure of relief from the Wallachian harvest next summer. There is reason to believe that the stocks of wool, cotton, and leather are gradually approaching vanishing point."

The latest German act of maritime anarchy is on a par with the "scrap of paper" morality of Prussia and her previous record of land and water crimes. But whether it will affect to any appreciable extent shipping in the Eastern Mediterranean, presumed to have been blockaded by Germany, remains to be seen. The ruthless sinking of ships has already been extensively practised in this region by the Huns, and with as much ruthlessness as they could command. It is not to be supposed for one moment that, having the means at their disposal, the Huns would, out of pity or goodness of heart, have refrained from using them before now. The only deduction to be made, therefore, is that either their new order is a gigantic bluff designed to frighten neutral shipping, or that our enemies have suddenly come into possession of more and mightier engines of destruction. Either surmise may be correct. There is this certainty, however, that, while this attempt to make Britain hungry is proceeding and the enemy is bullying and terrorising shipping, Germany herself is starving and frost-bitten.

So far as Allied shipping is concerned, I have no doubt that we shall proceed calmly along the lines of policy we have pursued from the beginning. The main highways of the sea are watched by our respective navies, and we do not propose to allow bluff to interfere with our commerce. The outstanding point of it all is that the German people now admit that they sanction anarchy at sea. They have always practised it; now they admit and rejoice in it—that is the only difference.

In the meantime it is likely that neutral shipping in the Mediterranean will be greatly restricted in cases where direct protection cannot be provided. But as such shipping, with the possible exception of Greek and American, has already been reduced to a minimum, it is not likely that any appreciable difference will be noticed. In any case, the situation created by Germany is so very extreme that it is not likely to last long. Either the bluff and its impotency will be exposed, or neutrals will be driven to become belligerents on the side of the Allies, which will mean the end of all things German. Never was a more suicidal policy adopted by a beaten country.

COMMENTATOR.

The Science of Agricultural Banking.

Merits of Egyptian and Indian Methods Compared— A Frank Review.

A well-known Indian publicist, now dead, declared in an article in the *Indian Journal of Economics* that the Government of India should establish an "imitation" of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt for India.

Mr. Henry W. Wollit, in the September issue of the *Journal*, makes a spirited reply to the statement.

"Is it possible?" he asks. "At the very time when Egyptian authorities are casting wistful looks at India, well armed as it is since 1904 with credit banks, the number and results of which have filled the co-operative world in Europe with admiration—and are considering what steps can be taken to acclimatise banks of the same order in their own country, as a substitute for the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, whose occupation as a bank for the small peasantry is practically gone since the passage of the 'Five Feddan Statute' of 1913, and which found its borrowers such bad repayers that in 1910 it had 2,544 actions for recovery pending amongst about 40,000 borrowers, Mr. Wacha comes forward to recommend the formation of an imitation 'Agricultural Bank of Egypt' for India!

Lord Cromer's Dictum.

"It was in 1910, when a bill drafted under my instructions and brought in by Lord Shaftesbury for facilitating the formation of co-operative credit societies in this country was before a Select Committee of the House of Lords, that I questioned Lord Cromer, the founder of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, who was a member of that Committee, and who evinced unmistakable interest in and sympathy with the object of my bill, why at the time he had had recourse to a capitalist, state-patronised institution rather than to co-operative banks, in the principle of which he quite evidently believed.

"I related to him that at the time I had been advised (by the late Lord Ilkerton) that I was about to be consulted with respect to the organisation of co-operative banks in Egypt. And accordingly I felt some disappointment at his selection of a different method. Lord Cromer's reply was that he had not at the time considered the fellaheen 'ripe' for co-operation. That is an explanation which, however earnestly meant, was bound to sound a little odd to a co-operator and such as could scarcely hold good now, after co-operative banks in India have shown by the test of all tests in credit banking, viz., by repayment made of loans that they are equal to their task, whereas the Agricultural Bank of Egypt has confessedly failed in that very office.

Legal Difficulties.

"In addition, I may add, there were thought to be legal difficulties in the way of the formation of co-operative societies, attempts to remove which have for some years taxed the legislative ingenuity of the polyglot Council severely. I have seen the draft bills prepared. In the end it was discovered to be doubtful if new legislation was required at all. As a makeshift the Government has, after the partial paralysis fallen upon the fellaheen business of the Agricultural Bank, as a very minute compensation for the loss sustained, authorised the formation of 'syndicates' and 'groups of borrowers,' to which the Agricultural Bank is now empowered to lend. There has not yet been much business. Evidently this is meant as a stepping stone to more perfect co-operation (on the consideration of which official minds continue busy), in the place of the exploded methods praised up a good many years too late by Mr. Wacha.

"The Agricultural Bank has never done anything like the business that the Indian co-operative banks do. Its increase of share capital, which has excited Mr. Wacha's admiration, is no proof whatever of good banking for the purpose here kept in view. That share capital comes from the shareholders, who receive their dividends in virtue

of other business that their bank carries on successfully. There is nothing to be said against the management of the Bank. The fault which has led to the stoppage of one part of its business—the part here under consideration—is the mistaken selection of means whereby to supply the fellaheen.

A French View.

"Speaking of the Agricultural Bank and its working, M. Pierre Arminjon, a professor at the Egyptian *Ecole de Droit*, who is now an old resident in Egypt and a specific student of its institutions, in his excellent *La Situation Economique et Financière de l'Egypte*, published in 1911, after reviewing briefly, but with evident appreciation, the results obtained by the Indian co-operative banks writes thus (pp. 644 ss.):—'Are not these quotations eloquent and do they not make one sigh for the day when each district, and even each village of any importance among ourselves will possess a similar society for the benefit of the fellaheen? . . .

"Meanwhile credit is dispensed to the small peasantry by the 'Agricultural Bank' . . . The idea suggesting its foundation was of the happiest . . . the peasantry have largely drawn upon its resources—now grown to over ££8,000,000. To what uses has this enormous capital been put by them? Only too often to one that was quite unproductive, to pay the expense of some merry-making, to buy some young fellow off his military service. Even when the loan has not been squandered in this fashion, it has often enough been wasted upon the purchase of land that did not pay the interest and sinking fund of the loan. During the last two years the Bank has been able to recover its loans only partially and with great difficulty.' And he goes on to quote from the last Report of the Board of Directors then out:—'It is to be feared that in only too many cases the inability of the borrowers to meet their engagements arises from an unproductive employment of their loan.' Professor Arminjon points out that repayment is not to be obtained, because the loan was badly employed, the lenders not being able to ascertain, and much less to control, the employment. 'Well,' says he, 'that is precisely what the Managing Committee of a co-operative society can do, its members being bound in common liability and knowing, and being able to watch, one another.'

Evidence of the Reports.

"Allow me to quote briefly from some of the Annual Reports of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt. In the Report for the year 1913 the Directors, after explaining the purport of the new law which deprives owners of properties of 5 feddens (about 5 acres) or less of the power to pledge their properties, say:—'This is a complete reversal of the policy of the Egyptian Government that led to the formation of the Bank, which was founded with the object of lending to the small cultivators on the security of their land.' Under the new law 'no such mortgage credit is to be allowed . . . It will be necessary to create a new system of agricultural credit.'

"Of the 235,000 clients now on the books of the Bank the large majority are holders of 5 feddens or less. The law thus 'reduces the business of the Bank by about two-thirds.' The Report of this year accordingly shows a great decline in lending business of the kind referred to, the number of agricultural loans having dwindled from 23,070 for ££1,239,615, at which it stood in the preceding year, to only 351 for ££72,351. Recovery has all along, except quite in the beginning, been a difficult business for the reason stated. In 1910 arrears figured at 18.9 per cent. of the amounts due; in Upper Egypt alone even to 53.8 per cent. In 1914-15 arrears even reached the appalling figure of 74.4 per cent. from which a reduced business (££100,304 as compared with ££1,212,087) brought it

down to 25.8 per cent. in the following year. Well, 25.8 per cent. is assuredly quite enough. In 1916-17 the amounts due for repayment, having stood at ££1,886,046 in 1908, had shrunk to ££816,691.

A Question.

"Mr. Wacha gibes at the modifications which have under practical testing proved desirable in the Act of 1904 and have been effected by the later Act of 1912. Is the Agricultural Bank of Egypt a good case to quote against this? We have heard that by the law of 1913 its whole purpose has been reversed. On the other hand there is absolutely nothing unusual or objectionable in the amendment of the Indian law of 1904. In that year the Viceroy and Council legislated on untried ground. As a matter of course the Act would require to be completed after testing by experience.

"I do not suppose that there is any one who has seen more of co-operative banks of various kinds and in various countries than myself. And I can candidly say that the progress of the co-operative banking movement in India has surprised me by its rapidity and its general soundness and filled me with satisfaction. It does very great credit to those who have been charged with the administration of the Act. On new ground, to which the old, well-tried principle had somehow to be adapted, they have shown admirable resource and judgment. And I judge the movement to be safe in their keeping. Certainly it is not likely to produce anything like the cataclysm of defaults in repayment which has marked the dealings of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, the methods of which, so I would point out in conclusion, are not really applicable to India, as an inquiry instituted some years ago has made clear. The two systems of administration are too essentially different. There is, among other things, no 'omdeh' in India, who forms such an essential feature in Egyptian credit business for small cultivators. Indians will do well to rest content with what they have and not throw away their tried gold for Brummagem brass."

MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING.

A correspondent writes, with regard to the Greek and general shipping situation in the Mediterranean:—

"Greek shipping is placed in a somewhat unique and peculiar position. There is a lane carved out—for what it is worth—through the Mediterranean for Greek shipping westwards bound to neutral countries. Why the Germans should have made this paper concession in favour of King Constantine's subjects is a mystery; in any case we need not fear it will enable Hellenic ships to pierce our blockade (which is not a paper one) unperceived. On the other hand, it is indicative of the world's faith in German promises and concessions that, in spite of this Hun-granted Greek lane through the Mediterranean, Greek shippers prefer to mistrust the privilege accorded them, and have wired orders for their vessels now in American and other ports to remain where they are pending a further development of the U-boat threat. It shows what little confidence the friends of the Huns place in the latter's protestation of friendship.

"On the other hand, it is not surprising that in present circumstances Greek shippers should regard the chartering of a large number of their ships by the British Government as a decided windfall. At first, there were people, mostly in German pay, who opposed that scheme because, they pretended, it aimed at reducing the tonnage of the nation's mercantile navy—a silly and utterly unfounded objection. In view, however, of recent events—the German threat, followed by the firm attitude of President Wilson—the matter is viewed in quite a different light, and I have no hesitation in predicting that Great Britain will be able to charter as many Greek vessels as she wants to. They will be thrust on her rather than their owners should remain with them idle on their hands."

BUSINESS MAN, many years' commercial experience in Egypt, East and West Africa, etc., seeks situation as AGENT or REPRESENTATIVE; free to go any country.—Write Box B. M., care of THE NEAR EAST OFFICES, Devonshire Square, E.C.

WHY NOT POSTAL C.-O.-D.?

Prejudices of British Firms
Against the System.

We are glad to observe that the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt has taken up the matter of the use of the parcels post and cash-on-delivery system. For some very unaccountable reason British firms, or the great majority of them, refuse to transact business on that system, and the consequence is that much business is lost and inconvenience occasioned. It may be true to say that where considerable transactions are involved the cash-on-delivery system is not altogether appropriate; but we know of no better media when orders are small, or the bulk of the goods ordered is not great.

The Journal of the Chamber says that two or three instances have been brought to the notice of the Chamber in which British firms have refused to send goods to Egypt by the system.

"Cash with Order."

"Quite recently," writes one concern, "we remitted an order to a London firm, requesting that, as we were urgently in need of the goods, and had no idea of the price, having seen their notice in a trade journal, the goods should be sent cash-on-delivery."

"After waiting about five weeks, we received a letter as follows: 'Dear Sirs, As per your order, we herewith enclose invoice, and on receipt of remittance at London Bank we will despatch the goods at once.'

"We replied somewhat sarcastically, pointing out the fact that we were in urgent need of the ordered goods, and had requested that they should be sent cash-on-delivery; that they took practically no risk other than about 2s. 6d. for postage; that the Post Office took the responsibility of collecting the amount against delivery of the parcel, and that we had to take the risk of paying for the goods right or wrong."

"We sent our cheque along and received a reply as follows: 'We have to-day, despatched your goods as per invoice enclosed. We are quite aware how to send goods per post, but prefer cash with order.'"

"A typical example of the British trader at Home," adds the firm.

Why?

It would be interesting to learn why the British firms object to avail themselves of the facilities for prompt payment by the Post Office. A minimum of risk is involved, promptitude in the delivery of goods is ensured, and it also gives the nearest approach to the fulfilment of the condition "Cash with order" that we know of. Is it mere prejudice and insularity, or do British houses know of a way in which the safeguards adopted by the Post Office against fraud could be evaded?

In India, by the way, the system—called out there "Valuable Payable Post"—is in full working order, enjoys the confidence of purchaser and seller alike, and has actually made it possible for great retail houses to build up businesses which are conducted strictly on the cash system. We speak from personal knowledge when we write that great houses like Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co., Ltd., the Whiteley of the East, are able to carry on a trade, which embraces the great continent from one end to the other, with a minimum number of branches solely because the Valuable Payable Post system presents such advantages and other such facilities.

A Case in Point.

The present writer recalls one case in which the sale of a large consignment of cement, valued at many thousands of rupees, was negotiated through the system. The buyers, a great firm of native contractors, were in urgent need of cement at several stations along a distant railway. The goods were actually in a wagon at a Calcutta railway station, and it was arranged that the total should be split up into lots. Railway receipts were sent to the various agencies of the contractors by the Valuable Payable Post with the result that the cement was on the several works in a few days. If the ordinary business formalities had been adopted delivery could not have been effected completely in as many weeks.

The system is certainly worth trial, and we hope our Egyptian friends will persevere in their endeavours to break down British prejudices.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, February 7.

All other matters in the market during the past week have been overshadowed by the extraordinary developments in raw cotton circles. Violent fluctuations have occurred in New York and Liverpool, and at the moment it is quite impossible to know what the level of prices may be from one hour to another. The developments in connection with the international political situation have accounted for the disturbance, and the receipt of the German Note by the United States Government caused a panic in the New York market, prices dropping very quickly nearly 2d. a lb. Since then many ups and downs have been experienced, and at the time of writing the outlook is very unsettled. Under the circumstances, anything more than a retail business in yarn and cloth cannot be expected, and all along the line there has been a disposition on the part of both buyers and sellers to look on until the position is more settled. It is of interest to record that, while so many changes have transpired in American futures, Egyptian cotton prices have kept fairly steady. No news of any importance has come through with regard to the prospects for the crop in Egypt. Operations in piece goods for Egypt have been very limited. Fewer offers are being received than for some time back, and buyers on this side are in no mood to anticipate future requirements. In certain styles of cloth a little more activity has transpired for China. Not only have bleaching descriptions been purchased, but some special sales have been put through in grey shirtings. No improvement can be recorded in the offtake for India, and in both standard makes and fancies the turnover has been quite unimportant. The position of manufacturers as a body continues to be weakened, as contracts are being worked off without fresh orders coming round to follow on. The yarn market has been thoroughly disorganised, and it has been hard work to fix a basis on which to arrange transactions. There has been very little inquiry in yarns suitable for shipment abroad. Egyptian spinnings have been in retail request, but keep fairly firm in quotation.

THE EXPORT TRADE

Merchant shippers in Manchester have inaugurated a movement of considerable importance to the cotton trade and to the country. They are to approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Trade to secure relief from conditions which are hampering exports of cotton goods.

For some time, writes a contemporary, dyers, bleachers, and finishers have taken three or four months longer to execute orders than before the war as the result of a number of causes, including the short supply of labour. This delay unfavourably affects exports in various ways, and puts a serious strain upon the financial resources of shippers. It is clearly in the interests of the nation that the export trade in cottons should be maintained and facilitated.

The proposal of shippers is that shipping orders should have precedence of home trade contracts, and that this should be secured by Government action. They ask for an Order in Council requiring manufacturers, dyers, bleachers, and finishers, after executing Government orders, to consistently give precedence to contracts for export over other work. The view of the trade generally as gathered on 'Change is that there is much to be said for the proposal, which would help exports without inflicting damage beyond delay on home trade account.

EGYPTIAN COTTON STOCKS.

According to the official statement of the Liverpool Cotton Association, Ltd., the actual stock of Egyptian cotton held in Liverpool on January 26, 1917, was:—

Egyptian	Bales.
Egyptian for export, but not yet reported as having sailed	45,626
Erdan	12,093
.....	379
Total	58,098

During the week ended January 25, imports of cotton into the United Kingdom included 6,959 bales Egyptian, and the exports, 3,266 bales.

CYPRUS NOTES.

Good New Year Prospects for
Cultivators.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, January 16.

The year has opened under very favourable conditions. Troodos, Adelphi, and most of the higher ranges are now snow-clad, sending down icy winds. In the plains there has been more rain, and the wide cereal growing area of the Mesaoria and Morphou have been well supplied with showers, alternating with beneficial sunshine. Everything is therefore promising well for the peasantry.

January 21.

The Carob Crop.

Merchants who hold stocks of locust beans in all parts of Cyprus have been informed that Government will buy all they have; that fair prices should be asked, otherwise that they may be requisitioned at a valuation. The best carobs are from Limassol and Kyrenia divisions, while good qualities are also produced in Paphos and Larnaca. The Kyrenia merchants have proposed to sell at £4 18s. 0d. the ton, f.o.b.

Basket Making.

For some years the Agricultural Department has endeavoured to introduce a basket-making industry on European models into the island. A new impetus has now been given, with the concurrence of the Educational Department, teachers being sent to some of the villages to instruct boys of the higher classes in the Elementary Schools. This industry, practically a new one in Cyprus, deserves all encouragement, especially as the materials grow in the island, and Cypriots are clever at making various articles out of rushes and reeds, and also out of straw, such as the flat trays which are so much in use in both town and village households.

GERMAN HOPES.

In the course of a letter to the *Spectator*, Mr. J. G. Legge, writing from the University Club, Liverpool, says:—

"During the 'forties' an early glimpse is obtainable of German ambitions in the East, which have in the fulness of time developed as we know them to-day. As a young man Prince Hohenlohe, German Chancellor at the end of the nineteenth century, travelled in the East in 1849 on a diplomatic mission from the short-lived National Government at Frankfurt. Surveying the situation of Turkey, he says in his *Journal* (see 'Memoirs,' I., pp. 52-53):—

"If Germany is unified, strong, and armed, she will be able to secure Cyprus and more besides in the universal partition.' He goes on to say:—

"If, however, by peaceful negotiations with the Turkish Government, or the explosion of the Eastern question, we acquire Rhodes or Cyprus, or whatever else, we shall thereby obtain a splendid outlet for thousands of the proletariat, we shall gain a sea-board and a mercantile navy, marines and sailors. Nor must Syria and Asia Minor be forgotten. We must do all we can to check the Russians and English there, to which end it is essential to send out no Protestant bishops and missionaries, but to make it a station for the Catholic world in the East. German consulates filled by efficient men are among the most pressing tasks of the Imperial Executive."

"Germans have shown themselves to be possessed of long memories. It is probable that Prince Hohenlohe never forgot his early dreams, and the time came when he was in a position commanding enough to assist very effectively in making them a reality."

"THE EXPORT WORLD
AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, Feb. 8.

Currants.

There has been a very good demand this past week, with considerable business done in all available quantities; even damaged or out-of-condition fruit was in demand, and sold freely. Practically all common or cheap fruit has been cleared, and as the demand continues the price of other better qualities has advanced from 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Provincial was sold from 77s. to 79s., whilst Patras is quoted 78s. to 83s.; Gulf, 80s. to 85s.; Vostizza, 84s. to 86s.; Zante, 79s. to 82s.; and Smalls, 75s. to 84s. The stock of currants in London on January 31 was 7,298 tons, against 7,241 tons the same period last year.

Sultanas.

There is a very small demand, with transactions, as a rule, of little importance. Afghanistan fruit is selling slowly at from 85s. to 100s., whilst Greek is quoted from 104s. to 118s., but with no buyers.

Figs and Dates.

Both these articles are selling slowly at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm. London-Calcutta, ex warehouse, was sold yesterday at 115s.; Bombay, ditto, 114s.; while for forward positions quotations are 115s.

Rapeseed is very steady. Toria, for shipment, is quoted at 93s. 6d.; Ferozepore at 91s.; and brown Cawnpore at 87s., Hull. Cottonseed is firmer. Egyptian, Sakelarides, spot, London, has been sold yesterday at £17 5s. per ton. Rangoon Beans show a slight improvement on the week, quotations being higher for spot lots and arrival, as well as for later shipments of new crop. Canary seed: After the recent easier rates there has been a reaction, and prices are distinctly higher for Morocco, but with only small transactions at present.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firmer. Spot pipes offered at £52 15s., and barrels, ditto, at £53 15s., landed. Rape oil is firm, ordinary brown naked, spot, being quoted at £54 to £55; English refined, barrels, £58 to £59. Cotton oil has been quiet this past week, with very little transactions. Crude spot pipes is quoted £48 10s.; refined, pale, £51 10s. to £52 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £58 to £60, as to make. Olive oil is quiet, but late rates are well maintained.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Supplies are again limited, and for best Egyptian, in bags, £15 to £15 5s. is asked; whilst English makes are quoted at £15 10s. to £15 15s. Linseed cakes: There has been a much better demand this week, and English manufacturers have advanced their prices fully 10s. per ton, with every indication that this increase will be maintained.

Best London made is offered at £18 15s. to £19 per ton, whilst prime Western American is quoted at £17 15s. to £18 per ton, ex store.

Miscellaneous.

Egyptian eggs were sold this past week at 11s. 9d. to 12s., the finest; and 10s. 9d. to 11s. the fine, with a firm tendency. Egyptian beans, the 480lbs., are selling well at 50s. Bees' wax: East India yellow, £6 15s. to £7 5s.; white, £8 15s. to £8 17s. 6d.

A TURK'S COMPLAINT.

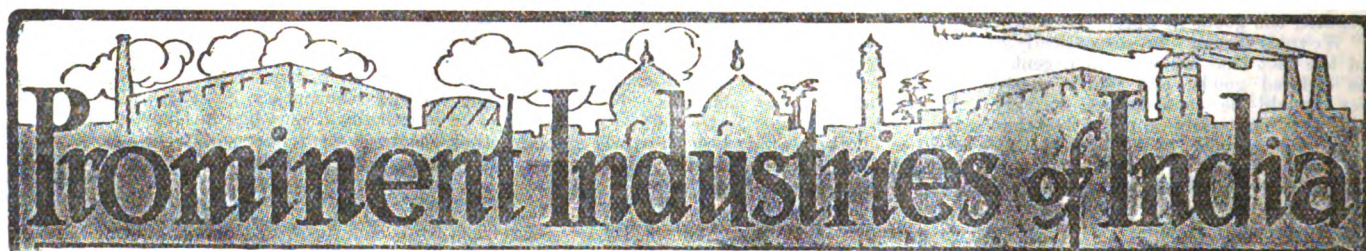
A man who spoke with a foreign accent applied to the magistrate (Mr. d'Eyncourt) of the West London Police Court for a summons against a servant girl, who, he said, had threatened to murder him and his wife. In broken English he said that the girl had brought a revolver and was going about threatening to shoot them. She had been worried of late because her brother had returned from the Front paralysed.

Mr. d'Eyncourt: What nationality are you?—I am an Ottoman—Turkish—merchant; my wife is Spanish.

Why is it then that you are not interned? You are an enemy.—I have been in London for twenty years.

You do not speak English very well?—Well, I have not got the London accent yet because I have been in Liverpool for some time.

A summons was granted.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.**

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

RECONSTRUCTION OF SERBIA.

Proposals for Official Measures after the War.

Friends of the Serbian people will welcome the announcement that the question of the reconstruction of Serbia and the rehabilitation of her people and industries is to be taken up seriously.

The British Minister to Serbia has forwarded from Corfu, under date of December 9, 1916, a translation of a circular issued by the Serbian Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, published in the Serbian *Official Gazette* of November 17-30, dealing with the organisation of the supply of the principal articles which will be in immediate and urgent demand on the return of the Serbian refugees to their country.

The circular points out that the end of the war will find the agricultural and commercial activities of Serbia completely dead, and that a general want of all the necessities of life will be felt. With a view to satisfying at once this vital necessity, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, assisted by the Skupshtina Commission for reprovioning Serbia, have taken the necessary steps for reorganising this important work. This task will, in the first place, be left to individual commercial initiative, the State only undertaking the work of satisfying such national requirements as individual initiative will not be in a position to meet. Until the accomplishment of the above task the State undertakes to support, assist, and control private initiative.

In order to ascertain whether individual commercial initiative can sufficiently satisfy this necessity in every way, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce have communicated with all Serbian traders, banks, private organisations, and with all concerned in the reprovioning of Serbia, to the following effect:—

(a) All who wish to import any goods into Serbia should address themselves at once to the Special Statistical and Information Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, stating exactly the quantity, kind, and origin of the goods to be imported.

(b) All import trade will be under a system of permits, the State affording facilities to those who obtain such permits in a regular manner. Guarantees will be exacted and permits will not be transferable.

(c) In order to prevent excessive prices the State will, when issuing the permits, fix with the importers the manner in which and the prices at which the goods are to be sold.

(d) All goods to be imported into Serbia must, in preference, be bought in the Allied countries.

(e) Among the principal articles—with the exception of such as are monopolies, and bread cereals (flour and wheat), which the State will provide—the most necessary are meat, fat, dry and preserved vegetables, oil, sugar, colonial foodstuffs, children's foods, leather, boots, manufactured goods in general, wool, cloth, candles, soap, iron goods and household goods.

Further developments of this important movement will be awaited with interest and sympathy.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Criticism by a Manufacturing Exporter.

A director of a manufacturing company in the City of London has delivered himself of some frank and comprehensive criticism of the attitude of the various war departments of the Government towards the manufacturing industries, and its effect on the prospects of the British Industries Fair, which is to be opened in London at the end of this month.

Limitations.

"While the War Office is taking the manufacturers' men, and the trade organisations of the country have decided, owing to existing difficulties, not to hold a fair themselves this year, the Exhibition Branch of the Board of Trade decide on a big exhibition, to include among other things toys," he said to a representative of the *Daily News*.

"In another room of the same department, the manufacturer is told, 'You must not take cardboard, paper, boards, or timber required to make toys.' Another department of the same Board says, 'Whatever you do, don't travel,' while at the same time the Exhibition Branch is issuing 100,000 invitations to people to visit the exhibition, and inviting manufacturers to send tons of exhibits.

Labour.

"The Director-General of National Service declares, 'I want every man who is not engaged on work of national importance to volunteer for it,' while the Exhibition Branch of the Board of Trade propose to employ carpenters, painters, electricians, and telephone operators in preparing buildings for the exhibition. Hotels and clubs have been freely commandeered and huts built to accommodate departmental staffs, while the Exhibition Branch proposes to secure the reopening for the second time of a large part of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which was closed early in the war by the Office of Works on the grounds of economy.

Factories.

"Last of all, the Ministry of Munitions says emphatically, 'We want every factory, machine, and worker employed on national work.'"

"I suppose your company is not exhibiting?" asked the interviewer.

"Oh, yes, we are, for the simple reason that we cannot help ourselves. Our competitor has taken a stand, and in spite of the fact that the Ministry of Munitions are pressing for delivery of their orders, we have to call men from the factory, bring them to London, and engage accommodation for them to prevent our competitors from securing our trade."

ECONOMIC DISTRESS IN SERBIA.

The Corfu correspondent of *Le Petit Marseillais* writes that the economic situation of the invaded Serbian provinces is going from bad to worse. The enemy has requisitioned all the food of the country to remedy as much as possible the disastrous state of things in his own territory. This is the reason why Serbia, which is essentially an agricultural and a stock-raising country finds itself in absolute misery.

The enemy passes through towns and villages and requisitions everything under penalty of death. The prices of comestibles have, in consequence, become fabulous.

On August 5, 1916, the *Journal Outro* (Sofia) published a list of provisions with prices, among which were: a kilogramme of beef, 12 crowns, and a kilogramme of cheese, 14 crowns. These prices are official, but in reality they are much dearer.

According to the latest information prices have risen 50 per cent. owing to the forced requisition of all the resources of the country. Even at these exorbitant prices, it is not possible to procure anything because the public have been forbidden access to the markets before 7 a.m.; previous to that hour all the officials are already in possession of whatever food is available.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Mr. H. F. Forbes, of the Indian Civil Service, has been posted to Mesopotamia on special duty.

Eleven Shanghai pilots have accepted river work in Mesopotamia in response to an offer by the Government of India.

The Military Governor of Busreh has notified that, as breaches of blockade rules are on the increase, offenders will in future be punished by imprisonment, in addition to corporal punishment and fines.

Mr. C. R. Beasley, of No. 3 Sharia Elwi, Cairo, has been appointed Controller of the Daira of the late Mohammed Pasha Chakib, in so far as the interests therein of Mohammed Bey Chakib, Sitt Chadieh Hanem, and Sitt Aisha Sadika Hanem are concerned.

With a view to capturing German trade thirty-five British Chambers of Commerce have agreed to produce an official register of British manufacturers. The register will be printed in English, French, Russian, Italian, and Spanish, and will be widely distributed abroad.

The attention of his Majesty's Government has been called to the fact that inquiries are appearing in the *Continental Times*, a propaganda organ of the Central Powers, published in English in Germany, as to missing British officers and other ranks. It is not permissible that British subjects should have any correspondence, direct or indirect, with this newspaper.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Decree of the Russian Ministry of Finance prohibits the export from the Empire, by all frontiers, of floss silk and silk waste of all kinds, and also of "bourrette" silk yarns and "bourre-de-soie" or schappe yarn, silk wadding, combed and uncombed, and raw silk waste. Exceptions from this prohibition may, however, be made by the Ministry of Finance in favour of Allied and friendly countries.

A great demonstration took place at Petrograd on January 27, during the passage through the city of several hundred Roumanian reservists who were en route from England and the United States to rejoin the Roumanian Army. The crowd surrounded the men, singing the Russian National Anthem to which the reservists responded with the Roumanian Hymn. Soldiers and spectators proceeded to the Kazantki Cathedral where a requiem service was celebrated for the Roumanian soldiers who have fallen in defence of their country.

Mr. Demetrius Gerakis, a tobacconist, of 28a, Leicester Square, London, W.C., has obtained an injunction against the Alhambra Music Hall. The crowds which await admission to the Alhambra had seriously interfered with Mr. Gerakis in the conduct of his business and were a public nuisance. Theatre proprietors must (said the judge in delivering judgment) provide accommodation for the crowds they collected instead of forming them into queues to obstruct and annoy other people. The plaintiff had suffered substantial damage, with regard to the extent of which there must be an inquiry.

THE WAR LOAN.

Several Greek and Near Eastern names appear in the list of subscribers to the new great War Loan. These include:—

National Bank of Egypt and Clients	£750,000
Messrs. Rodocanachi, Sons, and Co.	105,000
A. Frangopulo and Co., on a/c of the Hellenic Transport Steamship Co., of Athens (new money £30,000).	60,000

A daylight saving scheme is being introduced in Egypt.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

A British Petrol Substitute.

Since the scarcity of petrol and the subsequent rise in its price we have heard of many substitutes invented abroad by foreigners, while very little is said of others invented here by British scientists and experts. One of the latest petrol substitutes invented and prepared in England is one the constituents of which are cheap and entirely obtainable in this country. The fuel consists essentially of a solution of ethane and its higher gaseous homologues or isologues in paraffin oil or other liquid hydro-carbon under pressure. Coal gas produced by the low temperature distillation of coal is washed with paraffin oil or other liquid hydro-carbon under pressure and at a low temperature, and the solution of hydro-carbon gases so obtained is delivered under pressure into drums. For use the solution of gases is drawn off from the bottom of the drum and is delivered into the carburettor through a small orifice, without wire-drawing, so as to obtain the full atomising effect of the dissolved gases. The paraffin oil is partly or entirely volatilised in the carburettor, according to the proportion of dissolved gases. A patent for this petrol substitute has, it is stated, been taken out.

Petrol-Air Gas.

There are still many large towns in the East where olive-oil and paraffin lamps are the only means used for lighting private houses and public thoroughfares. The apparent adherence to this antiquated illuminant is not, by any means, due to any lack of appreciation of modern methods, or, as might be thought, to superstitious prejudice. Coal gas, for instance, which is one of the commonest and most used systems of illumination, is well known there and its advantages are fully appreciated; but it is the question of expenditure that often bars its adoption. The cost of an ordinary small installation is often beyond the means of a small town, and more so of isolated buildings, country mansions, farms, etc. The need, therefore, of a simple and reliable plant for the production of gas, which would be available for and within the means of any small or large user, has been very evident. This need is, apparently, now supplied by the petrol-air gas system, the use of which presents many advantages, and is undoubtedly suitable for countries in the East. Such gas, as is known, is produced from air and petrol vapour, there being 85 to 98 per cent. of the former to 2 to 5 per cent. of the latter. This mixture, generated in a suitable machine, passes to a small gas-holder, whence it is led by pipes to burners for lighting or heating. The light is brilliantly white, yet soft and steady, and as the gas contains so great a proportion of air the oxygen consumed is quite negligible, and hence there are no injurious bye-products to vitiate the atmosphere.

The machine for producing this petrol-air gas is worked by the aid of a weight, so that there is no cost for motive power. The carburettor used in this machine to vaporise the petrol is designed not only for the usual .680 lighting spirit, but also for ordinary motor spirit or petrol. There is a small sized machine which is capable of producing air gas for installations of from 500 to 2,500 c.p., or it can be used in series for larger installations. It starts or stops as the lights are turned on or off. The light is absolutely steady, and no skilled attention is needed for working the machine. It is said that the cost of the air gas produced on this system is about half that of acetylene, paraffin lamps or electricity. There is also a larger size machine for installations of 2,500 c.p. and upwards, constructed and worked on the same efficient principle. These

machines are, of course, entirely British made.

Opportunities in Cyprus.

Cyprus is, undoubtedly, going to be in the very near future a very desirable market, and agricultural machinery manufacturers and merchants ought to act with energy and businesslike method, from now and before the war ends, when their efforts will undoubtedly have to compete with the well organised and perhaps desperate efforts of their Continental and American competitors. At present it is a field approachable only to the British, while later it will be open again to all. According to recent information, not only has Cyprus not suffered materially from the war, but it has actually benefited. The revenue for 1915-1916 is the highest on record; and the Cypriote has been enabled by the abnormal state of affairs to earn money in a variety of ways. The requirements of the civil and military population of Egypt gave a great stimulus to the market gardeners of the island, many of whom, especially potato growers in the Famagusta district, were able not only to free themselves from debt, but to save considerable sums.

Cyprus Mines.

We believe that some time ago the Government compiled a list of the numerous localities in Cyprus at which mines were worked in ancient times, and the area over which the traces of these mines are found is very considerable. If the mineral wealth of Cyprus was developed the island would be made less dependent on the vicissitudes of agriculture. Some time ago offers were made by persons having the command of adequate capital to prospect the mining districts and test the question whether either the ancient mines might not be advantageously worked with modern appliances or new mines opened. Unfortunately, the Legislative Council declined, at the time, to pass the required measure to secure to the persons interested fair terms for their undertakings, and the opportunity was lost.

Rapid Ship Construction.

Germans, in trying to secure orders from Mediterranean shipowners, used to boast of their capacity for building ships very rapidly, far more rapidly than the English. It may interest such shipowners to hear that a British firm has recently established a record for rapid construction. The firm launched a 6,000 ton steamer in three months from the day of the laying of the keel, and the vessel was complete and ready for her steam trials in a week from the day of launching.

A Cotton Baling Invention.

So many new inventions in connection with armaments and weapons of warfare have come into being since the great war that a peaceful invention, writes the *Egyptian Gazette*, however useful, runs the risk of being almost overlooked. One of the most useful of such inventions has been brought out and patented by an Alexandria engineer, Mr. Samuel Leyland, and we are convinced that, had it not been for the war, his invention would have caused more public interest than it has done, as it is intimately connected with the staple industry of the country, viz., cotton. The invention aims at the simplification of the baling process as applied to cotton or other materials, and this is accomplished by punching the two ends of the iron or steel bale band in such a manner that they interlock easily, one with the other, around the bale and, on the expansion of the bale, become firmly fixed like a buckle.

Bale Bands.

The different possible constructions of the ends and the method of using the bale bands form the subject of much matter in the complete patent specification, but the invention itself is simple and can be readily understood

and applied by the native labourers employed in pressing establishments in Egypt. For the past three or four months all the compressed forage for the forces stationed in Egypt and also a large quantity of dries and forage, which has been exported to destinations which we may not mention, has been baled with Leyland's patent fastener, and everyone visiting the large pressing factory at Gabbary is impressed with the speed and efficiency of the work as compared with the old method of using studs as fasteners. We believe it is also a fact that when the steel fastening studs are used they often get into the fodder and cause injuries to the teeth and even stomachs of horses fed on the material. The invention has also been used with success by several firms for cotton baling purposes and, as it ensures a very great economy at the present time by eliminating the use of studs or other fasteners and is also much simpler in use than other systems, we believe it has come to stay. The simplest inventions have often the most profound results, and we must congratulate Mr. Leyland not only on his ingenuity but for having brought out, at this time, an invention which has been of service to the British Army.

Metallic Copper.

Copper smelting in the Urals shows a decided tendency to decline over the whole area, for declines are observed in the smelting done at nearly all the factories, writes the *Financier*. Thus, in the Pyshmin Klyucheff and Kalatinak factories of the Upper Isset Company, in the first seven months of 1916 the quantity of copper smelted was 131,718 poods, or a decline of 5,520 poods compared with the corresponding period of 1915. At the Polievsk and Sysertsk factories the quantity was 13,720 poods, or a decline of 15,532 poods; at Demidoff's Viesky factory 17,939 poods, decline 13,213 poods; at the Kyshtim 285,641 poods, decline 28,496 poods. It was only at the Bogosloff factory that there was an increase. Here the quantity of metallic copper obtained in the first seven months of the year was 139,883 poods, or an increase of 12,071 poods. The total quantity of metallic copper produced in the Urals district in the first seven months of 1916 was 588,901 poods, which was less by 51,757 poods than the quantity produced in the corresponding period of 1915.

THE SUEZ CANAL—A GERMAN GROAN.

The minimum peace terms of the Pan-Germanians and of the Bedlamite company known as the German Naval League have already been recited in this column, says the writer of that admirable column in the *Daily Express*—"Through German Spectacles." They include all the Flemish coast, every important French port, including Marseilles, and the bulk of Africa. To this fancy programme the *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung* adds two more small items—the freedom of the Suez Canal and the Straits of Gibraltar:—

"It is a disgraceful thing that England, with relatively only a handful of troops at the Pillars of Hercules and in the Nile Delta, should have the power to close these two important roads to the Mediterranean Sea.

"The whole miserable enslavement to England in which Europe has to exist finds its expression in this inglorious fact. For the sake of Europe in chains, the Central Powers must make it a binding proviso in their peace terms that the Straits of Gibraltar as well as the Suez Canal be internationalised.

"Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria-Hungary are in urgent need of the opening of these two great means of communication, while for Germany the matter, though of less importance, is still equally necessary as her means of exit from the watery trap of the North Sea."

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
11 of Egypt and the Sudan.

CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."

Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND

Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 50 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).

ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.

O. B. 117. Tel. 1: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 794.

CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.

P. O. B. 1095. Tel. 1: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 1064.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,

ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.

(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.

EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.

Telegrams: Ottfried.

EXPANDING BRITISH TRADE

Exports and Imports Increase—
Adverse Balance Continues.

We are proceeding rapidly towards the end of the third year of the war, and, despite all the sea anarchy practised by our enemies, with the resultant loss of shipping and cargoes, British trade returns continue to show almost amazing advantages, although, of course, we have not yet returned to the pre-war level.

The returns for January, 1917, have just been issued, and while from the point of view of expansion they may be regarded as satisfactory, the adverse balance of trade for the month (excluding bullion and coin) has increased from £29,348,402 a year ago to £35,243,454.

Imports reached the unprecedented total of £90,565,311, while British exports were valued at £46,860,542.

Details.

Compared with the preceding month, which had three working days less than the past month, imports advanced by £15,000,000 sterling, British exports by £7,000,000, and re-exports by £2,225,000. A large part of the expansion is due to higher prices.

The following table shows the value of imports and exports for January, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the corresponding period of 1916:—

	£	£	Per cent.
Imports ..	90,565,311 ..	+ 15,629,570 ..	+ 20.8
Exports ..	46,860,542 ..	+ 10,103,375 ..	+ 27.4
Re-exports	8,431,315 ..	- 398,857 ..	- 4.7

In imports, food, drink, and tobacco advanced by £2,648,489, raw materials by £13,485,533, but manufactured articles declined by £471,777, and miscellaneous articles by £30,675.

Food and Drink.

In articles of food and drink, grain and flour declined in value by £1,247,066; wheat advanced in value by £76,381, but declined in quantity by 2,244,140 cwt. Barley was lower in quantity by 1,823,200 cwt. and in value by £872,263, whilst maize declined in quantity by 2,200,600 cwt. and in value by £1,127,174. Meat was higher in value by £1,114,537 in spite of a shrinkage of 150,000 cwt. in fresh beef and 172,000 cwt. in fresh mutton; bacon shows an advance of 145,699 cwt. in quantity, with an increase of £1,195,259 in value. Other food and drink non-dutiable advanced in value by £2,549,012, butter accounting for £1,309,089 with an increase of 54,264 cwt. in quantity. Cheese and margarine also show substantial increases in quantity and value. In dutiable articles refined sugar was reduced by 411,742 cwt., but this was more than offset by an increase of 1,044,581 cwt. in refined sugar. Tea was reduced by nearly 11,000,000 lb. in quantity, and unmanufactured tobacco by a quarter of a million pounds. In raw materials, hewn wood declined by 43,000 loads, but sawn wood increased by 58,000 loads.

Raw Cotton.

Raw cotton advanced in quantity by 435,000 centals and in value by £6,141,998, whilst sheep's wool rose by 19½ million pounds in quantity and £3,000,000 in value. Petroleum was higher in quantity by 12 million gallons and in value by nearly 1½ million pounds; rubber was higher in quantity by 31,202 centals and in value by £34,502, equal to 20.2 and 1.4 per cent. respectively.

Exports.

As regards the exports of the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom, food, drink, and tobacco declined by £363,089, and miscellaneous articles by £45,231, whilst raw materials advanced by £1,328,770, due solely to coal, which advanced in value by £1,366,997, with an increase of 165,393 tons in value, and manufactured articles by £9,182,925.

In manufactured articles, cotton yarn advanced in quantity by 139,400 lb. and in value by £617,558, cotton piece goods by 74,380,500 yards in quantity and £3,781,948 in value, and other cotton manufactures by £675,545. Woollen and worsted tissues advanced by £1,516,539, silk manufactures by £29,128, and other textile manufactures by £371,704.

HOMS TO KOWEIT.

A Great Trans-Continental
Railway Scheme.

Reference is made by "Commentator" in his "Notes and News" to Mr. Manfred Emanuel's translation of Hauser's fine book on the German grip. Here, however, is an outline, the summary of an article contributed to *Cassier's Engineering Monthly*, by Mr. Francis Aldridge, which will go far to convert the German into an Anglo-French "grip."

Check the German Scheme.

The German line through Asia Minor, it is safe to say, was one of the great factors in this international war, since it was part of the great pan-Germanic scheme for the control, directly or indirectly, of the railway systems of Europe and Asia. People are, however, apt to forget that the alternative British scheme has made steady progress for many years past, and prior to the war was accepted in its main line both by the British and French Governments. The project is now being taken up again very seriously, not merely as a theoretical idea, but by practical engineers and by leading financiers, and it ought to be carried to completion at no great distance of time.

Now what is this line? Roughly speaking, it is 1,004 English miles in extent made up as follows:—

Koweit to Bagdad 646 kilometres,
Bagdad to Homs 970 kilometres,

of which the suggestion is, and always has been, that the first-mentioned section should be entirely British and the second section Anglo-French.

The Scheme.

The port of the Persian Gulf must necessarily be Koweit, which offers a far better terminus than most people imagine, for the basin is thirty-five kilometres in length and seventeen in width, and the actual situation is only eighty kilometres from the mouth of the Shatt-ul-Arab. The port on the Mediterranean is Tripoli, high upon the Syrian Mediterranean coast. From this port a French line already runs to Homs, and it was always anticipated that this place would be the "jumping-off" point for a line to the Hinterland of Palestine, for which it is admirably situated. The line now proposed is therefore from Homs, through Palmyra to Bagdad, and from Bagdad to the Gulf, and the latter section of the line, which would be exclusively British, would comprise five sections, about 500 miles in all in length, as follows:—

- (1) Koweit to Zobeir (branch line to Basra and Mohammerah).
- (2) Zobeir to Nazria, where the Shatt-ul-Hai joins the Euphrates.
- (3) Nazria to Diwania.
- (4) Diwania to Hilla (Babylon).
- (5) Hilla to Bagdad (with a branch line from a point midway to Kerbela (Imam Hussein) and Nedjef (Imam Ali)).

There would, of course, be branch lines in places on the Homs-Bagdad route, but for the moment the scheme which is under consideration does not take them into account either from the point of view of finance or of engineering.

The Advantages.

Now what are the engineering estimates of this proposed line which would develop the resources of Mesopotamia south of Bagdad, incidentally serve a very large pilgrim traffic, save at least four to five days in the time of transit to India, and prove of incalculable benefit in opening up Syria and Palestine? It would, of course, in addition, ensure that a through shortened route to India was in the possession of the Allies.

According to the engineers' estimates, the section from Homs-Bagdad, which includes one large bridge across the Euphrates and three and a half miles of tunnelling, could be completed at an average cost of £11,650 per mile, including interest during construction, and assuming the gauge at 4 ft. 8½ in., that 65 lb. rails are adopted, and that their cost c.i.f. Koweit would not exceed £10 a ton.

The section from Koweit to Nazria (320 kilometres) would probably cost somewhat less, while that from Nazria to Bagdad (325 kilometres) would be more in expenditure, principally because of the four large bridges required and of the numerous watercourses to be crossed.

COMPANY NOTES.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Limited, will be held at Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, in the City of London, on February 19, 1917, for the following purposes:—(1) To receive and consider the directors' report and the annual statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1916, and the report of the auditors thereon; (2) to elect a director; (3) to elect auditors.

United Egyptian Lands.

Holders of shares are requested to communicate with Mr. H. W. Cable, Secretary to the Shareholders' Committee, 16, Gracechurch Street, E.C., giving their names and addresses and the number of shares held.

Oil Outputs.

Bibi Eibat, 48,366 poods; Maikop Pipeline and Transport, 29,404 poods; North Caucasian, 594,445 poods; Black Sea Amalgamated, 19,559 poods; Cheleken, 536 tons; Maikop Combine, 15,949 poods; European, 83,400 poods.

AN OIL COMPANY'S ARRANGEMENT.

Mr. Justice Astbury, in the Chancery Division on February 2, was asked to approve an agreement of November, 1916, made between Mr. Allen Paull, a holder of "A" Convertible Mortgage Debentures in the Tchengelek Proprietary Company, Ltd., of the first part, the receiver of the second part, the Kertch Taman Oilfields of the third part, the Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd., of the fourth part, the Tchengelek Company of the fifth part, the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., of the sixth part, and the Phoenix Investment Trust, Ltd., of the seventh part.

Counsel (Mr. Turner) said the agreement was for a compromise, the main features of which were the termination of the Debenture holder's action and the cancellation of an agreement with the Oilfields Finance Corporation. A meeting of the Debenture holders has passed a resolution unanimously approving the scheme. There had been two issues of Debentures—namely, £60,000 of "A" Debentures, secured by a trust deed of which the Oilfields Finance Corporation was the trustee, with power to issue another £20,000 ranking *pari passu*, and £20,000 of "B" Debentures held by the same company. A difficulty had arisen with regard to the company's property in Russia, the titles being open to some question. An action was begun in February, 1916, and a receiver was appointed. Under the present agreement both actions were to be discontinued, the receiver discharged, the interest on the "B" Debentures postponed until all the interest on the "A" Series had been paid, and the Tchengelek Company was to discharge its debts, a sum of money being provided for that purpose.

His Lordship said he could not make the agreement binding, as he was asked to do, on an absent Debenture holder.

Mr. Turner said it would be enough if his Lordship would allow the actions to be stayed on the terms of the agreement.

His Lordship said the Court would approve the agreement, and grant a stay of all further proceedings for the purpose of enabling it to be carried out.

EGYPTIAN NOTE ISSUE.

The return showing the details of the Egyptian Note circulation as at November 30 last has been issued by the London office of the National Bank of Egypt. On the date mentioned the total issue amounted to £22,650,000, compared with £13,300,000 at the end of September. Against this there was held gold to the amount of £6,174,278 and British Treasury Bills for £5,150,722, these totals comparing with £6,300,400 and £349,600 on September 30.

Taken together, these items represent 50 per cent. of the total note issue, the balance being secured by £2,876,250 of Egyptian Treasury Bills, £608,182 of Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, and £7,840,568 of British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds, the last-named comparing with £3,164,690 at the end of September last.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Thursday.

Business this week in Egyptian securities has remained in a more or less disorganised condition, owing to the uncertainty still prevailing in certain quarters with regard to the recent Government restrictions on the export of securities, but when the new regulations become thoroughly understood, and it is realised that there is no prohibition whatever respecting the shipment abroad of Egyptian securities bought here with funds remitted from Egypt, business is likely to revive and become normal again. Here and there, although only on a small scale, there have been signs of a certain desire to sell with the view of reinvesting in the new War Loan; and this is likely to continue so long as the lists remain open. Some business has been done in Agriculturals round 5—5 1-16. In Nationals about 100 shares have changed hands at 13½. Anglo-Egyptians have been quieter on sales for a deceased account, and are about ¼ down at 11½. In Alexandria Waters a few shares changed hands at 11 11-16. Markets are firmer at 1 7-32, after some business at 24s. In Salts, the few shares on the market have been taken at 20s. 9d., and sellers are now scarce. Khedivial Mails have been done round 25s., and Union Foncière between 25s. and 25s. 6d.

In Greek securities the demand has continued, and prices remain very firm. Sellers have become rather scarce.

Oil Shares.

Business in oil shares has been on a limited scale all the week, and there have been some declines—in certain cases from advances made since I wrote last.

The news that the Russian Government has raised the price of crude oil did little good to Russian issues, and although on Tuesday Spies flattered holders by a sharp advance, they dropped afterwards, and at the close stood at 14s. 6d. Some business was done in North Caucasians between 26s. and 25s. 4½d.; but Ural Caspians have been neglected. Premier Oil and Pipe Lines were dull at 1s. 7½d.

There is no change to report in Anglo-Egyptian B's and Roumanian Consolidateds. Anglo-Persian preferences, however, have strengthened to 21s.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, February 8.

There has been a sufficient supply of money, although it cannot be said that there has been a super-abundance.

There have been few indications of any increase in the demand for short loans, and there has been no appreciable change in the rates offered by lenders, who have been able to ask and secure 4 per cent. as a minimum.

The discount market has been quiet to hard.

Treasury Bills have come out with greater freedom to be discounted at from 5 per cent. to 4 15-16 per cent.

In the Exchange market Italy fell heavily; but the rouble appreciated in value. Alexandria remains at 97½ piastres.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended Jan. 27.	1917. Week ended Jan. 25.
Cattle markets	1,009	1,264
General markets	350	388
Cattle markets closed	2	11
Receipts (£)	1,359	1,652
Total from commencement of year (£)	5,222	5,927

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended January 10, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Jan. 1-Jan. 10	6,200	5,812
April 1-Jan. 10	138,990	144,882

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Feb. 2.	Pre- sent Price.
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	68	68½
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907 ..	82	47	47
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909 ..	80	48	48
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 ..	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5% Bds ..	96	67	67
Egypt Gov. 3% Guar. Loan ..	93½	69½	69½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	66½	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	60	50
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878 ..	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	67	68½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	50½	50½
Do. 5%, 1884	56	50½	50½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	47	47
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40½	40½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	50	50
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	49	49
Do. 4% Ralls. Loan, 1902	77	61	61
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	73	73
Do. 5% Currant	—	87½	87½
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	75	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 260p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855 ..	103	75	72
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	—
Do. 4% Egd. Trib. Bonds, 1894 ..	84	—	66
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	50	50½
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	38	37
Do. 4%, 1909	69	38½	38½

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	72	62½	62½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	—	7/3
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Eastern Bank	5	82/6	79/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	72	6½	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	3½	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	62	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	132	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	5½	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer ..	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	79	78
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	172	10	8½
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	13	13
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	54	54
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	57½	57
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	54½	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1½	95	90½
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	2½	2½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Do. do. Def.	—	7	7
Bahra Co.	8½	3½	3½
Do. Pref.	4½	2½	2½
Daira Sanieh	2½	—	—
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Bd. Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9½	8/6	8/6
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	83½	85½
Do. and Foreign Trust	6½	6½	6½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	18	18
Do. Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	97	97
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	98	6½	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chgs. Debs. Rd.	97	73½	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8/9	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.	—	10/-	10/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. United Egyptian Lands	1½	25/-	25/-
Upper Egypt Hotels	1/9	-/5	-/5

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt ..	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	1½	1½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	1½	1½
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	93	92½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	21/-	20/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	97	91
Do. do. Pref.	—	25/6	25/-
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	3½	3½	76/3
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7,500)	90	72/3	94½
Upper Egypt Hotels	£179½	144	144

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	Price on Feb. 1.	Feb. 8.
Anglo-Persian	10/3	10/6
European Oilfields	21/-	21/1½
Roumanian Consolidated	3/7½	3/7½
	8/10½	8/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Feb. 1.	Feb. 8.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	415	425
Canal de Suez	4400	4410
Credit Foncier Egyptien	675	678
Turkish Unified 4%	62.25	62.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	89	90
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 19.

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

National Bank of Egypt	£	12½	to
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	12½	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—	—
priv.	L.E.	—	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	70	—
Privilegiée Frs.	—	—	—
Cheikh Fadi	Frs.	74	—
Urbanes et Rurales	£	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte ..	£	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—	—
Unifiée	L.E.	80½	—
Privilegiée	£	69½	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4½	—
Fondateur	£	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	—	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	2½	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—	—
Ord.	£	26/-	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5½	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	101	—
Jouissance	Frs.	156	—
Egyptian Markets	—	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	260	—
Div.	Frs.	200	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	160	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	20/6	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	630	—
1886 Oblig.	Frs.	330	—
1903	Frs.	258	—
1911	Frs.	267½	—
Delta Lands	—	—	—
Port Said Salt	—	—	—
Cotton Ginners	10/-	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	—	—	—
United Lands	F.T.	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	—	—	—
Fond	—	—	—

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned and as compared with the corresponding dates in 1916:—

	1916. Frs.	1917. Frs.
January 31	150,000	230,000
February 1, 2, 3 and 4 ..	1,270,000	690,000

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to November 30, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to December 13, 1916):—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross Receipts, Nov., 1916	Drachmas. 2,698,816	Drachmas. 1,727,000
Do. do. do 1915	2,718,555	1,671,000
Estimated Receipts for 11 months (Law of Control)	26,491,666	9,803,333
Actual do. do. 1916	32,714,686	24,902,000
Do. do. do 1915	32,885,006	21,786,887
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 11 months	+ 6,223,020	+ 15,093,666
	+ 6,393,339	+ 11,978,553

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

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 302.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	361	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Great Britain and the Near		Notes and News	377
Cairo	363	East	372	Egyptian Overseas Trade in	
Cyprus	365	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	368	1916	378
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Enemy Banks	379
Relief for Syria.. ..	364	At Suvla	369	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	379
Young Turks and Arabs ..	365	Respectable Corsairs	369	Produce Report	380
The Callous Teuton (Estelle		PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	370	Cyprus Food Prices	381
Blyth)	366	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	374	Greek Tobacco	381
The Arment Dog	367	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	375	Engineering Notes	382
The Black Sea and the Cau-				Homs to Koweit	383
casus (M. A. Poynter).—II.	373			Company Notes	383
				On 'Change	384
				Stock and Share List	384

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There was an interesting reference to the Rome Conference in the speech delivered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Parliament last Monday. He confirmed the statement already made in these columns that the Conference was directly responsible for the stiffening of the Allies' attitude in regard to Greece, and threw some light on the difficulties which had previously hampered the Entente in dealing with the subject. Mr. Bonar Law attributed these difficulties to the fact "that there were so many different Powers trying to deal with the same problem." The admission was an unfortunate one to have to make after more than two years of war; but it is satisfactory to learn that the Conference "came to a definite decision as to the policy to be adopted towards Greece." An Italian journal, using more direct language, has declared that King Constantine owes his retention of the Greek throne to Italy. If there be any truth in the assertion, we must suppose that the Rome Conference was able to register its agreement by means of a compromise; for King Constantine is still on his throne, but the Allied commanders are of opinion that they have prevented their forces in Macedonia from running the risk of being attacked from behind by the Greeks, if an invasion were to take place by the Germans and Bulgarians.

According to information which has reached the Greek National Defence Government, Italy is not alone in wishing to see King Constantine retained on the Greek throne. Her anxiety in this respect—always supposing the statement in the Italian Press is accurate—would seem to be shared by the German Emperor, who is credited with having sent a message to the King of the Hellenes to the effect that Germany is unable to come to Greece's aid against the Allies in Macedonia, and adding: "All I ask of you now is that you shall keep your throne." The message may be apocryphal, but cannot be said to be inherently improbable. It has been clear that the change in King Constantine's attitude has been due in no small measure to the realization that he could not count on any direct assistance from Germany. What is not so clear is the common ground which Italy and Germany are said to occupy in regard to King Constantine's position. As far as the German Emperor is concerned, it is only natural that he should wish to find a friendly régime in Greece after the war. He can imagine no future which does not contain a Germany still striving for the hegemony of the world,

and hoping to base it on the *Mitteuropa* scheme, with Greece as a serviceable buttress. Any tenderness that may be felt in Italy towards King Constantine can only be caused by suspicion that a Venizelist régime will in some way or another be hostile to Italian interests. If such a spectre had been raised in Italy, it has not been established beyond doubt that it was completely exorcised by the Rome Conference.

A subsequent conference within the Grand Alliance has taken place in Petrograd, where a British Mission headed by Lord Milner has been in consultation with the Russian Government and the Russian military and naval authorities. In the course of a speech at a banquet given by the Russo-British Society, Lord Milner made a striking avowal: "As the proceedings have gone on," he said, "I have wondered more and more every day how our great Alliance has progressed so well as it has done, on the whole, without the close consultations for which a conference of this kind affords opportunities. It seems to me to be marvellous that we should have been able to work together so well as we have done without that knowledge of particulars which we are now only for the first time beginning to develop." If the Allied Governments have been so remiss in the past in arranging for common action and concerted plans to bring the war to a successful issue, they will still less have found occasion to decide upon a common policy for the peace settlement and the future after the war. The Rome and Petrograd Conferences are steps in the right direction; but the process may well be carried further. There should be no room for difficulties arising out of the fact lamented by Mr. Bonar Law that so many different Powers have to deal with the same problem. By this time each Power, realizing that its future depends on the solidarity of the Alliance, ought to be able to approach any problem confronting the Alliance from the same point of view as its Allies. The sooner any tendency to plough a separate furrow, as seems to have been the case in regard to Greece, is eradicated the better.

Very little news has reached this country during the past week regarding the situation in Greece. According to the last reports the Allied Ministers were by no means satisfied that the Reservists had delivered up either their arms or even their artillery, and no promise appears to have been given in regard to the raising of the blockade. Bread rations are now in vogue in Athens; but the Allies are not likely to allow the regulations to press too harshly on the poorer classes. It is

not easy to see a way out of the present *impasse*. The Venizelists who remain in the capital are probably too broken after their sufferings or are still too much under the terrorist régime to be able to form a nucleus round which the rest of the population could rally to make its voice heard. The Allies' policy in the past has split Greece into two sections, and it seems to be their plan now to keep those two sections rigorously apart. Such a course spells peace for the moment; but it ignores the interests of Greece, and it leaves the pro-German section established in Athens masters of the situation.

Complaint was made in the House of Commons last Monday that discussion of the Salonika Expedition was being discouraged. What truth there is in the charge is outside our knowledge; but it must be evident to anyone who tries to follow the military situation that there is little room for such a discussion at this stage. The time for the Salonika Expedition was in the early months of the war, when a vigorous diplomacy backed by military support might have brought Bulgaria in on the side of the Allies. A Balkan federation, to which Roumania and Greece would have been parties, might have kept Turkey neutral—again with adequate diplomatic support in Constantinople—and have taken the war on to the Hungarian plain. The course of events has shown that there were too many "ifs" attached to this strategy. When the Salonika Expedition was eventually launched and continued to receive reinforcements, it seemed reasonable to hope that co-operation with the Roumanian army would enable it to reach its natural objective at Sofia. But other views prevailed. Roumania divided her forces and was overrun. There was no longer an attainable objective for an Allied advance in Macedonia. On the other hand, it was imperative that Salonika should be kept out of German hands, and sound military purposes were served, as an Allied army had to be there, in containing the largest possible force of the enemy. Weather conditions have recently led to enforced inactivity, but the mere presence of the troops acted as pressure on the Bulgarians, Austro-Germans, and Turks, and influenced operations in other theatres. The Salonika force may not have realized all the expectations founded upon it, but the Allies have at least prevented the Greek port from being used as a German submarine base, and—the war is not yet over.

Kut is putting up almost as stubborn a defence in its second innings as it did in its first. General Townshend held out from the first week in December until the last day of April; but for the greater part of this period the enemy played for time, relying on starvation to force a surrender, and only occasionally indulging in actual assaults. Nearly two months have elapsed since General Maude launched his attack on the Turkish positions at Kut; with the exception of interruptions aggregating two or three weeks, owing to the weather, the whole of this time has seen the investment pressed home with determination. But the Turks have held their ground, and it has been necessary to clear them line by line from the whole length of their formidable positions on the right bank of the river. During the past week the British troops have worked round the peninsula on which Kut stands, but remain divided from their objective by the waters of the Tigris. It would be supposed that our artillery could long ago have made the town itself untenable. No mention, however, is made in General Maude's reports of any bombardment of the left bank. His present tactics would be justified by a desire to gain time while developments in another direction are maturing.

Organisation and skilful preparations have again achieved a signal success in Egypt, this time on the western front. When the Senussi were driven from the coast regions last year, their main body under Sayed Ahmed established itself in the oasis of Siwa, a point in Egyptian territory 170 miles from the coast. There they were left undisturbed for the time being, but the work of dealing effectually with them was taken in hand and painstakingly carried out. By February 4 it was

possible to advance against the Senussi position. The main body was found in a well-defended position just south of Girba, fifteen miles west of Siwa, and after an engagement lasting the whole day the enemy fled, leaving his camp in flames. His intention was to escape due westward, but he found himself forestalled by a British detachment which had occupied the only pass in that direction available for camels. The leading party of the enemy was ambushed, but the main body, discovering that the pass was held, abandoned the road and made off southward into the waterless desert. There can be little doubt that the power of the Senussi has been finally broken by this defeat. They were stirred up by Turko-German agents, and were encouraged to invade Egypt. The enterprise has ended in disaster, and the next stage, which should entail the elimination of foreign influence and the return of the Senussi to the condition of peaceful neighbours, should be taken in hand without unnecessary delay.

The task of gauging conditions in a country is notoriously difficult. With every intention of judging impartially, the observer is necessarily obliged to generalize on incomplete data. He describes the things he sees, and from these he infers the condition of the people as a whole; but what he sees may be only a thousandth part of what is to be seen, and the remainder, if seen, might well reverse the previous verdict. In spite of such reservations the particulars regarding conditions in Constantinople furnished by a neutral long resident there, who has given the information to a Dutch paper, are of considerable interest. According to this observer, as quoted in *The Times*, "Turkey is half dead." A variety of reasons are given to support the statement. "The population of Constantinople is without coal. What exists has been appropriated for the munition factories, electricity works, the railways, and the navy. . . . If the coal famine becomes complete, pitch darkness will prevail. The coal supply can only be obtained at great danger to life, as the Russians are bombarding Tugul, on the Black Sea coast, whence the coal is obtained. The Russians have totally destroyed the Turkish Fleet, and the merchant fleet is not worth anything. The Bosphorus is wholly shut off." Meat, bread, and sugar cards have been introduced, but what makes for order in Berlin and Vienna creates disorder in Constantinople. The Turkish official is venal and cannot be regulated. Accordingly, stores are despatched to Germany, and the Turkish public remains without.

Side by side with abject poverty we are given a picture of "the fashionable world in Constantinople" as being extraordinarily gay. "The principal street in Pera is filled every afternoon with an elegant throng. The concert halls and picture theatres are packed in the evenings. The very wealthy families who reside there can afford to pay the high prices for provisions. Thus they have no deficiency." Clearly the whole is a superficial sketch, which implies little more than that in Constantinople, like other capitals, the extremes of poverty and wealth are to be found. The neutral observer is on surer ground in his description of the Turkish Fleet and Turkish shipping. German engineers have not hitherto been able to repair the Goeben, and she is still in dock. The Breslau is still afloat, saved in each case by her speed, and, with some torpedo-boats and submarines, serves to modify the previous statement that the Turkish Fleet had been totally destroyed. Only four ships of the Turkish merchant fleet, it is added, remain. In the long run, therefore, if this information be correct, the Russian Black Sea Fleet has disposed of most of the enemy's ships, but further operations are presumably curtailed by the danger of submarines. The part played by our Allies in these waters has not been spectacular, but it has evidently been effective up to a point. As there is still much useful work that they could do, it would seem worth while to introduce into the Black Sea the various devices which have proved and are proving so useful against submarines in other waters.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 24.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner had an audience of the Sultan on Thursday morning last. Although his Excellency had been received by his Highness at Assuan, when he passed through on his way down from Khartoum, this was his first official reception; and he was accordingly accompanied by the principal members of his staff, including Sir Milne Cheetham, Mr. Ronald Storrs, and Lieut.-Col. Watson. The audience lasted the unprecedented time of an hour and a-half. In the course of it the Sultan personally presented Sir Reginald Wingate with the insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Mohammed Ali Order, which he had recently conferred on him; and later on Said Zulfikar Pasha, his Highness's Grand Chamberlain, called at the Residency in order to hand to Lady Wingate the First Class of the Al Kemal Order. The same afternoon the Sultan returned the High Commissioner's visit. He was accompanied by Zulfikar Pasha, and Lewa Chehata Pasha and Miralai Kenny Bey, his aides-de-camp, and remained at the Residency over three-quarters of an hour. The unusual length of these "official" visits has aroused much favourable comment in Egyptian circles, where it is regarded as an indication of the excellent relations existing between the Sultan and the High Commissioner, and as of good augury for the future.

The Sultan and his People.

On the occasion of his return to Cairo from his visit to Upper Egypt, the Sultan has addressed a rescript to the Prime Minister, Hussein Rushdi Pasha, in which he expresses his gratification at the warm reception accorded to him by his subjects, and at the evidence that he found everywhere of material and moral progress and of development in education and industries. His Highness concludes by asking the Prime Minister to acquaint the provincial governors, and through them his people, with the intense pleasure which his tour afforded him, and with his determination to continue to do all in his power to promote their welfare.

That the Sultan should be gratified with his experiences on his way back from Assuan is not to be wondered at, for he was accorded at every point a reception such as has not been vouchsafed to any Sovereign in this country for many years past. As mentioned in a previous letter, at the outset his trip was intended to be merely a private one taken for reasons of health, and it was only because he was besieged by requests from the inhabitants of most of the towns on the river bank to afford them an opportunity of presenting to him their loyal salutations that it was decided to allow his tour to become an official one, which eventually developed into a triumphal progress. It is, indeed, a matter of sincere satisfaction to both the Egyptian and the British powers that be to find that the Egyptian nation fully appreciates the excellent prince who now sits on the throne, and who, in the words used by him in his above-mentioned rescript, feels towards his subjects as a father, and, one may add, certainly acts towards them in that character.

The British Red Cross.

A meeting of the local committee of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John was held at the Residency on Saturday last, when Sir Reginald Wingate was elected president and Lady Wingate patroness in the place of Sir Henry and Lady McMahon. Sir Courtauld Thomson, the Chief Commissioner, Sir John Rogers, the Commissioner, and Lady Cheetham, Commandant of the Cairo V.A.D. and chairman of the Committees for Convalescent Outings and of the Empire Nurses' Club, reported on the work done during the past year, and at the conclusion Sir Reginald Wingate addressed the meeting. His Excellency stated that Lady Wingate had been much impressed by what she had already seen, and that she would shortly make a more detailed inspection; and, whilst commenting on the generous "Our Day" contributions made by Egypt, as showing that

the people on the spot fully appreciated the value of the work done, he paid a well-deserved tribute to the manner in which the local organisation is managed, as is evidenced by the fact that the working expenses come to only 5½d. in every pound subscribed locally.

The Turkish Prisoners.

The prisoners from Maghdaba and Rafa have all come up to Cairo, and have by now been distributed between the various camps. The officers have been sent to Sidi Bishr, near Aboukir. The number of prisoners we already held was very considerable, and this substantial addition is a good opportunity for raising again the question of the employment of these "guests" of ours, who are fed and looked after at our expense, and render us no service whatsoever in return. The question of labour has always been a serious factor both here and in the Sudan, whenever any public works of any importance have been under consideration; and to-day when there is so much talk of the necessity for Egypt to extend her cultivation to the utmost, and when the war is daily making a greater call on local labour, it really seems absurd that we should not avail ourselves of the supply that lies to our hand in these prisoners, who are mostly drawn from the labourer and farmer class, and who for their part would certainly not demur at this opportunity of earning a little pocket-money. These prisoners need not be sent to the Sudan, where as a matter of fact there is a call for labour; nor need they be used in any way directly connected with military operations in Egypt. It should, however, certainly be possible to devise some judicious combination whereby they could be employed in some way so as to help solve the problem which is being created by the ever-growing requirements of the auxiliary services of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and by the encroachment which, it is to be feared, the meeting of these requirements will make on the supply available for agriculture and for the ordinary routine of the Public Works and other labour-employing enterprises. Apart from these very weighty considerations, there is a good deal of spade work that could be done in connection with the various projects which have been hung up by the war, but which will certainly be resumed or embarked upon as soon as peace is declared, and some of our prisoners could certainly be used in this connection. It is safe to say that any other nation would in such circumstances have turned to account the extra labour supply that had become available, and would have made the fullest use of its prisoners instead of allowing them, as we are doing, to live a life of idleness, to which they have never been accustomed.

CAIRO, January 30.

Indisposition of the Sultan.

The hopes that were entertained that the Sultan's trip up-river would have completely restored him to health have not been realised. On Thursday last a *communiqué* was issued by the Palace to the effect that the fever from which his Highness had suffered last autumn had recurred, and that his doctors had ordered him complete rest for some time. This *communiqué* was issued after a consultation had been held between Lieut.-Colonel L. L. P. Phillips, the Sultan's personal physician, and Drs. Legrand, Mohammed Bey Talaat, Velassopoulos, and Brossard, and in consequence of the decision taken by them the banquet in honour of the new High Commissioner, which was to have been held the following evening, had to be countermanded, and all the Palace engagements have had to be postponed indefinitely. His Highness underwent a slight surgical operation yesterday to relieve some local pain, and is reported to be progressing favourably to-day.

It is not known how long the Sultan's enforced rest will last, but his medical attendants may be relied upon this time to see that no risks are run. There is no doubt that his Highness made a great mistake in not adhering to his original intention of merely making a pleasure trip in Upper Egypt. Having just recovered from a bad attack of fever, he was not in a fit state of health for the ceremonies and *fantasia* that are necessarily attendant on an official tour; and by holding, on

his way down from Assuan, all the receptions, which he was persuaded to do by the local authorities and notables, he undoubtedly overtaxed his strength. The news of the Sultan's ill-health, whilst in certain circles it came, in the circumstances, as no surprise, has aroused widespread sympathy, and the number of callers at Abdin Palace since the publication of the *communiqué* has been considerable.

The Sinai.

For the time being there is a lull on our eastern frontier, and Cairo is full of officers and men who have been granted short leave. I understand, however, that the E.E.F. will soon be active again, and that it will not be long before important news is received from that part of the world. In the meanwhile, no time is being lost in getting the civil administration going once more, at any rate in El Arish, and the military authorities have requested the various administrations interested to appoint the necessary officials to the posts which their nominees had held up to our evacuation of the town in October, 1914. In this connection the local Press very rightly draws attention to the fact that these officials are amongst the few people whom this war has really benefited, for whereas it took their predecessors several days on camel-back to reach El Arish from the Canal, to-day, thanks to the railway, they can cover the distance in about eight hours. Indeed, I understand that, if the railway authorities liked to arrange connections, one could now leave Cairo in the morning and arrive at El Arish the same evening; and I should not be at all surprised if, as soon as the war is over and the Canal and the Sinai are declared to be no longer a military zone, Cook or some equally enterprising agents start advertised day-trips from Port Said to the historic spots in the Sinai, where the "great invasion of Egypt" was hurled back! Romani, Toussoun, Serapeum, Katia, El Arish, Rafa, and even beyond, are sure to attract our cousins from across the hemming-pond, and they will find throughout the area ample war souvenirs to satisfy even their thirst for trophies.

A Police Sensation.

In my letter published on November 17 last I announced that somewhat of a sensation had been created by the suspension of a high Egyptian police official. At the time it was not permissible to refer more explicitly to this matter; but to-day there is no longer any need for reticence. The official in question is George Philippides Bey, Chief of the Cairo Secret Police, through whose hands have passed all the political inquiries of late years, and who had in the course of the intricate and delicate work that fell to him gained for himself a great reputation as an intelligent, able, and hard-working official. He is accused of having taken bribes for the advancement of police officials and in connection with other matters, and was at first suspended, while the administrative inquiry was in progress at the Cairo Governorate. The papers have since been handed over to the Parquet (Public Prosecutor's Office), where a judicial inquiry is being conducted. Last week Philippides Bey and his assistant were arrested; the latter has since been set free, having, it is understood, confessed and turned "King's evidence." The inquiry is being followed with the greatest interest out here. It appears certain that whichever way this case goes there will be some important changes in the personnel of the Cairo City Police in the very near future.

The National Mission.

The Dean of Rochester and the Rev. E. A. Burroughs have arrived, and have already started work in connection with the National Mission of Repentance and Hope, for which they are acting as the Messengers of the Archbishop of Canterbury in Egypt, the Sudan, and Cyprus. Very quiet but earnest preparation has been made by the local clergy for this Mission, and between the middle of November last and the arrival of the Messengers special meetings have been held by the Bishop in Jerusalem, and the Cairo clergy have been visiting as his messengers all the towns where there are any British residents, in order to explain what this Mission really is. It has been arranged that Dean

Storrs shall visit Suez, Mansurah, Alexandria, and Cairo, and Mr. Burroughs, Zagazig, Ramleh Tantah, Damanhur, and Cairo up to February 12, on which date one of the messengers will proceed to the Sudan and the other to Cyprus. On their return further visits will be arranged for Port Said, Assiut, and Ismailia.

RELIEF FOR SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 31.

The s.s. *Cæsar*, laden with foodstuffs, clothing, and medical requisites for the victims of the famine in Syria, arrived at Alexandria on the 24th inst. The U.S. Consulate at Alexandria is awaiting further instructions from Washington before allowing the ship to proceed to Beyrout, and it is thought that over a fortnight may yet elapse before these instructions are received. The ship is still lying in Alexandria harbour. This most regrettable delay can only be occasioned by difficulties created by the Ottoman Government, especially as the American Red Cross had already clearly intimated that this work of charity shall not be hampered by any so-called collaboration of the Ottoman Red Crescent. The ship's cargo, of about 8,000 tons, consists of 75 per cent. of flour, 10 per cent. of *burghul* (crushed wheat), and the remainder of kidney-beans, rice, tinned butter, oils, salt, matches, and clothing, including shoes—a most useful and thoughtful selection.

Why the direct voyage should have taken so long it is difficult to explain. The ship—which should not be liable to search—left New York on December 16. The Arabic papers of New York published touching accounts of the farewell ceremony, which was presided over by the well-known millionaire and philanthropist, Mr. Cleveland Dodge, President of the New York branch of the American Red Cross, and attended by Mr. Oscar Strauss, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, ex-American Ambassador at Constantinople, and deputations of the American Relief Committee for Syrians and Armenians, and of the Syrian Relief Committee at New York, as well as a representative body of Syrian clergy and notables. Mr. Dodge's speech moved his hearers to tears. "I have," he said in the course of it, "a son and grandsons in Beyrout, and my heart is filled with anxious thoughts about their welfare; but it throbs with gratefulness at the thought of the joy that the sight of the American flag flying over an American ship in Beyrout harbour, after a period of eighteen months, will create in their hearts, and those of all Americans there. . . . It is with great satisfaction that I now announce to you that the American Committee of relief in aid of Syrians and Armenians sent them, last week, not less than \$400,000, with a view to alleviate their suffering and pain." At the end of the speech some Syrian ladies sang a farewell to the ship; other speeches followed; and, finally, a message was read from President Wilson wishing the vessel God-speed.

Dr. Dodge, in his speech, refers to his son, who married, a few years ago, one of the daughters of Dr. Howard Bliss, the President of the American College, and who went out to Syria to act as Secretary to the fine institution which was founded, through the munificence of his father, to perpetuate the memory of the late Professor Robert West, one of the most valued workers in the S.P.C. This building, known as Robert West Hall, is destined as a sort of recreation club for the students, and boarding house for ex-graduates passing through Beyrout, while its large halls lend themselves admirably to Y.M.C.A. meetings and other public functions.

One of the Arabic papers of New York makes the useful suggestion, in connection with the second relief ship, that, instead of flour and *burghul*, wheat should be sent, inasmuch as the cost would thereby be reduced, while, on the other hand, the grinding and crushing of wheat in Syria may be done at hardly any cost, since the many water-mills there, which the war and the destructive hand of the Turk could not affect, can still be worked.

A most satisfactory item of news published by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. is to the effect that the sums remitted by Syrian emigrants, including Lebanese, to their people at home, since the beginning of the war, amount to \$1,750,988. This, added to sums sent through other channels, brings the total to over \$2,000,000.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, January 29.

Official Changes.

A considerable number of changes are being made in the personnel of the Government. Various minor officials have been transferred to different posts in the Judicial Department; also in the offices of the Receiver-General, the Director of Agriculture, the Commissioners, the Police, the Prison, and the Post Office.

The chief Secretary to Government, Captain Orr, whose leave expires early in February, will not return to Cyprus. His successor has not yet been appointed, and Mr. Fenn continues to act. As regards the vacant Commissionerships of Larnaca and Papho, it is considered unlikely that they will be filled before the end of the war. The district judges, who are doing double work, have an arduous task.

The Government has notified that a war bonus will be given to all officials in receipt of salaries of £250 a year and under, viz., £1 a month to married, and 10s. to unmarried. This, though a small increase, may be regarded as liberal in the unparalleled circumstances of the present war, and has caused much gratification.

The Food Supply.

There is a considerable scarcity of food in all markets. The long and comprehensive tariff which came into force on January 1 is subject to changes from time to time. The Provost-Marshal at Nicosia has already altered the list in several respects. Strange to say, mutton, which was sold at a moderate price, is difficult to obtain, while beef, which was hardly obtainable, owing to a local custom of long standing, for many years after the Occupation, and only very gradually came into use, is now offered in considerable quantities. The season for the slaughtering of lambs is approaching, and when these—of which there is always an abundance—come into the markets, meat will be more plentiful, especially as their exportation is prohibited. By a recent proclamation of the High Commissioner, the export, under any circumstances, is now forbidden of oxen, cows, calves, meat of all kinds, macaroni, and olive oil. There have been various prosecutions under Martial Law; both Greeks and Turks having been fined by the Provost-Marshals of different districts for refusing to sell meat, for defying tariff rates, and for offences against the regulations relating to the export of potatoes, etc.

General News.

The merchants of Kyrenia, having offered the Government carobs at £4 18s. the ton, f.o.b., the officer who is in charge of negotiations has replied that he considers £4 15s. at Nicosia a fair price. The merchants hold out for a higher price on account of alleged difficulty in transport.

The Abbot of Kykkou Monastery, Kleopas, has attention mainly to ecclesiastical matters, is also interesting himself much in education. He has given his patronage, and pecuniary assistance, to the "Cyprus Library," which now contains about 800 volumes.

The Abbot of Kykkou Monastery, Kleopas, has announced that he will under no circumstances accept the vacant Bishopric of Kyrenia, the election to which is approaching. The monastery is the principal institution of the kind in Cyprus, and is much visited annually, not only by Cypriots, but also by pilgrims from other countries.

A message from Sofia reports that a few days ago a fairly strong earthquake shock was felt at Cupria, Despotovatz, Svilainatz, and other localities in the Morava Valley in Serbia. No damage was done.

Count Elemer Lonyay von Nagy-Lonya has been made a prince. He is the husband of Princess Stephanie of Belgium, who was the widow of the Archduke Rudolph, the heir to the Austrian and Hungarian thrones.

YOUNG TURK AND ARAB.

IN IRAK AND SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The blood-red trail of treachery runs through the whole of the Turk's history. The fatal cup of coffee and the mysterious bundles that fed the fishes of the Bosphorus—grim facts that seem like fiction in their tragic horror—will always be associated with his savage rule. During the recent massacres in Armenia, wherever there was any fear of opposition the Turkish Governors used to invite the notables to meet them, on the pretext of taking friendly counsel together, and once the confiding victims came within their reach they were done away with in cold blood. Jemal Pasha's achievements in Syria are familiar to your readers.

Recent reports from El Irak show that Akif Bey has there diligently carried on the infamous work. Arriving with his troops near Hillah—the town that lies amidst the ruins of ancient Babylon—this commander sent an invitation to the notables to come and see him in his camp. He desired, he said, to discuss with them certain matters connected with the passage of the troops through the town and their provisioning, as well as the protection of the inhabitants, and the maintenance of order. Hardly, however, had the notables entered his tent when he ordered their arrest, and let loose his troops on the town. Eight of the notables were hanged, and their leader, Es Sayed Ahmed el Qazwini, was clapped into jail, while the town was pillaged and part of it destroyed.

The treachery of the Young Turk is equalled by the impudence of his lying and deceit. A deputation of Syrians, among whom were some representatives of the Press, went—or, rather, were made to go—to Constantinople, to testify to their "loyalty" to the Government and their "admiration" of the heroic defence made by the Turkish troops at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia. This was, of course, a piece of Unionist "window-dressing"; but the delegates, having before them the alternative of going to the capital or to the gallows, naturally preferred the former. The Unionists, then, to return the compliment, sent a deputation to Syria to proclaim how deeply are the Arabs attached to them, and how Syria has distinguished itself by its loyalty. This deputation left on October 28, and visited Damascus, Beyrout, and Beersheba, and was to visit other parts of Syria. Its members consisted of Unionists of the worst type and of a few German Pressmen.

The Constantinople papers indulged in glowing accounts of this "moral tour," as the Turks called it, and of the cordial welcome accorded by the people to the deputation, as well as of the patriotic speeches exchanged on every possible occasion. After offering them a sumptuous banquet at Damascus, Jemal Pasha accompanied the members to Beyrout, to attend a tea party given in their honour by the Mufti. On that occasion the Commander of the 4th Army Corps made a speech, which was published in the French papers of Constantinople, and of which the following passages are characteristic:—

Those who have helped foreign intrigue in Syria are few, and may be divided into three categories: (1) those who invited foreign intervention in obedience to their mean ambitions and evil aims; (2) those who joined this first category in blind obedience; (3) those who absolutely refused to adhere to these aims, and opposed by force foreign intervention as being hurtful to interests of the country.

The orator concluded his speech with the following words:—

The Beyroulines especially, and the Syrians generally, are indisputably loyal and faithful to Ottoman union, and to the Islamic Khalifate. Their hearts are made of gold, and are adorned with the finest qualities. There can be no manner of doubt about their feelings.

Were it not for its revolting deceit and impudence this speech of the arch-assassin might be qualified as humorous.

THE CALLOUS TEUTON.

RECOLLECTIONS OF PALESTINE.

By Estelle Blyth.

On January 31, the *Star* published some horrifying details from Copenhagen concerning the exploits of the German raider *Moewë*. On December 6 the *Moewë* sank the Canadian Pacific Railway liner *Mount Temple*, on board of which were 750 horses. Having transferred the crew to its own decks, the raider sank the *Mount Temple* by bombs; the horses were flung into the ice-cold water, struggling, and uttering those terribly human cries of fear and pain which horses do utter when in distress. On December 10 the *White Star* liner *Georgic* was blown up by bombs. She carried 1,200 horses. "Hundreds of horses swimming towards the *Moewë* made desperate efforts to clamber on board, but the German sailors standing with loaded revolvers killed them as they reached the ship." We can only hope that they did *kill* them. The horror of the scene can be easily imagined, and does not bear dwelling on, but it has a stern significance for us in that it discloses yet another aspect of German callousness and cold-blooded cruelty. Perhaps we thought we had little to learn in this respect after two years of warfare.

The incident has reminded me, as it will surely remind many who have lived in Jerusalem, of German cruelty, or at best indifference, to animals, as we saw it in Palestine. I will begin with the Kaiser's visit in 1893. He came in October (May and October are our two bad sirocco months), and it was the worst October we had known for years. He rode through the country from Haifa to Jerusalem in the fiercest sirocco, and he lost no time. The little Syrian horses, which are always game to the very end no matter how greatly neglected or ill-treated, gave out under the unusual strain, and dropped by the way. Many a horse (it is said seventy) gave out in this way, and was hastily replaced, so as to cause no appreciable delay to the Imperial Juggernaut.

It was a young German prince, heir to one of the chief reigning dukes (I withhold his name, for he is now dead), who had the gay thought to make the return journey from Jericho to Jerusalem in record time. Jericho is between 800 and 900 ft. below the sea-level, and Jerusalem some 2,600 ft. above; the road is rough and winding, seldom repaired, and rises in sharp angles which make it necessary to proceed at a foot pace. Most travellers get out and walk up these bad bits, to ease the carriage-horses. The German prince had horses posted at intervals along the road; as one dropped dead or dying, he took another; the last horse fell under him just outside the Damascus Gate; later on, some merciful hand shot it. His suite boasted that he had done in under two hours a journey that we allow from four and a-half to five hours for. Truly a record!

About four years ago the German doctors started vivisection on a large scale; it was eagerly taken up by the Syrian doctors, who are often both keen and able at their work; the experiments were carried out at the house of one of the German practitioners. Naturally, here I must speak as an outsider, but it was one who was present who said that the proceedings were very scientific but exceedingly callous. The question of vivisection does not enter into the argument at all; but I think it will be generally conceded that to promote it broadcast in a place where animals have no rights and no protection, where ownerless dogs can be picked up any day for the bare trouble of getting them for use under no sense of restriction—surely to have done this is to have

brought in great and additional suffering where already animals suffered too much. The German doctors no doubt were skilful; the native ones, Syrian and Jewish, certainly were only beginners.

After the New Constitution of 1908, a branch of the S.P.C.A. was started at Jerusalem. It did really good work, under many disabilities. We had a hospital, picturesquely situated over the so-called Lower Pool of Gihon, and some of the Turkish officials were both keen and helpful members of the society. There was a committee composed of members of various nationalities, and the German member was no good at all. It may have been laziness that took him down a side street to avoid having to interfere in a flagrant case of cruelty to a donkey, near the Grand New Hotel; it may have been ignorance that made him ride his own donkey on one of the horrible native bits; it may have been pressure of other work that prevented his taking up cases that were reported to him—or it may have been only German callousness. The result was the same. There was one very bad case of cruelty to a donkey by a German subject which was reported (not by the German member) to the offender's Consulate, not once or twice; but the German Consulate absolutely refused to allow action to be taken by the S.P.C.A., and in the end the case had to be dropped, as official indifference threatened to turn into active animosity.

All these things were done in the green tree. We have seen what has been done in the dry. It is the same spirit, only extended in scope, that has made fighting Germany able to sink the *Lusitania*, to ravage Belgium and Poland, to murder Nurse Cavell, to ill-treat the prisoners, to sink hospital ships; while civilian Germany applauds each successive feat. And we, whose generation has seen the unmasked horror that is the real Germany, can only feel that not by us can the hand of *fellowship* ever again be extended to a people so terribly stained.

THE GREEK RESERVISTS.

In a message, dated February 8, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—The papers deal at length with the firm attitude adopted by Sir Francis Eliot and Prince Demidoff, the British and Russian Ministers respectively, at the last conferences with the Premier, particularly regarding the disarmament of the Reservists, which, the Government says, has long since been carried out, while the military control maintains that the Reservists still possess both artillery and other arms. The Allies attach the utmost importance to the Reservists question, which constitutes a stumbling-block to the raising of the blockade. The French Admiral has even rescinded the order for the delivery of the detained mail bags to the postal administration.

Seven Montenegrins who have escaped from Germany are now on their way to Salonika, via Paris.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the transfer of the Serbian Army to Corfu, after the great retreat, the official Serbian journal paid a grateful tribute to the assistance rendered to Serbia by the Allies.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galissani, 24 Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepherd's Hotel; The British Library, Shari' el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nassimalli and Company, 2, Rue Sossatri; Librairie Calabert, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cabala and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Franaise, Rue Sabri Pasha.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafas.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

Hazel & Co.
FOUNDED 1815

COMPLETE SERVICE OUTFITTERS
EXPERTS IN CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SERVICES, PURPOSES & CLIMATES.

Illustrated Catalogues on request
ACTUAL MAKERS OF Uniforms, Mufti, Weatherproofs, Caps, Helmets, Camp Kits, Flying Outfits, Leather & Web Accoutrements, Leather Clothing, Explorers' & Travellers' Outfits.

4 PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071

RULE OF TERROR IN SERBIA.

The Royal Serbian Legation in London makes the following announcement:—

From information which has reached the Serbian Government in Corfu through various channels, concerning the conditions prevailing in the Serbian provinces occupied by the enemy, as well as from numerous admissions made even in the *Beogradske Novine*, the official organ of the Austro-Hungarian administration in Serbia, it transpires that a rule of terror equal to that in the regions under Bulgaria prevails increasingly in those parts of Serbia which are under Austria-Hungary. The seemingly correct behaviour of the military authorities at the beginning of the occupation was simply designed to impress foreigners, especially neutral countries. No sooner had Austria-Hungary dismissed the foreign medical missions from the country and closed it to foreign travelers than she revealed her true attitude and intention towards the Serbs, adopting to the full those principles which the Bulgarians have frankly professed from the very first, viz., the elimination of the Serbian element, and the terrorising of the population by the removal of all the leading men in the country.

In pursuit of this object, the Austro-Hungarian authorities have resorted not only to the deportation and internment of Serbian men, women, and even children (from fifty to sixty thousand in all, so far) in Austria and Hungary, but to a system of most rigorous penalties, in most cases that of death on the gallows. Whereas the Bulgarian Government in Sofia considers it necessary for the National Sobranje to pass a special Bill "against brigandage" (see the Sofia paper, *Zarja*, of December 16, 1916), so as to give a judicial colouring to wholesale executions of Serbian citizens in the regions occupied by the Bulgarian authorities in Macedonia, Old Serbia, and the Morava region—in the territory occupied by the Austro-Hungarian authorities such judicial murders are carried out simply in accordance with a list in which certain anticipated "crimes" entail the death penalty, which list has been drawn up by the Military Commander-in-Chief, the Archduke Frederick. This list of crimes grows longer from day to day, and includes an ever-increasing number of offences which are punishable with death. From the official intimations of the *Beogradske Novine*, the penalty of death on the gallows is provided, apart from the usual offences "against the military powers":—

1. For persons in whose possession are found arms, munitions, or explosives.

2. For persons who, in any way (by giving food, shelter, clothing, etc.) assist prisoners to escape. (Order of the Military Commander-in-Chief, February 28, and October 27, 1916, see *Beogradske Novine*, No. 255, October 27, 1916.)

These regulations are to an incredible extent distorted and abused to suit the desires and requirements of the military authorities. Thus, e.g., the *Beogradske Novine* frequently reports cases in which several persons, often even women, have been hanged because the authorities found "rifle bullets" in their houses, or because "buried arms and explosives" were discovered in their fields and pastures, in some cases, solely the barrels of guns, and shrapnel, of which the accused could not have made any use whatsoever. The complete innocence of these poor victims is beyond all doubt, because it was impossible for them to know whether a few bullets had or had not been forgotten or concealed on their premises by some member of their family at the time of the retreat of the Serbian Army. Likewise (seeing that at the time of the military operations they were absent from their homes and grounds) they could have no knowledge of it, if individual officers or men, or even entire units, had at the time of the retreat buried arms or munitions in their orchards, pasture or woods, because they could not convey them further owing to lack of transport, or the bad condition of the roads.

As regards the sheltering of prisoners, in most cases a common denunciation is considered sufficient proof.

Moreover, the Serbian Government possesses reliable proof of the fact that the Austro-Hungarian military authorities frequently inflict the penalty of death for the following, besides the aforesaid, "crimes":—

1. For wearing Austrian, German, or Bulgarian uniforms. Here we must mention that the enemy soldiers themselves frequently trade sundry articles, chiefly underclothing, trousers and boots, to the natives for money or drink (as may be seen from the admissions in the *Beogradske Novine*).

2. For having more food in the house than is permitted by the regulations.

3. For retaining copper utensils after a second intimation to give them up.

4. Upon persons conveying letters other than their own. Here it is necessary to state that neither the Austro-Hungarian, nor the Bulgarian authorities permit postal intercourse between the native inhabitants in the respective Serbian territories under their administration.

Beside the aforesaid "crimes" and "offences," for which the death penalty is provided, it is inflicted in countless other cases, and, most often, wrongfully; and under the provision for anticipated prohibited actions, it affects cases which are not at all related to the aforesaid offences.

There have recently been numerous cases in which the Austrians have hanged individual citizens because they neither could nor would indicate the places where the Serbian authorities or fugitives had hidden (usually buried) various objects, in most cases State archives.

Thus the Serbian Government possesses authentic information of the fact that Mr. Sibin Yelatchitch, a wealthy merchant, was hanged in the market town of Brus for refusing to reveal the spot

where certain private property of H.R.H. the Crown Prince Alexander had been deposited.

As merely one, but a very eloquent, proof convicting the Austro-Hungarian authorities in Serbia of the perpetration of atrocities, the Serbian Legation retains for the inspection of persons or institutions desirous of convincing themselves the reproduction of a photograph received by the Serbian Government in Corfu from the Serbian Army Headquarters in Salonika. The original photograph, which is one of the most gruesome documents of the war, was found on a German officer, who was killed on the Monastir front. It represents a sextuple execution of Serbian citizens in the presence of officers and men of the Austro-Hungarian Army. To render the deed even more revolting, a gipsy was employed to act as hangman, the execution being public. The German officer for his amusement photographed the whole scene.

The members of the Serbian Parliament for the County of Krushevatz, who are at present in Corfu, identified three of the victims as well as the locality where the execution took place. The photograph shows a spot near the railway station at Krushevatz. The victims were highly-respected, honest and well-to-do peasants from the village of Lazaritz in the neighbourhood of Krushevatz, and one of them (the second in order from the right) is Mihaylo, the Mayor of the village of Lazaritz before the Austro-Hungarian invasion. Having regard to the blameless reputation and prosperous circumstances of these men, it is out of the question that they should have been hanged for some common crimes such as theft or murder; the reason for their execution must have been political. By public executions, and by exposing the dead bodies, Austria-Hungary is endeavouring to intimidate the nation, and by the removal of its best and most prominent men she is trying to deprive it of all its natural leaders and advisers.

THE ARMENT DOG.

(BY AN ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.)

Most countries have some special breed of dog associated with them, and specimens of most, if not of all, these breeds have found a home and a welcome in the British Isles; and, in spite of the fact that the Briton pays for the privilege of keeping a dog, the official recognition gives the animal a definite status, not as the friend of man alone, but also as a revenue earner.

China has contributed the Pekingese spaniel, the chow, and the lesser-known and somewhat bizarre Chinese snake-killer. There are also the Thibetan hound, the Siberian wolfhound, the Newfoundland, the St. Bernard, the Esquimo dog, the Bruxelles griffon, and the tiny Maltese terrier, all representing different countries; whilst the Borzoi, or Russian wolfhound, which Queen Alexandra and the Duchess of Newcastle have done so much to popularise in England, have long since become established favourites. The dogs of the Maremma and of Calabria and others too numerous to mention, all have their supporters. Almost every agricultural show in the United Kingdom has classes for dogs. The Battersea Home for Lost Dogs, the Canine Defence League, and the Anti-Vivisection Society all uphold the interests of the dog, and those who have read Miss Elizabeth Lee's memoir of "Ouida" will know what an individual can accomplish on behalf of her canine favourites.

In Eastern countries, unfortunately, the dog is held in light esteem, which is difficult to account for, especially in a stock-raising country such as Egypt, where a trained dog could often be of great assistance to the herdsman and also to the farmer living in isolated districts, as a protection from thieves. In Great Britain it is recognised that nothing is so disconcerting to the would-be burglar as the existence of a dog on premises upon which he has cast a covetous eye. Perhaps it is this Eastern indifference to canine merit in general that accounts for the neglect of the Arment species, which is threatened with extinction unless an effort be made towards its preservation. This breed is not indigenous to Egypt, it is true, and, while its origin cannot definitely be determined, it seems more than probable that its forbears were Pyrenean sheepdogs brought over by Napoleon when he landed in Egypt in 1798. This theory alone should bespeak for the Arment the interest of French residents in Egypt. Napoleon's expeditionary force is known to have comprised a numerous body of savants, naturalists, geographers, and other scientific men, but whether the dogs accompanied the troops as "mascottes," or the naturalists with a view to acclimatisation, it is at this date impossible to say. At Edfu, in 1906, the writer was introduced to a venerable native, who, on account of his age and the tradition that he had witnessed the visit of Napoleon's troops to Upper Egypt, was somewhat of a local celebrity. Whilst able to answer general questions intelligently enough, the ancient was unable to do anything towards establishing the origin of the Arment on a sounder basis. A careful comparison of an Arment dog with modern specimens of its reputed progenitors should do much to elucidate the mystery, and this the writer hopes to be able to accomplish at no very distant date.

A well-bred Arment is a truly noble specimen of the canine race, and would constitute an attractive feature of any dog show in Great Britain or Europe. They breed

fairly true to type as regards contour and general characteristics, though varying considerably in colour. But, in searching for a British breed with which to compare them, the writer is at a loss, owing to their strong individuality. The coat is extremely fine in texture and about 2½ inches in length, the chest narrow, the front legs (or forearms, in fanciers' parlance) straight as gun-barrels; the hind-quarters possess immense spring and power. There is a fine breadth of skull between the eyes. The ears are of the hound type, carried drooping; the eyes small, keen, and somewhat deep-set. In size they are about that of a greyhound, but there the comparison ends. A set of measurements which the writer took some years ago of a typical dog are unfortunately not available for reference.

True Arment puppies are usually absolutely clean indoors from the age of a month. A characteristic revealing their sheepdog ancestry is the habit they have, when taken for a run, of continually encircling their owner, as though for protection. The chief fault alleged against the Arment, which, unfortunately, is not devoid of foundation, is that, as he matures, he is apt to become somewhat uncertain in temper. Careful feeding, however, and the absence of undue restraint, should do much to mellow his crusty disposition, and in a cooler climate this trait might be kept within useful bounds. In certain circumstances this truculence might be accounted to him for a virtue, for he is at his best when guarding property from the would-be marauder. During the past summer, moreover, the writer has observed two fully-grown dogs accompanying European nursemaids and their charges in suburban Alexandria, which is a strong testimony in their favour.

It does not transpire that there are any recognised breeders of these dogs, but two fine specimens which passed through the writer's hands some years ago were bred by an Egyptian notable of Arment, the village whence they derive their name. They are not sold to Europeans, for, with true native generosity, the Egyptian will only *present* them; and thus they do not appear to have any intrinsic value as yet. One of the two specimens given to the writer was a black dog puppy, obtained on behalf of a friend interested in the breed. During a temporary stay in a Luxor hotel in the tourist season the little animal found many friends. He was a born watchdog, and guarded his owner's allotted bedroom with vigilance and vigour. After his companionship during a three weeks' tour it went sadly against the grain to have to part with him at a certain stage of the down-river journey. Twelve months later he had grown into a magnificent dog, but when his new owner had had him for about three years he failed to discriminate after dark between the labourers who worked on the premises and those who were not entitled to access, and, as a result, he had to be disposed of.

It is to be hoped that some influential Egyptian will form a kennel of these dogs and induce others to interest themselves in the breed, thus rescuing it from threatened oblivion. In future the wealthy Egyptian is likely to visit the British Isles in increasing numbers, and should he desire to make a present to anyone who may have had the pleasure of entertaining him there, a couple of these magnificent animals would constitute a truly princely gift when bestowed in a country of dog-lovers.

Reuter's Washington correspondent reports (February 14):—The State Department has again asked the United States Ambassador at Constantinople, Mr. Elkus, to explain why he has not been able to report about the Americans who have been detained in Asia Minor. Since the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany so far not a word has been allowed to reach the United States from Constantinople or from Sofia.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Egyptian papers lately received report that Omdurman has been suffering, though not, apparently, very seriously, from a "witch" scare. The rumour ran round the city that one of its inhabitants possesses uncanny powers, and that she subsists entirely upon the flesh of children. The natural results followed. A lot of harmless old grannies gave, quite unintentionally, some of their fellow-citizens a bad fright, merely by walking about the streets; and in one case at least, a poor old soul was pelted by the rabble. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that the parents seem to have been as badly alarmed by the "witches" as their children; but I expect that by this time Omdurman has got over its "nerves" and is feeling rather ashamed of itself. It is, however, very interesting to note how this witchcraft cry persists in cropping up, now here, now there, and often in most unexpected places. As a rule, I think, a town or city offers less favourable soil for the growth of such weeds of superstition than does the country or the tiny village. But Omdurman is not by any means alone in this respect. Some years ago in one of our largest seaports I saw a poor old woman being mobbed by a lot of children, who were shouting after her, "Witch, witch!" And I was told by a local man that in the particular suburb in which she lived this poor, eccentric old maid was quite seriously regarded as "a witch" by many people.

Generally, however, the town or city, while it lends itself only too well to "fortune-telling," "palmistry," "crystal-gazing," and so forth, is too wise or too civilized to take any serious interest in "witches" of the old broomstick-and-puff-of-sulphur type. But in the country, whether of the East or of the West, the belief in the evil eye and a heap of other "supernatural" powers is very widespread. For instance, the old method of bringing misfortune upon an enemy by getting a "witch" to make an image of him (or her), and subsequently thrusting pins—sometimes poisoned—into this image is almost certainly followed to-day in various parts of these islands; and in a little village on the edge of the Egyptian desert I came upon a woman of the *fellaheen* who, I am practically sure, was practising the same rites. I came round the corner of a wall suddenly, and saw her, very gravely, but very meaningfully, thrusting a stout splinter into the head of a mud puppet. Then she caught sight of me, whisked her "doll" into the bosom of her dress, and bolted like a frightened rabbit. But if she was not practising the black art I should, indeed, be surprised. She was not a bad-looking young woman, but her expression was as unpleasant as it could be, both before and after she became aware of my presence.

In the main, I take it, the supply of "witches" depends upon the demand, in just the same way as does the supply of crystal-gazers and other quacks. We have only too good reason to know to what lengths some of the charlatans who set themselves to supply the demand will go. I hardly know whether it is more comforting or more humiliating to reflect that the "soothsayer," the vendor of "charms," and the rest of the quacks worked the same old dodges centuries and centuries ago, as Mr. Offord reminded us in his *Archæological Notes* last week. And that, by the way, is one of the drawbacks to the following of *Archæology*—it makes you wonder whether there really is any new thing under the sun! If ever you have been present at excavations of an old city or temple, or even a cemetery, and have watched the bringing to light of "all the modern conveniences" in their primitive form, you will know what I mean. The feeling comes over you that, after all, life four or five thousand years ago was amazingly like life to-day; and in some respects, at least, it must have been far happier.

Apropos of my reference last week to the "Angels' Rest," I am reminded that Baghdad actually boasted *two* "Angels' Rests." Both, of course, were bachelor establishments. In my time, I lived in both of them; but candour compels me to add that this fact had nothing to do with their securing their titles, so to say. Probably both buildings have been demolished by now; for Nazim Pasha and one of his successors were very keen on "improving" the city, and, I gather, new roads have been driven through its length with small regard to historic (!) buildings. Probably even the old, original British Club, known irreverently as "The Pig and Whistle," has shared a similar fate. Its glory vanished long ago, of course, when the new club was started; but it used to be a joyous spot in its palmy days, and old Shemmo, the steward, billiard-marker, and general "boss," was a Baghdad character whom every English visitor met sooner or later. He was a fine old fellow, full of pluck and strange expressions, and if he has not managed to make his way down "somewhere behind our lines" and there to render himself indispensable to our fighting men, I shall be surprised.

CORSAIR.

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE,
HULL.

**IMPORTERS of EASTERN and
MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCE.**

**SPECIALITIES: All Kinds of TANNING
MATERIALS & FEEDING STUFFS.**

Make Offers and send Samples.

EXPORTERS of U.K. MERCHANDISE.

CABLEGRAMS: KUYPERS, HULL.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FROM SUVLA*.

If the Gallipoli campaign were noteworthy for nothing else, it must assuredly lay claim to the attention of posterity from the many and varied tales and experiences which, even now, find favour among publishers, and, it is to be hoped for the sake of the authors, among the public. Mr. Hargrave is one of many who found among the shell-swept hills of the Peninsula the inspiration to write, and he has succeeded in giving us a very fair impression of what the life of a member of a field ambulance was during the latter part of the campaign.

As his nickname denotes, Mr. Hargrave was a Scout, who at the beginning of the war enlisted in "K's" Army in the R.A.M.C. He was also, when not scouting, an artist, and, indeed, the sketches in the book are by no means its least pleasing feature. He gives us a somewhat pessimistic picture of the early months of training, when the unit to which he was attached—the 32nd F.A. of the 10th Division—was shifted about from one camp to another, the men in half uniform and half mufti, and food not always too plentiful; but as he goes on he becomes more cheerful. Indeed, by the time he has reached Alexandria he has become optimistic enough to dub that evil-smelling port "the city of wonderful colour."

Mr. Hargrave is on good ground when describing his companions when enlisting: "Clerks in bowler hats; 'knuts' in brown suits, brown ties, brown shoes, and a horse-shoe tie-pin; tramp-like-looking men in rags and tatters, who smelt of beer and twist; old soldiers, lanky lads from the Lancashire mills, shop assistants with polished boots"—all these went to form what later became No. 32 Field Ambulance, 10th Division, M.E.F.

Mr. Hargrave has nothing new to tell us about the Dardanelles, but his book is so evidently merely a collection of personal experiences, that one does not look for any side-lights on the way the campaign was conducted. Indeed, with the exception of half a page, he ventures on no criticism at all, wherein he has shown himself wiser than a good many of the Dardanelles authors. The only remarks he makes with regard to the conduct of the operations are in reference to that fatal landing on August 8, and here he but voices the opinion of most of those we have met who were there. He says:—

In the first three days of the landing, it wanted but one thing to have marched us right through to Constantinople—it wanted, dash! It didn't want a careful, thoughtful man in command—it wanted dash and bluff. It could have been done in those early days. The landing was a success—a brilliant, blinding success—but it stuck at the very moment when it should have rushed forward. It was no one's fault, if you understand. It was just sheer luck. It just didn't come off!—and only just. But a man with dash, a devil-may-care sort of leader, could have cut right across on Sunday, August 8, and brought off a staggering victory.

Judging from the few examples interspersed through the book, Mr. Hargrave has a turn for versifying which he might well cultivate. There are one or two quite good little pieces of the Kipling type, the best of which is, perhaps, "The Indian Transport Train."

W. D. M.

RESPECTABLE CO'SAIRS.†

As soon as I learned that Messrs Harrap had sent to THE NEAR EAST a copy of "The Book of Pirates" for review, I appealed to the Editor for permission to undertake the agreeable task. As the intelligent reader will readily understand, my motives were mixed: I felt sure that the book would be interesting, and I dreaded that it might be handed to some unsympathetic person who would proceed to enlarge upon the enormity of piracy and the iniquity of corsairs. It is fortunate the Editor granted my humble petition, for I have found the book excellent reading; and my great predecessors will have no need to turn in their graves at any puritanical preaching against their idiosyncracies—in this review at least. Indeed, it is pleasant to be able to say that Mr. Gilbert himself writes of the pirates with a commendable freedom from cant; and while there is no fear whatever of his book implanting the desire for the life of a sea robber in any schoolboy's head, the stories of many of these enterprising sailors—especially the early members of the fraternity—are told with a good deal of sympathy. This, I venture to suggest, is as it should be; for in the days when the world was young piracy was a comparatively gentlemanly calling; and a well-conducted (and successful) pirate had quite a good chance of settling down to a comfortable and highly respectable old age under the direct protection of the Church and the State—as was

the case, e.g., with Rolf the Ganger, whose story Mr. Gilbert sets out in his third chapter. Nowadays such "happy endings" are, of course, reserved for stockbrokers, company promoters, and other urban and degenerate successors of the old-time sea plunderers. To-day we reserve the term "pirate" for Huns who sink hospital ships, unarmed passenger steamers, and defenceless fishing boats, in circumstances that would have brought the blush of shame to the cheeks of Kidd himself. Perhaps that is why the word has such an evil sound in our ears. It certainly seems rather hard on the old and genuine pirates to compare the modern U-boat variety with them; for at their worst they never perpetrated such a crime as the sinking of the Lusitania or the torpedoing of a Red Cross ship.

In the early days, at least, the pirate's calling was by no means without its romantic side; and very often, it may be noted, the man who afterwards became a successful pirate was impelled to take to the life by persecution and injustice. Thus, in Mr. Gilbert's collection of stories, we find that Sidi ben Muza, who was such a scourge in the Mediterranean in the sixteenth century, was driven to take up the calling by the treachery and the fanaticism of the Spaniards; and, similarly, Rolf the Ganger, though a rover and an adventurer by instinct, only turned to piracy after he had been outlawed—and unfairly outlawed, surely—by Harald the Fair-haired. Later the other type arose, called up by a new set of conditions, and, let it be admitted, by greed and natural cruelty. Of this type Kidd and "Blackbeard" may be mentioned as outstanding examples; while Avery appears to have been more cunning than brave—and yet not cunning enough to avoid dying in poverty in England! As Mr. Gilbert puts it in his last chapter:—

In the main, the story of one pirate is very much like another. The circumstances of time and place may differ, but the motives and manners are very similar. There were brave men among the sea-rovers . . . there were men, also, of uncommon gifts and many high qualities; but the average pirate was a man whose great motive was to get booty, by fair means or foul, from friend or from foe. And in the varying story of his attempts to gain his end there is scarcely any but can find some spice of attraction.

Mr. Gilbert opens his record with the story of "The Pirates Who Captured Caesar." It is interesting, but—perhaps because it hardly shows the captors in a very favourable light—I like it least of any in the book; and I am sure that many a schoolboy, after reading it, will regret that Spartaco, the pirate chief, so misused the opportunity that the Fates threw in his way of getting rid once and for all of the author of the "Commentaries." "The Pirates of the Saxon Shore" and "The Pirate Who Founded a Dukedom" are fascinating stories; so are "The Buccaneers of the Spanish Main" and "The Last of the Pirates." But I like best "The Corsairs of the Mediterranean," the chapter which tells of Sidi ben Muza, "The Sea Devil" as the Spaniards nicknamed him, and of the famous Kheyr-ed-Din Barbarossa. Of these two the former is the more attractive figure. He may, indeed, be described (with the Editor's permission) as "The Ideal Pirate"; for, as mentioned already, he took to the profession as the result of Spanish treachery towards the Moors in the first place; and if he showed himself a relentless enemy he had memories enough of fanatical persecution of his people to justify him. Moreover, his daring was beyond all question, and his attempt to carry off the Pope and hold him to ransom was a stroke of positive genius, which only missed achieving success by a hair's-breadth. Very often, too, his victims richly deserved all that they got; as, for example, in the case of the three Spanish vessels captured by him while they were occupied in a little private raid on the territory of one of their allies! Mr. Gilbert says truly:—

If ever poetic justice was done, it was on this occasion. Sidi and his Moslems smiled when they heard the facts from their prisoners, and nothing of the humour of the position was lost upon the keen-witted Moors. The three galleys which the pirate had fallen in with formed part of the great fleet of the "Alliance of Christian Princes," which had started out so ambitiously to break down the sea power of the Turk. . . . It occurred to the chivalrous and high-minded commanders of the French and Spanish fleets that as the territory of the King of Naples was thus without means of defence, it would afford a good opportunity to get possession of that desirable country.

One suspects that the King of Naples, who, "knowing that, having sold his artillery, he was powerless against them," did not wait "to meet his friends," was not altogether sorry to hear of the case of poetic justice!

Mr. Gilbert's book is most interesting throughout. I do not like his way of spelling some Arabic words—"achbar," for instance, is a quite unnecessary Teuton rendering of "akbar"; and why he should imagine that "the God of the Christians" is different from "the God of Mahomet" I cannot understand. But I am intensely grateful to him for putting it on record (on page 141) that there really can be "a respectable corsair," and I warmly commend his study of my predecessors to all readers of THE NEAR EAST.

CORSAIR.

* "At Sea's Bay. Notes and Sketches." By John Hargrave ("White Fox"). (London: Constable. 5s. net.)

† "The Book of Pirates." By Henry Gilbert. (Harrap and Co. 5s. net.)

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style)	Julian (Old Style)		Muslim.	Jewish.
1917. Feb. 16 17	1917. Feb. 3 4		1345. Rabi ul. 23 24	5677. Shebat. 24 25
18	5	Friday	25	26
19	6	Saturday	26	27
20	7	Sunday	27	28
21	8	Monday	28	29
22	9	Tuesday	29	30

The King will be accompanied by the Queen when he visits the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, next Friday for the opening ceremony. An address will be read by Sir John Hewett, the chairman of the governing body, and his Majesty will reply. Lord Curzon will speak, and music will be played by a band under the conductorship of Sir Frederick Bridge.

Madame Yovanovitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister, is about to open in London a workshop for making clothes for recruits.

Mr. Maurice Bonham Carter had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday, when his Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Civil Division.

Sir Walter Townley was, says a Reuter's message from The Hague, received by Queen Wilhelmina on Saturday, and presented his credentials.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

General Ilesco, of the Roumanian Army, specially attached to the French Headquarters Staff, has arrived in London from France. He was entertained at luncheon on Tuesday by the officers of the General Staff of the War Office.

The following message from the Lady in Waiting to the Queen of Roumania has been forwarded to Mrs. Saxon Mills by the Roumanian Minister through the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations:— Her Majesty the Queen of Roumania requests me to send the best thanks for the organisation of a Roumanian Flag Day. Both she and his Majesty the King are grateful for the efforts made to help their country. Roumania, though for the present unhappy and crushed, will remain a faithful Ally, and hopes with staunch confidence for the final victory of the Entente and a happy issue of this war of liberation.

The Duke of Connaught has sent £25 to the Lord Kitchener Sudan Memorial, which, as already announced, is to take the form of a School of Medicine in connection with the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum. In response to the late Lord Cromer's appeal last November, £362 15s. has been received or promised. Subscriptions are received by Mr. B. S. Harvey, 67, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

M. Gennadius was among the callers at the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon, and on Wednesday he was received by Mr. Balfour.

Our readers will remember that Captain Procter, who in civil life is manager of the Manchester office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, is in hospital suffering from the effects of an exploding shell, which buried him in the ear. Among other injuries, he received one to the nose, which rendered a small operation necessary. We are glad to announce that he is so far recovered from shock that the operation could be undertaken last week. It was successful, and he is going on well.

The King has granted to Mr. Henry Swagland, Official Representative of the Egyptian Government on the Alexandria Municipal Council, authority to wear the insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the Sultan of Egypt.

All the English members of the Bucharest staff of the Bank of Roumania had left that city before the arrival of the enemy, but three of the Roumanian members are now prisoners of war in Bulgaria.

Mr. Hamilton Kyfe, who, as *Daily Mail* correspondent, took part in the great Roumanian retreat, addressed the members of the Aldwych Club last Friday. Lord Northcliffe presided.

The trustees of the late Lord Kitchener have lent to the London County Council for exhibition in the Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, the collection of Eastern weapons and armour made by Lord Kitchener, chief whilst he was Commander-in-Chief in India. Most of the weapons of Northern India and of the advanced peoples of other parts of India are represented in the collection together with a few from Persia, China, Japan, the Sudan, and elsewhere.

A memorial tablet to Lord Kitchener, to be erected by the London Society of East Anglians in Lakenheath Church, is now on exhibition in the lobby of the Guildhall between 9 and 5. It will be on view until February 24. Ancestors of Lord Kitchener lived at Lakenheath from 1693 to 1821.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Bimbashi G. V. C. Irwin, of the Equatorial Battalion, has been transferred to the Sudan Government.

Bimbashi R. W. Eaton, of Kordofan District, has been transferred to Darfur District.

Temporary Sagholaghasi H. Garland, Egyptian Army, has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi.

The following appointments and transfers are announced by the *Sudan Times*:—

Bimbashi S. T. Grigg, Camel Corps, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam and has been appointed Second-in-Command, Camel Corps.

Kaimakam E. A. T. Bayly Bey, Officer Commanding Sobat-Pibor District, and El Kaimakam M. J. Wheatley Bey, Sudan Government, have been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi G. Thwaites, Department of Supplies, and Bimbashi Hon B. A. Forbes, General Staff, have been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Miralai H. J. Huddleston Bey, M.C., Officer Commanding Camel Corps, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Kaimakam T. B. Vandeleur Bey, Second-in-Command Camel Corps, has been appointed Officer Commanding Camel Corps.

Bimbashi (temporary) A. M. Ryan, Transport, has been transferred to 4th Battalion.

Mr. W. Wicks, Superintendent, Sudan Government Railways, who has been stationed at Halfa for the past seven years, has been transferred to Khartoum and replaced by Mr. Dawson.

Mr. F. S. Hayler, of the Civil Secretary's Office, Sudan Government, has been transferred to the Customs Department, where he is appointed Inspector of Customs.

The following British officers have been attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officers, with the rank of Bimbashi, and attached as follows:—

Captain W. G. S. Grant, M.C., Highland Light Infantry, to 10th Sudanese.

Captain H. G. Ruddock, Royal Artillery, to the Artillery.

Captain H. L. R. Watt, 1st Garrison Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, to 3rd Battalion.

Lieut. G. A. Fairbairn, 18th Hussars, to Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Lieut. J. Keith, Seaforth Highlanders, to Sudan Government.

Lieut. L. L. Bright, Suffolk Regiment, to 1st Battalion.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

The following names appear in the lists of Honours published on Tuesday.

IRISH PRIVY COUNCILLOR.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR BRYAN MAHON, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O.

(Sir Bryan Mahon, who was appointed to the command of the British Forces at Salonika in 1915, succeeded General Sir John Maxwell as Commander-in-Chief in Ireland last year. He is very well known and very popular in Egypt. He saw service in the Egyptian campaign, 1896, and was with the Dongola Expedition, 1898-9, being awarded the D.S.O. In the South African War he commanded the Kimberley column of Colonial Mounted Infantry, and was first in effecting the relief of Mafeking. He was Governor of Khartoum, 1903, and was afterwards in command of the Lucknow Division.)

KNIGHT.

WALTER MCGOUGH BOND, Esq.

(Sir Walter was Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal in Egypt for many years.)

HONORARY K.C.M.G.

Monsieur CHARLES DE ROCCA-SERRA, C.M.G., Legal Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Finance.

C.M.G.

JOHN WARNOCK, Esq., M.D., Director of Lunatic Asylums, Egypt.

WILLIAM ANDREW BETTS, Esq., M.D., Director of the Municipal and Local Committees of Egypt.

K.C.B.

MAJOR (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) JOHN NORTON GRIFFITHS, D.S.O., M.P., 2nd Regiment, King Edward's Horse.

(Major Griffiths has done good work in Roumania, where he was instrumental in rendering the oil wells useless to the enemy.)

Sir FREDERICK WILLIAM BLACK, C.B., Director-General of Munitions Supply (Director of Contracts, Admiralty).

(Sir Frederick has been Director-General of Munitions Supply since 1915. Entering the Civil Service in 1880, he was transferred from the Colonial Office to the Admiralty, and served under that Department in Malta and Ceylon. He was Director of Naval Stores from 1903 to 1906, and received his knighthood two years later.)

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES CRUTCHLEY, K.C.V.O., Governor of Chelsea Hospital.

(General Sir Charles Crutchley has been Governor and Secretary of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, since 1909. He served in Egypt in 1882 and was D.A.A.G. for recruiting, Headquarters Army, in 1889-1900, A.A.G., recruiting Headquarters, 1900-8; Director of Recruiting, 1908-9.)

The party of seven Montenegrins who, despite enormous linguistic difficulties, were successful in escaping from Sennelager and other camps in Germany, having enjoyed a few days' recuperative rest, are now leaving for Paris and Salonika. During their brief stay in London the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund have done all in their power to render their life happier, clothing them and providing them with the necessities two years of internment had denied them. The Chairman of the Fund, Sir J. Roper Parkinson, the Montenegrin Consul-General, entertained them at Claridge's Hotel on their arrival. These poor men are very anxious to be fighting for their small country and doing something for freedom.

THE SWYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORSETTI & BOURDELAKIA, ROS.,
22, St. Charles St., Oxford St., W.

OBITUARY.

MADAME DIEULAFOY.
(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

France has recently lost, by the lamented decease of Madame Jeanne Paule Henriette Dieulafoy, a lady whose intimate knowledge of the Near East was unique among French women. Married at 19, in 1870, she passed through l'année terrible, by the side of her young husband, attired in male costume, sharing all the dangers of the Army of the Loire.

When peace came she began to travel, especially in North Africa, from Morocco to, and including, Egypt. Later, in 1880 and 1881, she was in Persia. But she will be remembered as a traveller chiefly for the part she took during the years 1884 to 1886 in the memorable excavations carried out by M. Dieulafoy at Susa. She bore much of the responsibility for the equipment of the expedition, and edited the daily journal of the explorations. This diary of the discoveries, which included those of the palace of Darius and Artaxerxes, is a model of what such a work should be. A popular résumé of it may be found in her book, "A Suse," whilst the great knowledge of part of Western Asia she had acquired is made accessible to the public in the large and copiously illustrated volume "La Perse, la Chaldée, et la Susiane."

Anyone acquainted with the Persian climate will understand the intrepid endurance which Madame Dieulafoy exhibited during *les fouilles de Suse*. Her compatriots were not oblivious to it, and so awarded her the cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, in return for an energy and devotion which had assisted in obtaining for France the greatest then known collection of Persian antiquities.

Madame Dieulafoy continued to be a traveller chiefly in countries bordering upon the Mediterranean; she also visited England. Her last journey was to Morocco, whither, in 1914, she accompanied her husband to Rabot, where he held a position on the Military Engineering Staff. There, whilst ministering to the diseases and misery of the poor, she contracted the germs of the malady to which she has now succumbed.

Possessing such a knowledge of the world, and being observant, yet reticent when such was wise, Mme. Dieulafoy was one of those who early foresaw the surely approaching war. Her prevision enabled her to realize the great part that the women of France would have to play before victory could be achieved; and so energetic was she in pressing her views that long before the outbreak of war she had actually induced the Minister of War to promise to put in hand a preparatory organization of women workers to be ready to take the place of men in factories and Government offices and Departments, including many connected with the army, so as to enable more men to be available at the front.

She lived long enough to mourn the loss caused by neglecting her warnings and advice; but also to see almost all her suggestions put into actual practice, and to share the great confidence which all France feels in the ultimate triumph of their country's cause.

It is announced that Lieut.-Colonel Archibald Hay, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was killed in action on February 3. He was the youngest son of the late Lieut.-General Sir R. J. Hay, K.C.B., Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery, and was born in 1872. Educated at Charterhouse and Sandhurst, he received his commission in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1892. He served as subaltern with the 2nd Battalion at home and abroad, and with it took part in the international occupation of Crete and also in the relief of the Pekin Legations, for which service he received the medal and clasp. On promotion to the rank of captain in 1900, he joined the 1st Battalion in South Africa, and served with it for the remainder of the campaign, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the Queen's Medal with five clasps. When he had promotion to major he joined the 2nd Battalion at Quetta, and came home with it in 1914, being posted to the Regimental Depot. In August 1914, he was given command of a service battalion of the regiment, and took it to Gallipoli and served with it until the evacuation. He

was mentioned in despatches. Afterwards the battalion was ordered to another front in the East.

Lieut.-Colonel James Montagu Fitz-Roy England, late of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, has died at Ryde, Isle of Wight, at the age of 71 years. He took part in the Egyptian War of 1882, and fought at Tel-el-Kebir. He was given his brevet of major, and was decorated with the Egyptian medal and clasp, the bronze star, and Mejidieh (fourth class).

The death is announced at Northfield Maidenhead, of Lieut.-General Arnold Bunbury Thompson, late of the Royal Artillery, in his ninety-fifth year. He fought in the Crimea, 1855-6, and subsequently served as Governor and commander of troops in Bermuda. He retired with the rank of major-general in 1880.

Major Charles Annesley Wilbraham Ford, Indian Army, has died at Margate. He saw service in the expedition against the Ogaden Somalis in 1898, and in Waziristan in 1901-2. He retired in 1911.

Colonel Johnston Shearer, formerly of the Indian Medical Service, has died at the age of 65 years at Bridge of Allan, N.B. He had seen a great deal of service in Indian punitive wars, and also took part in the Egyptian campaign of 1882 and the Burmese Expedition of 1887-8. His decorations were numerous—three medals with seven bars and the Egyptian bronze star—and he was twice mentioned in despatches.

The death occurred on Tuesday of Captain Reginald Graham Gregory, R.N., aged fifty-two, the eldest son of Mr. H. Charles Gregory, of West Court, Callan, County Kilkenny. As a midshipman of the Eclipse he saw service during the Egyptian War, 1882, and received the Egyptian medal and Khedive's Bronze Star. While a lieutenant in Rear-Admiral H. H. Rawson's flagship he was present at the bombardment and capture of the Sultan of Zanzibar's palace in 1896, being mentioned in despatches. He also served in the punitive naval expedition commanded by Rear-Admiral Rawson, being with those who landed from the squadron to punish the King of Benin for the massacre of the political expedition, ending in the capture of Benin City, 1897. He received the general African medal, Benin clasp.

Captain Shawe Smith, late of the 13th Light Dragoons, has died at Southampton at the age of 88 years. He is believed to have been the last surviving officer who took part in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava.

Second Lieutenant John Edward Templeman Barnes, Gloucester Regiment, who was killed in action on February 3, was second surviving son of Mr. Edward D. Barnes, of Homefield, Godalming. He was born in 1895, and was educated at Sherborne; he was a colour-sergeant in the school O.T.C., and shot at Bisley for the school Eight in 1912 and 1913. In the latter year he won a History Scholarship at Corpus Christi, Cambridge. He obtained his commission in the Gloucestershire Regiment on September 8, 1914, and saw service in Gallipoli (August, 1915) and Egypt, and subsequently in the attempted relief of Kut.

Major Harry Kendal Walpole Bruce, Indian Infantry, who has been killed in action, was born in July, 1880. He passed out of Sandhurst in January, 1899, and was gazetted to the Indian Staff Corps in 1900, and had his captaincy eight years later. From September, 1913, until the outbreak of war he had employment with the Egyptian Army. His name was in the Birthday Honours last summer among the awards of the Military Cross.

In a few days there will arrive in London a medical mission to examine all Serbs of military age living here. The mission will sit with the Military Attaché at 115, Gloucester Road.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.5; Room, P.T.2; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Bishop MacInnes will be glad to receive CONTRIBUTIONS made payable to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, &c., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES, KHARTOUM.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 619 London Wall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1917.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE EAST.

Now that it is an axiom of British politics that Germany's power and German aspirations in the Near East must be shattered as a result of the present war, it ought to follow as a natural corollary that greater interest in these regions should be shown throughout the British Empire. Germany's schemes were by nature iconoclastic; they aimed at the absorption of the Near East and the countries beyond for German ends. Anything that served her purpose was to be encouraged; everything that tended to thwart her in the attainment of her object must be ruthlessly swept aside or exterminated. Such a policy became a serious danger when the Germans found themselves, through the treachery of a corrupt clique at Constantinople, virtual masters of the Ottoman Empire. The process of making the resources of the whole of Turkey subservient to German aims was accelerated; for already the Young Turks had embarked on a similar plan of their own, by eliminating the elements that could not be conveniently "Turkified," in order to prevent any possibility of a challenge to their domination. Hence German connivance at the massacre of Armenians and the undermining of Arab influence in the Ottoman Empire. From the point of view of a civilized Power there could be no justification for these measures of repression. If Germany had been concerned for the well-being of Asia Minor and the neighbouring regions, the first desideratum must have been to increase their population, not to depopulate them. German penetration undoubtedly stood for progress of a kind; the Baghdad Railway could not fail to be the means of increasing the prosperity of the country through which it passed, and for Mesopotamia there was the promise of a return to conditions which had made it at one time the granary of the world. But Germany's toleration of Turkish methods and her indifference to the welfare of the peoples who were thus selected as stepping-stones to a world dominion proved that even the advantages she had to offer could not be relied upon to accrue permanently to the benefit of those who served her, but were liable to be withdrawn or in some way counteracted as soon as her purpose might be attained. Be that as it may, it has become necessary to block the road to the East for Germany. But the mere fact that she could make such headway in this direction is a sure sign of the inability of the countries concerned to rely solely on themselves. If they are to emerge from the world-war in a better condition, a constructive policy must be found for them, which will provide all the advantages that German penetration held out, but be without its manifest disadvantages.

A variety of cogent reasons impose upon Great Britain the duty of playing a prominent part in formulating the policy that is to bring salvation to the Near and the Middle East. Just as it was necessary to prevent Germany from exercising a predominant influence in these regions, so it is essential that they should be encouraged to work out under suitable guidance their own independence and prosperity. Past experience has shown that in matters in which public opinion has

lagged behind there has been little enlightenment among those more immediately responsible for formulating Great Britain's policy. As a nation with such world-wide responsibilities we have been surprisingly remiss in the collective interest taken in foreign affairs. Generous instincts have given rise to a number of organizations formed with the object of watching over the interests of one nationality or another. All such bodies are worthy; some of them are necessary, and have done useful work. But the fact that they tend to regard one another as rival institutions argues a narrowed vision, while their very existence is an implied reproach to the indifference of the nation at large. The Balkan Committee had been active for many years when the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs announced as a guiding principle of our foreign policy that British interests in Serbia were nil. Possibly, if a tithe of the interest devoted by the British public to such a matter as the introduction of indentured labour into a colony, with its bearing on party politics and a General Election at home, had been given to a question of vital importance to the security of the British Empire, the Foreign Secretary would have held other views on a subject in regard to which the nation trusted to his expert knowledge. Along the main lines of international relations the country's instinct has no difficulty in finding expression. It is in regard to the more intricate problems that the national intelligence must in future seek to assert itself, and in no sphere is the need greater than in respect of the Near East and beyond. The war has brought the Near and Middle East into prominence; and they will continue to be a subject of paramount concern to the British Empire, even when the Terms of Peace have brought Russia to Constantinople, a permanent wedge across Germany's path of conquest.

Whatever form the settlement after the war may take, events will not stand still in the Near and the Middle East. In the Balkans we like to think that the delimitation of frontiers will be so equitably carried out that the several States will be able to embark at once, without prejudice or enmity, on a career of progress and mutual assistance. Their importance as a factor in European politics, however, will remain, and for this reason they ought to have a special interest for the British public. The affairs of Asia Minor and the countries beyond stand in a different category. Years must elapse before anything in the nature of the progressive government that is to be expected in the Balkans can be looked for. In regard to a large part of this region Great Britain and Russia will have to make themselves responsible, directly or indirectly, for its development and administration; and, if the mistakes of the past are to be avoided, there must be a greater display of interest in its fate on the part of the British public than there was before the war. In the place of a negative policy, inspired by fear of Germany in one direction, and by fear of Russia in another, by anxiety for this set of considerations at home or for that chain of circumstances overseas, a definitely constructive policy is needed, which will shape the destinies of the countries along the highway to India in conformity with their own interests, with the commercial aims of Russia and with British Imperial interests. The war has led to a stirring of the dry bones in these parts, and if Great Britain is not ready to direct the new order, others will take her place. At the outbreak of the European struggle the actual advantage derived by Persia from her long association with the British Empire was rapidly being reduced to the vanishing point. There the old threads must be picked up again. If the time-honoured road to the East was valuable enough to serve German purposes of world-dominion, it must be worth attention for its own sake and as a protecting zone for India. Our Imperial interests do not clash with the legitimate interests of any other country. In the Middle East they call for the active promotion of the well-being of all the countries that form it; but only by giving intelligent heed to its own interests and by looking ahead can the British public make sure that the Empire will keep abreast of its responsibilities both to itself and to others.

THE BLACK SEA AND THE CAUCASUS.

REMINISCENCES OF A JOURNEY.

By Mary A. Poynter.

II.

The Caucasus Mountains, though now partly in Europe, are still Oriental in atmosphere and setting. Russia perfected the great post road across the mountains, but she did not lay it out, and the towns along this highway are peopled with Georgians, Circassians, and still more primitive races who speak their mother tongues, dress in their national costumes, and, always armed, shepherd their sheep on the steep inclines, as we hear of man doing in the beginning. All through the mountains there are remains of Troglydite dwellings, and some of the towns still occupied by man are almost as primitive.

We were four days in crossing the Caucasus from Tiflis to Vladikavkaz, by the fine Georgian military road via the Dariel Pass, a distance of 200 versts, and it took fifty-eight horses, usually six at a time, to draw our broad two-seated coach this distance. There were places for six people in our conveyance, and there being only five in our party we went forth in comfort and kept that happy maximum all the way. We stopped often to admire, and almost as often to show our passports and our quittance, which entitled us to fresh horses at the relay stations. Signs and an occasional Russian word from our "Murray" were all that was necessary to procure plain food and simple lodgings at the post houses for the night.

There is everything about these mountains to inspire respect and to excite the imagination, and, without drawing any comparisons, one can say there is nothing about them to indicate that they are on parade and have been made accessible for the special delectation of tourists. You see them just as they were "brought forth," and primitive man among them earning his bread laboriously. The peaks of the Caucasus average 11,000 ft., and five of these peaks are some thousand feet higher than Mt. Blanc, the Alpine King. As we left the pastures and wooded lands below and neared the summit of the pass we seemed to be driving along the top of the world! The mists came down and played hide and seek with the snowy heights that surrounded us, the air was winter cold, and there was no longer any sign of bird or vegetation, or any sound save the bird-like whistle of our postilion and the voice of our driver, urging his six galloping horses still onward and upward.

Our most intimate acquaintance with Caucasus peaks was with Mt. Kazbek. This height, where Prometheus was bound, is best seen to soaring advantage from the town of Kazbek, a little below the summit of the pass on the post road. That is to say, when it is to be seen at all. It rains often in spring among the Caucasus, and when it does not rain it mists. We arrived at Kazbek shortly after noon and found our mountain lost in the mist. There were lesser peaks shining all about, but Kazbek, the dome-like, the magnificent, was invisible. Our guide-book said: "Mt. Kazbek seen to best advantage in the morning; usually veiled with clouds in the afternoon." We resolved, therefore, to await the mountain's pleasure until morning. But its pleasure came earlier; at five o'clock that afternoon the mists lifted and Mt. Kazbek stood forth white and glorious—the highest height, nearly 17,000 ft., we had ever seen.

From Kazbek downward to Vladikavkaz, through the Dariel Pass, is now a haunting memory of sheer precipices, swift turns, a rapid glacier stream, and ruined Georgian watch towers that in bygone days saved the mountaineers from many a lowland enemy. On this northern side at the narrowest part of the grand defile are the Gates of Dariel, that give the pass its name, and where Queen Tamara's stronghold looks down on the Russian fort that now guards the pass, keeping a peace that was won by twenty-five years of hard fighting. The Caucasian mountains were not lightly won, and they can never be lightly held. These mountains are rich in minerals, and their pastures seem to support sheep and cattle enough to feed and clothe the world. The many sheep and their shepherds,

in long fur cloaks and fleecy caps, suggested the age of fable. We almost expected to see Pan come piping down the fields; and we were quite prepared to believe the legend that the tent of Abraham and the cradle of Christ were preserved in a cave high up on Mt. Kazbek. A magic rope is said to exist, visible only to the elect, by which one could climb to this grotto. And thus all the way have fancy, fable, and history combined with majestic nature to make this route of continuous interest to the traveller.

One comes frequently upon old monasteries among these mountains, some of them perched high on precipitous crags, but holding fast, like the faith they represent, in their fortress-like positions. Dr. Rendel Harris, who has journeyed through these out-of-the-way Near Eastern lands in search of ancient manuscript bearing on early Christian history, is my authority for saying that when the time is ripe and scholars are permitted freely to examine these monastical manuscript storehouses the finds there will be passing full of interest to the student world.

While much of the commerce of the surrounding country is now carried by rail around to the Caspian and Black Seas, there is still a great deal of travel across the mountains, and the road is kept by the Government in perfect repair. Each post station has, or had, its full quota of horses and also one camel, that the horses might be familiar with this beast of burden and not be frightened when they met it on narrow and dangerous parts of the road.

Since we made our journey across these mountains friends tell us that motor-cars have largely superseded the horse and carriage method of transportation. Of course, under these circumstances the journey is more quickly done; but as it is a journey really to linger over I am glad we had no such speedy vehicles at our disposal.

On the southern side of the mountains, where the climbing begins, there is a little place amid flowers and foliage called the "Inn of Tears." As far as this, in olden days, the Georgians used to come to say good-bye to their friends who were going across the mountains. The Gates of Dariel, on the other side, was a meeting and parting place also. As we passed through these gates we came down by a fertile plain to Vladikavkaz, leaving the Caucasus a snowy, stately line against the sky behind us.

From this modern military Russian town we travelled a day and a night by train to Novorissisk, on the Black Sea. Most of this journey was over a fertile steppe country where the grain was growing with Western luxuriance, but where they could not gather into barns for lack of buildings, and where nearly all the houses were thatched with straw and had only a door and sometimes one window. After the generous mountains came the generous plains. But it seemed strange to find man so poor.

One naturally thinks of Sevastopol as the most important town in the Crimea, and perhaps it is—although it is not the most attractive one. After our Caucasus mountain trip we came directly to Sevastopol by sea from Novorissisk, remaining there long enough to visit the town itself and the battlefields in its immediate vicinity.

Just behind the town, now a busy arsenal, rise "the dark Redan" and the Malakhof, those fortified heights that were so hard to take and whose shot and shell did such grim work among the Allied armies during the memorable siege of Sevastopol. All the surrounding hills were still furrowed with trenches and breastworks, as fresh almost as if made but yesterday. Yet it is well over sixty years since Bayard Taylor wrote his Song of the Camp and since:—

Each heart recalled a different name,
But all sang "Annie Laurie."

The country that was laid waste by the Crimean War was still bare and desolate. It seemed as if nature, being once so cruelly dedicated to war, had, in remonstrance, refused to be consecrated to peace.

Some ten miles to the east of Sevastopol is the scene of the Charge of the Light Brigade. In the midst of a field on the low hill across which they charged is a monument with the inscription, "To the memory of those who fell at Balaclava, October 25, 1854." The greater number of the immortal Six Hundred were buried where they fell, and grains, poppies, larkspurs, and wild thyme are growing above them. But their most beautiful and enduring monument is the one Tennyson created in song, and that is found in every home where English verse is read.

In the annals of all travellers in the Crimea the drive from Sevastopol to Yalta, a distance of fifty-five miles, is



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

GREAT AGE
AND
BOUQUET.



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

put down in red letters. At Baidar Gate, half-way on the journey, and at the summit of the pass, the road breaks suddenly through the mountains and comes out high up on the cliffs above the sea. From this point it gradually winds downward along the "Riviera of the Crimea," with almost perpendicular rocks above, and with palaces, luxuriant gardens, and an inviting blue sea below. We arrived at Yalta by moonlight, which introduction was all that the most exacting traveller could desire. Yalta is the most fashionable of all the Crimean resorts, but happily it is one of those places first made beautiful by nature; man came here as an appreciative afterthought, and has not interfered with any of its natural picturesqueness. A few miles inland there are some old Tartar towns with remains of handsome palaces—towns where one may visit and be entertained with true Eastern hospitality, and where Western ways and innovations penetrate but slowly.

The Tsar has several houses and "a model farm" at Livadia, near Yalta. Royalty being absent, we took advantage of the opportunity to visit the palaces and grounds, and found them simply and tastefully arranged, and the whole estate such as any wealthy country gentleman might indulge in without being accused of extravagance. I believe one of the palaces we visited has been burned, and that a new one has since been erected. May is not the season for Russian visitors at Yalta. They come in numbers later in the year, and in the winter, when the Neva is ice-bound. Like so many other semi-southern resorts, its fairest season finds it deserted and—undisturbed. We discovered, among other pleasant things, that Yalta's nightingales were tireless singers. We were there for only two days, and we sailed away with genuine regret from the one place where the Black Sea is always blue and, I hope, always kind.

PRINCESS TOUSSOUN'S LIBEL ACTION.

The widow of Prince Ibrahim Toussoun obtained £250 damages in an action for alleged libel, heard, before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, on the 9th and 13th inst., against the Transatlantic Film Company, Limited.

Mr. Rawlinson, in opening the case, said that the plaintiff was an English lady, the widow of a Mr. Maguire when she met Prince Toussoun, the grandson of Saïd Pasha, a former Viceroy of Egypt. She married the prince in London in 1897, and went with him to Egypt, where, though she was admitted into Egyptian circles and visited her husband's female relatives in their harems, she lived as a European lady and was very popular in English society. In 1898 the prince died, and the plaintiff came back to England, where she married her present husband, Captain Turner, but retained her former name. She was well known as a breeder of Pekingese dogs and a judge at dog shows. In 1916 the defendants produced a cinematograph play film called "The Purple Iris," which purported to describe the adventures in a harem of the Princess Toussoun. The advertising matter contained the following passages:—

"The strange and thrilling story of Ola Humphrey, who became the wife of Prince Toussoun and entered the Royal harem. Her amazing experiences have been re-enacted for the Transatlantic Film Company."

"Princess Ahmed Toussoun has re-enacted for the Transatlantic Film Company, Limited, her amazing adventures in an Eastern Royal Harem."

The film was shown to the trade all over the country and advertising matter was distributed to various theatres. The film was exhibited to the public with the words "Princess Toussoun" excised, but the posters and advertising matter still retained the plaintiff's name. The plaintiff had been considerably injured in reputation, and had suffered much annoyance. At the adjourned hearing of the case, a settlement was arrived at, Mr. Rawlinson, for the plaintiff, stating he had considered the circumstances, and had come to the conclusion that the plaintiff would not be likely to recover more than the £250 paid into Court, and he had advised his client to accept that sum.

Judgment was therefore entered for the defendants, with costs.

A Sofia despatch states that the Queen of Bulgaria is very unwell and is confined to her bed, says a Central News message from Amsterdam.

An arms factory at the Piræus caught fire on Monday. Allied bluejackets gave valuable assistance to the Greek firemen, and after several hours the blaze was put out.

Information received in authoritative quarters in London shows (Reuter's Agency learns) that the Turks are carrying out a deliberate policy of destruction of Arabs, having apparently for its object their extermination, as in the case of the Armenians. In pursuance of this object they surrounded the whole region of the Lebanon with a military cordon, thus preventing any food getting through, with the result that about half the Christian and Druse Arabs in that zone have died of starvation. They have devastated Syria and Palestine on the pretext of getting fuel, olive trees and orange gardens having been ruined. They have also—as frequently mentioned in THE NEAR EAST—deported large numbers of the most illustrious Arab families, and have hanged on the flimsiest pretext all Arab leaders on whom they could lay their hands. The Turks also are trying to do away with the Arabic language and also to eliminate Arabic from the Mohammedan religion by introducing non-Arabic prayers.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Dardanelles Commission.

February 12.

MR. BONAR LAW, replying to questions put by Mr. G. LAMBERT and Commander BELLAIRS regarding the presentation of the report of the Dardanelles Commission, said: The report has, I understand, not yet been signed by all the members of the Committee, and has not yet been received by the Government. Perhaps, therefore, my hon. friends will put down the question again on Thursday, when I hope to be in a position to answer it.

Value of the Rome Conference.

MR. BONAR LAW, in moving two Votes of Credit, for £200,000,000 for the carrying on the war till the termination of the present financial year on March 31 and of £350,000,000 for carrying on till the end of May, referred to the Conferences held by the Allies. The Conference in Rome, he said, was one of the most useful since the war began. Whenever Greece has been the subject of discussion there has always been some misgiving on the part of the Allies. The difficulty, to a large extent, has been that there were so many Powers trying to deal with the same problem. At the Rome Conference General Sarraïl was present, and the result was that the Allied Powers came to a definite decision as to the policy to be adopted towards Greece. The object of that policy, which has been consistently carried out, was to prevent, if possible, the Allied forces running the risk of being attacked from behind by Greece if an invasion took place by the Germans and Bulgarians. The proposals which were then made to secure that object have nearly all been carried out, and our commanders, both British and French, do not now think there is anything like the same danger from that cause which there was even a few weeks ago. There was another advantage in that Conference. Arrangements were made to try to get some supplies to the Salonika forces overland through Italy. Some steps in that direction have already been taken. There was one further advantage from that Conference. There seemed to us to be a lack of co-ordination in the use of the naval power of the Allies. That was discussed, and, as a result, it was arranged that there should be a purely naval Conference here in London. That Conference took place, and the result has been that there is really more co-ordination, especially in the Mediterranean, than was possible before, and I believe the Naval Forces of all the Allies are, in consequence, being better utilised.

The Mesopotamia Expedition.

MR. McKENNA expressed the opinion that we should take the greatest care to avoid being plunged deeper into long-distance campaigns, which, he said, exhaust us out of all proportion to the exhaustion we cause the enemy. "In relation to one of these campaigns," he continued, "that in Mesopotamia, I am sure the Committee would wish to express their appreciation of the work recently done by the War Office. That campaign caused so much anxiety in this House that a Commission was appointed to examine into its origin and progress. There were undoubtedly grave troubles, both in respect to the supply service and hospital service. I am told to-day that since the administration was handed over to the Quartermaster-General here the transport, supply, and hospital services are as well managed as in any campaign in the whole history of the world. That is a great record which the War Office may be justly proud of."

The Balkans and Constantinople.

MR. J. R. MACDONALD said that there had been a complete revolution in the military situation. If the war had been confined to the West it would have been over by now; but under the conditions of to-day the West was not the critical position. The Germans were absolutely beaten in the West, and it was only now a question of driving them home. He doubted very much if, when we started our spring campaign, we would find very many there at all. If the Germans were going to shorten their lines in the West and allow us to attack them in the East, where diplomatic policy had developed so favourably for them, he thought we should discover a new phase of the war, which would be far more troublesome than anything we had yet had to face. It was difficult to see how the Germans were to be dislodged from the Balkans except by negotiations. Why had the old policy of this nation of internationalising Constantinople and the Dardanelles been departed from? The interests of this Empire were wrapped up in Constantinople being an international port.

The Salonika Expedition.

MR. PRINGLE complained that a ban was placed on the Press on discussion of the Salonika Expedition.

MR. BONAR LAW said that Parliamentary references to the Salonika Expedition might have been excised by the Censor, but he was perfectly certain that no general instruction such as the hon. member suggested had been issued.

MR. PRINGLE repeated that a general instruction had been issued to the Press stating that there should be no discussion of the Salonika Expedition. The House of Commons was, therefore, the only place where the matter could be dealt with, and he wanted to know what military objects were being attained.

Release of Venizelists.

Feb. 14.

MR. BALFOUR informed Mr. Lynch that all the persons who were imprisoned in Athens on account of their sympathies with M. Venizelos had now been released.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania's Gallant King.

On February 12 the *Daily Telegraph* published a long despatch from Professor Pares, written in Jassy on December 23 and December 25. The writer begins:—

The enemy's success in Roumania is one of his greatest successes, not in volume, but in the suddenness and swift results of the blow. Roumania did not profit by her preparedness, and did suffer very greatly by her inexperience of the conditions of the present war. The result was a smashing, almost back-breaking, blow, which leaves pitiful effects everywhere. German methods are now in their maturity, and the Roumanian public has not yet left behind the almost plaintive and protesting temperament of civil populations before the war. The Roumanian invasion of Transylvania began simultaneously with the actual declaration of war. The Emperor William is reported to have said that Roumania should suffer worse things than Belgium, Poland, and Serbia.

We are then told of the special manifestations of "frightfulness" to which Roumania was subjected in fulfilment of the Kaiser's boast. But what good those manifestations will do the enemy remains to be seen. When Professor Pares wrote the Roumanians were undismayed.

A country recently still engaged in the pursuit of wealth finds itself more than half occupied and devastated, engaged in an enterprise which means no less than the abolition of Austria; involved in a struggle which cannot admit of any but the most complete military triumph, and opposed by an army whose preparedness made it a match in conjunction with its allies for the other Great Powers of Europe combined. It is only in the light of these conditions that we can estimate the immense courage of the opening sentence of the King's Speech to-day, delivered in the Roumanian Parliament at Jassy. "The war which for the past two years has covered Europe with blood has shown that Austria-Hungary, in the present conditions of its existence, could no longer subsist as a factor of the balance of power in Europe." Mutilated Roumania gives to Europe the lead in demanding a complete liquidation of the Austrian State, which, by the way, is inevitable if Roumania is to win that for which she has entered the war.

The second part of the article will be read with much interest for the sake of the pen pictures of Queen Marie, who has showed herself in this time of fiery trial a fit mate for her brave husband.

"Constantinople To-day."

Under the above title *The Times* (February 12) publishes many interesting particulars of life in the Turkish capital as described by "a neutral long resident in Constantinople, who has just arrived at the Hague." The article is forwarded by *The Times* special correspondent in Amsterdam, who translates the neutral's observations from the *Telegraaf*. Germany and Austria, we are told, are regarded in Constantinople, "the first as the moral, and the second as the material enemy." It is satisfactory to learn that

Russia's power, especially after the taking of Trebizond, has asserted itself by the blockade of the Black Sea. The population of Constantinople is without coal. What exists has been appropriated for the munition factories, electricity works, the railways, and the Navy. The electricity is extremely irregular. If the coal famine becomes complete, pitch darkness will prevail. The coal supply can only be obtained at great danger to life, as the Russians are bombarding Tugul, on the Black Sea coast, whence the coal is obtained.

The Russians have totally destroyed the Turkish Fleet, and the merchant fleet is not worth anything. The Bosphorus is wholly shut off. Constantinople's trade with abroad, which was important before the war, is entirely at a standstill.

The news regarding the shortage of coal is perhaps the most important item, as it is the most gratifying from the Allied point of view. In the circumstances it is hardly surprising that "people expect that the Russian blockade will speedily decide Turkey's fate. Turkey is half dead." Turning to "the moral enemy," we read:—

The moral enemy, Germany, dominates all branches of the public service. Meat, bread, and sugar cards have been introduced. But what creates order in Berlin and Vienna produces disorder in Constantinople. The nonchalant Turkish official cannot be regulated, and he is venal. Government stores are almost always without supplies, and cunning purchasers despatch all they can to Germany. The Young Turks, profiting by the high German subsidies and fees, prejudice their own countrymen by such despatch. . . . The Young Turks maintain a strong police régime. They spare nothing. They betray others, and occasionally each other.

Those who know their Constantinople will hardly be surprised to learn that Pera still remains "elegant,"

and bent on its own pleasures. Nor will any one doubt the statement put forward regarding the Austrians in the Turkish capital.

The majority of Austrians in Constantinople are anti-German, though they conceal it tactfully. During my thorough journey I was much struck by the contrast between feeling in Vienna, Berlin, and Constantinople. Vienna and Berlin are greatly depressed. In Vienna especially one sees much mourning. While the higher circles in Austria and Germany are not very cheerful, the fashionable world in Constantinople is extraordinarily gay. The principal street in Pera is filled every afternoon with an elegant throng. The concert-halls and picture theatres are packed in the evenings. The very wealthy families who reside there can afford to pay the high prices for provisions. Thus they have no deficiency. It is still possible to get anything you want in Constantinople, but do not ask what it costs. The higher Turkish officials and European families continue to hold their "days" and receptions. "After me the deluge" is the tone that prevails. It appears as if Levantines and Europeans are penetrated by the Levantine atmosphere, and are utterly indifferent to the whole war situation. This attitude is in terrible contrast with the sufferings of the poor population.

This bears out what Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall wrote of the people of the Pera quarter in the days of the Balkan wars. They care not, and never have cared, for anything or anybody but themselves, and they stand out a ghastly illustration of the "cross-breed" at his—or her—worst.

Rival Powers in Greece.

Under the above heading the *Morning Post* last Saturday published an interview which was granted to one of its representatives by M. Alexander Diomede, who is in London on a political mission from M. Venizelos. M. Diomede had nothing very new to say, but he was emphatic in his statement that the "Royalists" are not representative of Greek feeling.

The authority of M. Venizelos extends over the greater part of the Hellenic Kingdom. Those provinces which acknowledge his Government are wealthier and have a larger population than those over which the King still rules. The total population of Greece is 5,200,000 inhabitants. The number who have spontaneously deserted the Government of Athens and rallied round M. Venizelos by way of showing that they are faithful to the traditional friendship with the Protecting Powers and that they disapprove of the treason of the Government of Athens towards its Allies of Serbia is 2,800,000.

It follows that the number of those who still acknowledge the rule of King Constantine is 2,400,000, but it must not be supposed by any means that even these are really in favour of the Royal policy. The Government of Athens is an oligarchy, which, with the help of money obtained from the Germans, succeeds in keeping down the people and preventing them from giving expression to the national sentiment. It is a system of terrorism that does not shrink even from murder and pillage, the object of which is to try to make the world believe that the people remain faithful to the Throne. How true it is that the Royal Government dreads public opinion is shown by the fact that it has forcibly suppressed all the Venizelist newspapers of Athens by destroying their printing machines.

The Greek people, M. Diomede went on to say, are, in fact, suffering from Prussian methods of repression.

Individual rights no longer exist, and no one dares to say in public what he thinks. The people are only waiting for an opportunity to proclaim themselves, and whenever that arrives there is not the slightest doubt that they will range themselves on the side of M. Venizelos almost to a man. In the meantime, M. Venizelos and his supporters are consolidating the National Government at Salonika and in the provinces in which its authority is recognised. . . .

When one speaks of Greece it is absurd to suppose that that word describes the Greece which is represented by the Government of Athens. No: the real Greece, that which has at all times been bound to the Allies both by sympathy and interest, is the Greece that is represented by the National Government at Salonika. That Greece gives freely of the lives of its citizens and its material resources to the common cause, and we, the real Greeks, are convinced that, with the help of the Protecting Powers, who recognise in us, and in us alone, their true friends, we shall succeed in fulfilling the duty which the Greece of King Constantine has repudiated.

Italy and M. Venizelos.

The *Manchester Guardian* of February 9 contained an important article on "Italy and Greece," with the sub-title "Coldness Towards M. Venizelos." The writer is of opinion that "if Italy is to be a friend of England, as France is a friend, an alliance must be based on mutual respect and admiration, not on grudging acquiescence." And he goes on to say:—

A test case is the impression made in England by the Italian attitude to Venizelos. The Italian press is never tired of warning us that in our sentimental enthusiasm for "the Cretan" we are sacrificing the material interests of Italy. The argument ap-

parently is that a Venizelist Greece would be a great Greece, and that it is to the interests of Italy that Greece should be small, disunited, and friendless.

That Italy would, even from the material point of view, gain from the failure of Venizelos is more than doubtful. It is unbelievable that at this moment in the history of Europe, considering the objects for which the present war is being fought, Italy could seriously contemplate occupying territory in Europe that is mainly or entirely inhabited by another European people. However suspect and Constantinean Greece might remain, Italy would not get Epirus or Corfu, or any other of the islands that Greece now possesses. On the other hand, the acquisition by Greece of territory in Asia Minor, however probable earlier in the war, is not a matter of practical policy for even the most fervent Venizelist, now that Greece has lost her opportunity by delay and divided counsels.

We must, says the writer of the article, use every effort to make the Italian people understand the grounds and the strength of our support of Venizelos.

To regard this support as a mixture of antiquarianism and sentimentality is completely to misunderstand it. In the first place, we believe in Venizelos as a brave man and a great statesman, and that belief is not confined to any one party or class, but is shared to quite a remarkable extent by the nation as a whole. No individual statesman in Europe would receive such a popular welcome in London to-day. Our attitude to him is not unlike our attitude to Garibaldi, and the warm memories that must still exist in Italy of our enthusiasm for the great Italian should enable our friends to understand our appreciation of the great Hellenic. In the second place, we feel that Venizelos is our man, that he and his friends have from the beginning of the war staked their all on the moral as well as the material strength of our cause, and that they are sacrificing for it career and property and life. To restore them, and to punish their enemies, is not a matter of sentiment with us, but a matter of honour, and we earnestly ask Italy, even if it cannot share our attitude, to recognize and to respect it.

Equilibrium in the Balkans.

We are indebted to the *Bystander* (February 7) for affording us an opportunity of viewing "Through a Woman's Eyes," a question which to a mere male seems a singularly complicated one—"The Balkan Nationalities—and Settlements." Miss Rosamond Boulton, the lady through whose eyes we are permitted to regard the problem for a few brief minutes, tells us:—

The real reason for the prolonged and unsatisfactory conditions in the Balkans has been the attempts made—especially by Disraeli and Bismarck—to settle affairs by the odious doctrine of compensations and equilibrium. This just won't work, that is all there is about it. The rights of small nationalities must be clearly defined by the Great Powers, and they must be confined within their own national limits. And so the most important task ahead of the Entente, if they want a lasting peace, is to settle the Balkan question. There are too many little nations in the Balkans, and there is no doubt as to which the Entente in unison consider to be the superfluous one. Yet, if Bulgaria is wiped off the map there will be several millions of people in Europe sowing the seed of discontent for future wars.

This is not entirely hopeful. But the writer is not downhearted. She concludes her article:—

However, if long-suffering, brave little Serbia is made into a powerful Slav State, predominating in the Balkans, and Roumania is also rewarded by just her own countrymen gathered into a strong Latin nation—an island of Romans surrounded by a sea of Slavs—the equilibrium we have so dearly fought for will be well secured; and a well-beaten and then re-instated Bulgaria, with her frontiers clearly defined, will probably bring about an entire metamorphosis in that country. The people are submissive, but their rulers are Germans. Eliminate that unwholesome influence and we shall probably find a nation useful and industrious for the good of all of us.

Russian Aid to Roumania.

Under the title "Russia Carries On," the *Field* (February 3) gives a glowing account of Russia's share in the war. The following passages are extracted from that portion of the article in which the writer shows how Russia helped Roumania.

At present there is every reason to hope that such a sweeping and complete tragedy as overwhelmed Serbia, and temporarily blotted out her name from the roll of nations, has been obviated by the might of the Russian arms. From the beginning of the Russian campaign Russia assisted Roumania by sending into the Dobruja the troops for which the Roumanian Government had asked and had bargained for before commencing hostilities against Austria-Hungary. Russia had fulfilled her part of the agreement, but Roumania's overestimate of her own strength and underestimate of that of the enemy made the Russian contribution, which was about 60,000 men, much below what was necessary in the circumstances. This soon was evident, and Russia forthwith began despatching reinforcements to the Dobruja, while she simultaneously joined up her forces with those of the Roumanians in the Carpathians in north-western Moldavia and started a vigorous offensive. Later she took over entirely an extensive portion of the Carpathian front, thus releasing large bodies of Roumanian soldiers for service elsewhere. The relatively poor Russian railways were strained to the uttermost in transporting munitions, great quantities of which were French

and British, and in carrying troops into Roumania. Russia did everything in her power, in the brief time at her command, to avert disaster, but she could not achieve the impossible.

The writer refers to our Allies' gallant and chivalrous attempts to save Bucharest. He then describes the Russian withdrawal to the Sereth line; and continues:—

But meanwhile Russia was able to do one splendid thing, and that was to save the Roumanian Army. That has been the really great part Russia has played in the Roumanian campaign, and she has perhaps hardly received proper credit for it. Germany sought to derive military, political, and economic advantages from her invasion of Roumania; but her main purpose was to destroy the Roumanian Army, and in that she was signally defeated by Russia. As the Roumanian Army retreated eastward from Bucharest and Ploesti, it passed through the squadrons and regiments of the advancing Russian cavalry and infantry, who thereupon protected its retirement. In a recent interview at Jassy M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, stated to a correspondent that the national army was intact, still retained three-fourths of its original strength, was being reorganized and re-equipped behind the Russian lines, and soon would be in a position to take the field again. As this means a force of about half a million men, that is the measure of the assistance Russia has given to Roumania and the common cause. The Roumanian Army fought with the highest courage and endurance, but for such a campaign as it undertook it was not well found, and it suffered accordingly. There will be a vast difference when it reappears in the arena.

ORIGINS OF NEAR EASTERN PROBLEMS.

The Turks.

Continuing his course of lectures on the historical causes of Near Eastern Problems, on the 14th inst., Dr. Pember Reeves sketched, at the London School of Economics, the course of events before which the Byzantine Empire went down. He described the attacks of Normans, who seized southern Italy and the island of Sicily; and, after quarrelling and fighting with the Popes, made terms with them and became Crusaders. He said that the Greek Emperors were prevented from dealing effectually with them because of fighting with other enemies, notably Turks, Serbs, and Bulgars. Of the Turks he said that they were originally a Mongol tribe from Central Asia, first heard of in history as harassing the Chinese, who gave them a name from which the word Turk is derived. They moved westwards and established themselves to the north of Persia as a formidable race of marauders and slave hunters, from whom their neighbours suffered greatly. For some centuries they were kept at bay by the Arabs of the Khalifate of Baghdad, but in the eleventh century they overran Persia and Mesopotamia—capturing Baghdad in 1050—put an end to the Khalifate, and began to make raids on the Byzantine Empire. Originally a Mongol race, said Dr. Reeves, they became rapidly blended with the peoples they harassed, as would naturally happen with a race of incorrigible slave hunters and kidnappers, and by the time we know them they were altogether different from, say, the Mongols of China. The accounts that have come down to us describe them as dark, thick-set, round-shouldered and bow-legged, with aquiline noses, and black hair. They lived on horseback. Their weapons were the bow and arrow and the curved sword. They were excellent fighters, could endure great hardships, were temperate in eating and drinking; but otherwise had no good qualities whatever. In a cruel age they stood pre-eminent for the ferocious cruelty with which they treated the civil population of the countries they invaded.

Dr. Reeves detailed the course of events by which the Seljuk Turks cleared the population out of Central Asia Minor, leaving that country a grassy wilderness for their flocks and herds; and explained the part played by the rising Italian cities and the Crusaders in sapping the trade and breaking the military strength of the Byzantine Empire. Of the Ottoman Turks, he said they were a small clan of adventurers who established themselves in Western Asia Minor on the borderland between the Seljuks and the Greeks. It was one of the mysteries and romances of history how a tiny clan of robbers and raiders had founded one of the greatest empires of the world, going on through the centuries from victory to victory. By 1290 the Ottomans began to be a thorn in the side of the Byzantines. They got some of the feudal proprietors on their side, and showed a great aptitude for converting their allies and friends and the people they conquered to Islam, and blending them with themselves. They were not religious enthusiasts and fanatics like the Arab followers of Mohammed, but they were very successful propagandists. Their two principles were never to admit the Christian inhabitants of any country they conquered to equality with themselves, but always to treat them as slaves and conquered subjects; while, on the other hand, they used every means to convert as many of the Christians as possible to Islam. These converts they then accepted as Turks, uniting and blending with them. An unbroken succession of able military leaders contributed largely to Ottoman success. They first appeared in Europe on the invitation of the Byzantine Emperor, who had asked them to come and help him against the Serbs. They gradually conquered nearly the whole of the Balkan Peninsula, but it was not until May 29, 1453, that Constantinople fell into their hands. Then, said Dr. Reeves, the Sultan rode into the market place and signaled in a most characteristic way the meaning of Turkish domination. He rode up to the great Greek relic, the twisted column of serpents set up to commemorate the defeat of Xerxes. This precious relic had seen set up in the Hippodrome. The Sultan rode up to it swaying his mace, and shattered the head of the serpent, thereby indicating at once the irresistible power of the Turks and the attitude they always adopted towards art and civilization.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The British military authorities in Egypt have proved their human character recently by an act which, if performed in this country, would cause some of us to rub our eyes with wonderment. Five hundred horses had been reported as unserviceable for military purposes, and it was decided to give them free to agriculturists for work on the land instead of destroying them, as is usually the practice. When the decision was reached, the Veterinary Department sent circulars to all Governors informing them of the intention of the authorities, and it was added that the horses would be "lent permanently" to great landowners on condition that they undertook to treat them properly and not to dispose of the animals by sale or otherwise.

It will be recalled by some of my readers that last year considerable sensation was caused in this country by statements made in the House of Commons that useless horses which had been discarded from the Army had been sold to proprietors of hackney carriages in Alexandria and Cairo, and that the poor beasts were treated very brutally in that they were overworked and ill-fed. It would serve no useful purpose now to go over that rough ground again, but I am glad to observe that there will be no scandal in the present instance. If the animals handed over to agriculturists become unserviceable they are to be destroyed and a report made to that effect. The horses at work will also be subject to the inspection of a delegate of the Veterinary Department from time to time. Special forms of undertaking to abide by these conditions have been prepared by the Veterinary Department, and will have to be signed by the landowner before any horses are handed over to him.

Another sensible action of the Army people in Egypt was performed in regard to a quantity of Italian potatoes which in some places might have found a place on a scrap heap. What the Army man in Egypt did was to hand them over to cultivators (through the Ministry of Agriculture, of course) to be utilised as seed, on the condition that 25 per cent. of the crop should be sold to the Army, and that an equivalent quantity of Egyptian tubers was given immediately in return. More than 1,300 tons have already been handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture, and one looks with confidence for a reduction in price when the crop comes to hand.

Italian commercial men have already discovered what a fine thing it is that the Hun, with his shady methods, has been removed from Egypt. Imports of Italian goods there have increased very substantially since the war and show no sign of tailing off. British traders in Egypt have allowed themselves to be outstripped in this case by the go-ahead Italian. It is a remarkable fact that the latter is able to buy Manchester goods

wholesale from England and to retail them in Egypt at cheaper rates than English importers can sell them. Up to now, I am informed, English traders have failed to show any enterprise, and still persist in refusing to send free samples to their agents and, as was pointed out in THE NEAR EAST last week, will not make use of the cash-on-delivery system. Commenting on this, a contemporary somewhat sarcastically remarks: "They always ask for cash in advance, and yet we are told that German trade will be ousted after the war! The fact is that many people, not through any love of the Germans, are only waiting for the war to end to have the opportunity of taking advantage of the facilities offered by German traders to begin doing business with them again."

What a grave indictment this is of British methods! Let us place on one side the faults of the British State, and the consular system, and Hun corruption—there is a beam to be removed from our own eye before we attempt to extract the motes from others. We are failing as traders because of our *laissez-faire* policy. *The Indiaman*, in its last issue, deals in trenchant and appropriate fashion with this failing of ours: "'We are British traders,' we have told the buyers of the world. 'We know what you ought to want, and we will make it for you. If you don't like it you can go elsewhere.' The tragedy of it all is that so many buyers of the world have gone elsewhere." Surely the time has come for us to undertake a searching self-examination. If we fail to mend our ways, ten years of the new peace will see the Hun marching once more steadily towards trade predominance, and that must be avoided at all costs.

The consistent attitude of some organs of the Press, foremost among them THE NEAR EAST, in urging the Government to introduce serious reforms in our Consular Service seems at last to be bearing fruit. As my readers are aware, the Association of the Chambers of Commerce drew up a report on the subject last December, and it was presented to the Foreign Office. The latter in its turn submitted to the Association a confidential report drawn up by a Foreign Office Committee, and though at present nothing definite can be said regarding the reforms which it is intended to introduce, I am informed that the Association has considered them in a most favourable light without, however, weakening "their determination to press for the creation of a Ministry of Commerce."

This is, indeed, most welcome news. It shows that the pressure which has been brought to bear by public opinion and the legitimate trade interests of the British Empire on the Government has at last had some effect. The matter must not be allowed to rest, however. It must be energetically pushed because of the danger of its being shelved indefinitely, as are so many other reports of departmental committees. As I have frequently insisted in these columns, we do not wish to begin the peace era with a new system utterly untried and inexperienced. It must already have found its feet by then, and hence my contention that no time is

to be lost in introducing the many reforms on a comprehensive and generous scale. This latter is essential: the Consular Service of the British Empire, together with its ramifications, bent on hastening the growth of British trade by all honourable means, must not be starved at the outset. It must be made an attractive service for intelligent men, and it must spare no expense in collecting information of service to our traders, and in drawing attention to trade openings in foreign countries. As regards these, the Eastern Mediterranean was an important British market before the war, and it must be made a much more important one in the future.

In a recent Note I drew attention to the wonderful railway work done by our R.E. Corps and Egyptian labour on both banks to the east and to the west of the Suez Canal. I also ventured to remark that those of us who knew the pre-war canal would indeed be surprised when they learned how our troops had transformed it. Naturally, it is yet impossible to publish full particulars of the railway work, both narrow and broad, which has already been consummated; but when this chapter of our military activity comes to be written it will be found to be no whit less marvellous than the building of the Omdurman railway during the Sudan Campaign in 1898. That this is so we can gather from the recently constructed El Arish railway.

It would appear that a fortnight after the Turks had been driven back from El Arish, the headquarters of the enemy in the Sinai Peninsula, the broad gauge railway which starts at Kantara had been completed and was carrying transport to El Arish. Prior to our occupation of the latter town the railhead had advanced to within fifteen miles, so that the last stretch was built across shifting sands at the rate of a mile a day. This is, indeed, an achievement, the more so when it is remembered that all material had to be brought a distance of 100 miles, and that the rails had to be laid firmly across a waterless desert of flimsy sand. All told, the whole line has been built under most strenuous circumstances, always following military exigencies. The first section, Kantara-Romani, was completed in April of last year, several stretches having had to be built at the rate of a mile a day as our troops advanced. Whether the line will continue towards Syria to the Hejaz railway we are not told, but, whatever its fate, it will remain an eloquent testimony to the engineering skill of the British Army.

I gather from a report which has come to hand from Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., Alexandria, that some trades in Egypt are sadly in need of better days. The freight market is in a state of suspense, and the "spot" rate for parces of cotton seed for London and Hull continues to be an "unknown quantity." The coal market is dull, with stocks standing at 19,000 tons, while as to the weather—"a wintry week, finishing up with misty morning atmosphere and a cold north-east wind." It is satisfactory to know, however, that the war is not responsible for at least one of the disturbing influences—the weather.

COMMENTATOR.

Egyptian Oversea Trade in 1916.

A Phenomenal Period of Prosperity and Development: The Returns Analysed.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 22.

The Customs published their returns for December last night, and we are now enabled to see how Egypt's trade has progressed during 1916. The year has been a phenomenal one for the commerce of the country, and never in its modern history have its imports or exports attained such high figures. The following table will show how trade has picked up since the first set-back caused by the war, and how the past year has beaten all previous records, 1912 being the year of the greatest exports, and 1913 that of the highest imports.

Imports.				
1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
30,854,141	19,328,993	21,724,606	27,865,195	25,907,759

Exports.				
1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
37,162,453	27,046,872	24,091,793	31,662,065	34,574,321

Thus from this it can be seen that imports last year were nearly three millions more than in 1913, the last normal year before the war, and that exports are practically a like amount above the figure for the previous record, 1912, and nearly six millions above that of 1913.

In these figures are not included the specie movements during each year. These must, of course, be taken into consideration when the balances of trade are compared. If the specie figures are added to the years in question it will be found that the balance of trade in 1916 was about a quarter of a million more in favour of Egypt than that of 1913, which stood at £E5,143,614, and that it has never been so much in favour of this country as it has been since the outbreak of war. This feature is just as welcome as is the steady rise in the imports and exports.

Principal Imports.

The principal imports during the year have been: preserved meat, £E1,693,907; skins and tanned goods, £E301,627; flour, £E571,484 (5,000 tons less than the previous year and only 13 per cent. of the quantity imported in 1913, so that one can understand that the country is somewhat short in breadstuffs); rice, £E117,275 (also considerably less in quantity than normally); sugar, £E209,322; coffee, £E420,258; jams and preserves, £E328,904; beer, £E481,610; wines and liqueurs, £E595,856; petroleum, £E897,726; mineral oils, £E244,531; stationery, £E765,883; construction wood, £E249,300; furniture, £E253,607; coal, £E5,134,142 (the value compared with 1915 has more than doubled, but the quantity is 10 per cent. more, whilst compared with 1913 the value is about treble and the quantity about half); china and porcelain, £E158,346; natural indigo, £E205,160 (formerly all the indigo imported was artificial, from Germany); matches, £E174,767; drugs and chemical products, £E348,699; chemical manures, £E379,356 (this is the item which shows the largest falling-off in value, i.e., £E279,336 by comparison with 1915, and the fact that the quantities imported last year and in 1915 were only 25,000 and 61,000 tons as against

71,000 tons in 1913 may have a very serious effect on the agricultural situation); textiles, £E9,644,417 (of which £E5,734,277 were cotton tissues, £E685,671 cotton thread, £E621,935 sacks, £E417,347 woollen tissues, £E576,626 ready-made linen and millinery); worked iron and steel, £E929,244, and machinery, £E373,302.

Exports.

As regards exports, the following table will best show how the trade has developed during 1916 as compared with pre-war years:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	1916.	1913.	1916.	1913.
	Tons.	Tons.	£E.	£E.
Eggs ...	235,370,000	148,571,000	653,230	251,957
Wheat ...	10,900	2,000	111,700	20,400
Maize ...	140,000	250	911,740	1,680
Lentils ...	3,000	1,000	34,600	9,000
Beans ...	15,900	1,200	114,710	10,280
Rice ...	23,000	23,500	282,000	279,000
Cotton Seed	278,000	555,000	1,898,850	3,300,000
Cotton Cake	83,000	61,000	513,640	295,800
Onions ...	64,000	104,450	310,860	275,500
Sugar ...	29,000	8,133	640,650	79,100
Oil ...	1,420	2,105	58,200	38,000
Wool ...	2,730	2,200	271,600	136,640
Cotton ...	5,416,900	6,972,680	29,815,680	25,513,100
	(Cantars)	(Cantars)		

In addition to the above, the following, for which no weights are given in the monthly return, showed increases: Alcohol, £E216,592, as against £E4,270; skins and tanned goods, £E418,715, as against £E237,122; flour and bran, £E156,064, as against £E840 (the comparison is with 1913). Cigarettes fell off from £E394,978 to £E262,333.

A Lesson in Cotton.

The above table demonstrates in an unmistakable manner that, as far as Egypt herself was concerned, the restriction of the cotton area in 1915 did not do her harm. It is true that, had she continued to grow the normal area, she would have benefited by the high prices which would have ruled in any case, though possibly not on the same level as they have done during the past year; but against that has to be set the fact that she would not have been self-supporting in the matter of breadstuffs, as she undoubtedly has been during the past twelvemonth, and that she could not possibly have dispensed, as she did, with 87 per cent. of the quantity of flour (210,000 tons) which she imports normally. It is not to be expected that Egypt will for a long time export again such large quantities of cereals, but she will certainly derive the benefit from the place which she has established for herself in the European markets for such items as eggs, sugar, alcohol, etc.

Trade Distribution.

Turning now to the question of the share in Egypt's trade accruing to the various nations, we find that under imports Great Britain has taken just under half, as compared with 30.5 in 1913, and that the Empire, as a whole, has accounted for over 60 per cent. of the total as against 37.6 three years ago. Italy and America have both increased their share, the former to 8 per cent. and the latter to 6 per cent.; France has fallen off by half while Russia and Roumania have considerably diminished, the latter practically to nil.

On the other hand, neutral countries such as Spain, Holland, Switzerland, and Sweden have very greatly increased their shipments, though not sufficiently to include them as yet in the percentage table. Under exports Great Britain has increased her share since the war from 43 to 53 per cent.; America has jumped from 8 to 18 per cent.; whilst France has fallen to only 7 per cent., and Russia to 5 per cent. No other noteworthy changes have taken place on this side of the trade

account. It will not be possible to say exactly what articles were sent to or taken by each country until the annual statistics appear towards the end of March, so it is useless to try to-day to find out how the trade has gone.

With the Sudan.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan was equally flourishing during 1916. Imports from South to North rose from £E519,243 to £E923,175, and traffic in the opposite direction from £E877,773 to £E1,157,891. The chief imports into Egypt from the Sudan were: Maize, £E162,665, and sesame, £E147,346 (£E43,249 and £E63,266 respectively); skins, £E30,692 (£E22,112); gum, £E28,294 (£E19,126); charcoal, £E27,820 (£E12,969); senna, £E17,038 (£E10,204); cotton, £E128,358 (£E87,932); and livestock £E189,268 (£E142,663; most of the increase is due to camels). The principal exports from Egypt into the Sudan were: Sugar, £E268,610 (£E190,997); cotton tissues £E280,754 (£E210,640); skins and tanned goods, £E29,866 (£E14,672); coffee, £E33,225 (£E38,705); cereals, £E62,875 (£E62,961); common soap, £E17,130 (£E20,827); petroleum, £E14,232 (£E7,834); machinery, £E19,212 (£E4,372); sacks, £E22,825 (£E25,047); and tobacco and cigarettes, £E109,793 (£E106,174). The figures in brackets are those for 1915.

THE FELLAH AS COTTON GROWER.

In the course of a lecture dealing with the world's production of cotton, delivered at University College, London, on February 13, Dr. W. Lawrence Balls said the proportion which Egypt contributed was relatively small measured by its actual weight; yet Egypt was a very important contributor, because almost the best cotton in the world was grown there.

The better the cotton the finer the yarn that could be spun from it, and this meant more work for spinners and a higher selling price for the product. The bulk of the English cotton trade was in the spinning of "counts" of a degree of fineness such as was not touched in other countries.

Dr. Balls illustrated this point by showing a "cob" of cotton yarn about three inches long and less than an inch in diameter; there were three miles of cotton wound on this bobbin, he said, and yet the yarn was only about half-way to the limit of fine spinning.

Going on to describe the conditions that affect the plant's growth and the possibility of improving the quantity and quality produced, Dr. Balls paid a remarkable tribute to the Egyptian cultivator. The production of cotton, he explained, was only possible where there was cheap and abundant labour, and he proceeded: "Cotton is grown almost exclusively by native labour, and one is inclined to think that the native cultivator is an ignorant, prejudiced person. He really is, but he is also a farmer, and a farmer usually has a very good reason for what he does. We have found that the case in Egypt with the fellah. He has one or two curious customs peculiar to Egypt. He plants the cotton much too close, and plants it later than seems advisable. He is lectured and preached at by would-be reformers for trying to force his land and get too much crop, and losing thereby. But when we got this elaborate series of curves that I have shown you, we found he was correct to centimetres in the distance at which he planted his bushes. If he had put a thousand more on the acre of land in the particular district, or a thousand less, the yield would have fallen off. Similarly, if he had planted a week or two sooner or later he would have been worse off. It was amazingly correct, and it taught me a lesson to be very careful about telling a practical man what his business was until I had studied it carefully."

THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

Speaking at a meeting at the Russian Section of the London Chamber of Commerce on February 5, Mr. Leslie Urquhart, basing his observations on his own experience as Honorary Consul at Baku, expressed the opinion that there is great need to reform the Consular system, and that an efficient Consular Service cannot be maintained by a country like Great Britain for the paltry sum of £97,000 per annum. Mr. Urquhart also agreed that Consuls should be the nationals of the country they represent.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale of Harrods, London, England

ENEMY BANKS.

Roumanian Debtors and the Liquidation.

The liquidators of enemy banks in England, Mr. Walter Leaf and Mr. R. V. Vassar Smith, have submitted a report on the progress made in the liquidation of the concerns, in which they say:—"From our experience as practical bankers, not only has due diligence been used in the realisation and distribution of assets and liabilities, but the present position of operations shows that they have been conducted with an ability and expedition reflecting the highest credit on Sir William Plender and the supervisors who have acted under him."

The report concerns the Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank, Disconto Gesellschaft, Oesterreichische Laenderbank, and the Anglo-Austrian Bank. The main obstacle to a more rapid liquidation had been the decision of the French and Russian Governments to regard the London establishments as hostile creditors and to refuse permission to remit to them any assets in their respective countries. All the banks at the outbreak of war had large assets both in Russia and in France, more particularly the former. The whole of these were "frozen up," and could not be realised till after the war.

The case of debtors in neutral countries presented many difficult and at the moment insoluble problems. All the banks had considerable interests in Roumania, and at the outbreak of war exchange on London became impossible except at a very heavy loss. Roumanian debtors refused to pay except in local currency, thus trying to throw the loss on the banks.

Large amounts were also owing from German firms in South America and other neutral countries. To applications for payment these firms generally replied that their account was with the head office of the bank in Berlin or Vienna, and that they had settled or meant to settle with them. These claims, as in the case of those in Roumania, could only be decided by proceedings in local Courts, and it was quite possible that these Courts would hold that the London establishment was to be treated only as a part of the bank and that settlement with the head office was a discharge of the debt.

Some German firms abroad had been forbidden by their Government to remit, and had accordingly paid their debts into joint bank accounts to be held till the end of the war.

BANNED FIRMS.

Further Changes in the Egyptian List.

The following additions to and removals from the list of firms and persons not resident in enemy territory with whom trading by persons in Egypt is prohibited appear in the *Egyptian Official Journal* of January 25:—

Additions.

GREECE.

Anatoli Insurance Company, The, Athens; Coundourakis, Georges J., Candia, Crete; Margaritis, J., Piræus; Yannoukakis, Nicholas, Piræus.

PERSIA.

Meister, Lucius and Brunig.

Removals.

MOROCCO.

Escalant, Antonio Lopez, Larache.

PERSIA.

Haji Gholem Ali and Haji Mahomed Bagher Behbehani and Sons, Bushire.

ROUMANIA BUYS TEXTILES.

During the last few weeks the British textile trade has been furnished with ample evidence that Roumania is still very much in being. Our Ally has placed considerable orders with British manufacturers for Welsh shirtings and flannels. Welsh makers have specialised on the former for rather more than a century. It is a somewhat coarse cloth, but very warm, and, of course, invaluable in the Balkans at this time of the year.

Generally, the cloth is made from domestic wool, but there is no restriction regarding the raw material, and a considerable amount of colonial lambswool is also utilized.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

A Firmer Tone with an Improved Enquiry.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The general tone of the market has been firmer this week, and the stiffer feeling in raw cotton circles has brought about a rather improved enquiry in some quarters. The general experience of sellers, however, has not been at all encouraging, and many complaints have been met with as to the slack state of affairs compared with a month or two back.

Bullish sentiment has prevailed in the New York and Liverpool markets, and the nervousness with regard to the German menace on the seas has not been so pronounced.

Egyptian cotton prices have tended to harden in sympathy with the stronger tone in the American staple. The receipts at Alexandria so far this season are 4,253,504 cantars, against 3,951,847 cantars same time last year.

A limited trade has again been done in piece goods for Egypt. The news now being received by mail is not so encouraging as a little time ago. Merchants in Alexandria and Cairo are undoubtedly disturbed by the political situation and the uncertainty as to the course of the war.

The recent improvement in the enquiry for China has been fairly well maintained, and some fair lots have been put through in bleaching cloths and fancies. A little more activity has also transpired for Singapore and the Straits Settlements.

With regard to India, workable offers have been scarce, and dealers abroad are still disposed to look on. The position of manufacturers is very irregular. Isolated cases have been mentioned of contracts being cancelled owing to late delivery. Makers are finding it more difficult than ever to keep up their production.

Prices in American yarns have been put up, but buyers have followed rather slowly, and the margin of profit has tended to be narrowed. In stock lots, however, a little more business has been done in some quarters.

No improvement whatever can be recorded in the demand for export yarns. Bolton spinings made from Egyptian cotton have tended to harden in price, and a little more inquiry has been met with in some directions.

EGYPT AND "SUMMER TIME."

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt has asked the Alexandria Municipality and the French Chamber of Commerce for their views regarding the introduction of "summer time" in Egypt, and the question has thus become of practical interest.

Dr. Granville has recently been interviewed on the subject by *The Egyptian Gazette*, and although he appears to be undecided regarding the utility of the proposal, he intends to submit it to the Municipal Commission.

If the proposal is generally approved, the new time would probably come in operation on April 1. It is pointed out that owing to the difference between the hours of the rising and the setting of the sun in Egypt and at home the saving on lighting in Egypt would be 50 per cent. less than in England.

"Moreover," says the *Gazette*, "the people of this country, both natives and Europeans, are early risers, and owing to the extraordinary dullness of life in Alexandria and Cairo in the evenings, the rareness of nocturnal amusements since the war broke out, and the early closing of bars and restaurants, it is to be presumed that even the most inveterate lovers of amusement must have long ago given up going out in the evenings and adopted the habit of going to bed early so that so far as that matter goes the introduction of this reform would have little social advantage."

A Reuter message from Valencia, dated February 13, states that the German Consulate has announced that permits would be granted for the export of oranges and onions from Spain, via Cette, subject to the control of the Consulate.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

Tenders are invited by the Central Office, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of timber during the financial year 1917-18, beginning in April, 1917. (March 31, 1917.)

Offers will be received by the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways up to noon on March 19, 1917, addressed to the Superintendent of Stores, Cairo, for the supply of sundry white linen, khaki and blue canvas uniforms required for the year 1918, according to samples to be submitted by tenderers. The specification relating to this supply may be obtained, against payment in advance of one hundred milliemmes, at the Administration's Central Stores at Saptia (Cairo) and Gabbary (Alexandria).

Sealed tenders (in duplicate) will be received at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, up to 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, 1917, for the supply of stationery in the year 1917-18. Forms of tender and specification may be obtained and samples of stationery may be seen on application at the above office, or at the Pattern Room of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, S.W.

Licence Restored.

The licence of Marie Wellay, of Alexandria, which was cancelled on January 11, 1917, has been restored.

Change in Receivership.

The appointment of Mr. F. H. Russell as receiver of the business of Joseph Eggert, Cairo, bearing date of August 25, 1916, has been terminated, and all remaining assets of the liquidation have been vested in the Public Custodian of Enemy Property.

Liquidation.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief his Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt has ordered the liquidation of the business of hotel-keeper formerly carried on at Assuan by Marguerite Neufeld, and has directed that all property in Egypt of the said enemy person be vested in the Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt.

Successful Tenders.

The following are in the list of successful tenderers for the supply of stores for the year 1917-18 to the Personnel and Equipment Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Egypt:—

	Police. £K.	Ghafr. £E.
J. Compton and Sons, Ltd.	10,645	—
The Limerick Clothing Factory, Ltd.	10,037	—
Levi Harda and Co.	4,565	1,320
C. and J. Webb and Co., Ltd.	4,028	1,429
The Commercial and Agency Co. of Egypt, Ltd.	5,189	—
Hussien Abdalla 34-0	—	—
Kannrenther and Co., Ltd.	1,704	187
W. Petersen and Co., Ltd.	1,377	—
Mohamed el Zahhar 1	—	1,161
Walter W. Davies 2-9	—	—
Thos. Hunselwood and Co., Ltd.	778	—
Moustarha Gohar 205	—	417
John Day and Co. 404	—	—
Hamid el Sayed 359	—	—
Paul Lifshitz 300	—	—

THE WAR LOAN.

We publish further Greek and Near Eastern names which appear in the list of subscribers to the new great War Loan. These include:—

National Bank of Egypt (2nd instalment)	575,000
National Bank of Egypt and clients (additional)	95,000
Flower Motor Ship Co.	£140,000
Union-Castle S.S. Co., Ltd.	905,350
Lampart and Holt, Ltd.	820,000
Royal Mail S.S. Co., Ltd.	970,000
Pacific Steam Nav. Co., Ltd.	800,000
Egyptian Delta Light Railways ...	85,000
Egyptian Delta Light Railways (Provident and Fire Funds)...	3,900
Bibi Eibat Oil Co., Ltd.	10,000
Messrs. Gellat'y, Hankey and Co.	225,000
Messrs. Ralli Bros.	1,500,000
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	500,000
Lloyds Register of Shipping	202,650
Sir John Jackson, Ltd., and private subscriptions of Sir John Jackson and Family	41,000
Government of Malta	50,000
Ir. B. Kostonn's, Manchester ...	12,400
Iodocanachi, Sons, and Co.	10,300

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, February 15.

The statement that further restrictions are to be placed on imports, leaving free only essential goods, has caused some uneasiness.

Currants.

The market has been fairly active this past week, and, with the apparent shortage of sound fruit and no prospects of further arrivals in the near future, prices have again advanced. Vostizza are selling well at 85s. to 86s., while other grades, especially smalls, sell slowly, but at higher prices than those mentioned last week.

The Liverpool market is also very strong. Provincial are quoted there at 82s., Gulph and Patras 83s. to 86s., and Vostizza 90s.

Sultanas.

The market is more active, with good business mostly in red Afghans at slightly cheaper rates. There is also a better demand for Australian fruit.

Figs.

Almost all new crop fruit is cleared, while the remaining old fruit, which is offered at more or less low prices, is good only for manufacturing purposes.

Dates.

There has been a comparatively heavy demand for Persians, and the market for this kind is 1s. to 1s. 6d. dearer.

Seeds.

Linseed is easier to-day; London-Calcutta, spot, is quoted at 112s., with Bombay ditto at 112s. Rapeseed is firmly held for higher prices; Toria-Hull is quoted at 95s., brown Cawnpore ditto 90s., and Ferozepore-London 92s. Cottonseed is firm; London-Egyptian f.a.q. is quoted at £18 10s., and Sakelarides, spot, at £17 10s. per ton. Rangoon beans are in better request at steadier rates, while Canary seed is held for more money.

Oils.

Linseed oil is slightly easier this week. Spot pipes were sold at £52, barrels ditto at £53 landed terms. Rape oil is firmer; ordinary brown, naked, spot, selling at £55, and English refined barrels at £58 to £59. Cotton oil is firm: Crude, spot, pipes, is quoted £49, refined pale £51 10s. to £52 10s., and barrels, sweet, £58 to £60 as to make. Olive oil: Stocks are cleared and prices are nominal.

Olcakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes on spot are offered sparingly, commanding full prices at £15 5s. to £15 7s. 6d. ex quay, whilst English makes are unchanged at £15 7s. 6d. to £15 10s. Linseed cakes are in better demand, and values are firmly held up, with a further advance for kinds of home manufacture. Best London-made is selling well at £19 10s. to £20.

Decorticated cotton-cake of very fine quality Argentine is offered at £18 10s. ex docks. Egyptian is not available.

GREEK STEAMER TORPEDOED.

King Constantine's ships are no more immune from the Hun piratical operations than are those of Spain or America. Among the latest of Greek steamers to suffer was the Vasilissa Olga, an iron screw vessel of 1,400 tons, which was built in 1869 by Messrs. W. Pile and Co., of Sunderland, and owned by Stakos and Nanapoulos. All the crew have been landed at an English Channel port. The chief engineer, F. Casanova, said, in an interview to a newspaper representative:—

"A submarine ran alongside, and we were ordered to leave our ship immediately. We lowered our lifeboat, and the whole twenty of us got into it, although we were not allowed sufficient time to obtain much clothing. Finding that I was the only one who could speak English, the German commander ordered me to go on board the submarine. They kept me a prisoner for upwards of an hour, covering me with their revolvers, while some of the submarine's crew lowered one of their boats and rowed to our vessel, on board which they placed bombs."

"When the German sailors returned I was immediately ordered to join my companions, who were waiting alongside in our boat. After we steered away we heard a violent explosion, which blew up our ship, and she sank in about seven or eight minutes. We saw nothing more of the submarine. About seven o'clock we were picked up by a small steamer."



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal

Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

CYPRUS FOOD PRICES.

How the War Affects the Cost of Living.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, Jan. 29.

The appended list of tariff prices for articles chiefly in demand in Cyprus will give an idea of the present cost of living. Bearing in mind that the oke is exactly equal to 2 4-5 lb., it will be seen that there is little to complain of in comparison with prices in England; but that, of course, is not the question. The rise in prices during the British occupation has been prodigious—a usual consequence of British or American settlement—and for natives especially very exacting.

It must also be remarked that the quality of many articles, e.g., fowls, is distinctly poor, and inferior to that in many European countries. Some articles, too, e.g., green peas, can only be obtained as rare luxuries. Cow's milk is seldom obtainable in most parts.

The prices given are per oke, except where stated:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Mutton	1	8	Rice Indian	0	4 1/2
Lamb	1	10 1/2	Rice (Genoa)	0	8
Beef	1	4	Coffee (beans)	2	2 1/2
Beef (2nd quality) ..	1	0	Coffee (ground)	2	10 1/2
Goat	1	1	Lentils	0	6
Kid	1	6	Olive Oil	1	9 1/2
Pork	1	5	Macaroni	0	7 1/2
Pork (fat)	2	0	Money	1	1
Fowls	1	4	Fish	1	9 1/2
Turkey	1	1 1/2	Fish (red mullet) ..	2	3
Eggs (per doz.)	0	8	Soap (Cyprus)	1	4
Milk (sheep and goat's)	0	6	Cauliflower	0	2
Milk (cow's)	0	8	Onions	0	1
Milk (tinued, per tin) ..	0	10 1/2	Beans	0	4
Cheese (native)	1	10 1/2	Pumpkins	0	1
Olives	0	6 to 9 1/2	Spinach	0	1
Sugar (loaf, Egyptian) ..	1	4 1/2	Lettuce	0	1
Sugar (cube)	1	5 1/2	Celery (native)	0	1
Sugar (granulated)	1	0	Petroleum	0	7 1/2
Rice (Egyptian) ..	0	7 1/2	Petroleum (box of 2 large tins)	18	0

Agricultural Outlook.

There has been more rain and snow, the northern heights of the Kyrenia ranges, as well as the larger southern mountains, being well covered. The sowing of cereals in all the lower lands is practically finished, and the outlook for farmers is excellent in all districts. March will bring the critical period, and the spring rainfall will be the all-important element.

RICE GROWING IN EGYPT.

It will be remembered, writes the *Egyptian Gazette*, that two years ago the irrigation authorities, fearing that the state of the Nile flood would not allow them to give the rice-grown districts the necessary water for cultivation, decided to restrict the rice-growing zones. The rice growers made several complaints at the time, but it was not possible to alter the decision, and the rice crops naturally did not turn out to be as abundant as in previous years.

As this decision affects the Sharkia cultivators in particular, the Sharkia Province Council held a meeting at Zagazig last week with the object of submitting an official complaint to the authorities on the subject. The meeting was attended by Mr. Adamson representing the Irrigation service, and Mr. McKillop, Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, representing his own ministry. The former stated that in view of the present abundance of water, the authorities had decided to raise the restrictions made in the growing of rice, and to allow its cultivation in 1917 in all the areas on which rice was grown prior to the restrictions—Fakous, Kafr Sakr, and other districts of the Sharkia Province.

Mr. Adamson added that the rotations during the rice-growing period would be regulated so as to comprise five days of irrigation and five days of suspension, against six days of irrigation and twelve days of suspension before this period.

A strong earthquake shock has been felt at Cupria, Desbotovatz, Svilainatz, and other localities in the Morava Valley. No serious damage was done.

A German report says that Diavid Bey, who has been on a financial mission to Berlin, has been recalled to Constantinople in order to assume the portfolio of Finance in the Turkish Government.

GREEK TOBACCO.

Conditions in and Prospects of the Industry.

The United States Consul at Patras sends to his Government at Washington an interesting report on Greek tobacco. He writes:—

There are three distinct kinds of tobacco grown in the Patras district, known locally as Tsembelia, Aromatic, and Basma. The Tsembelia is the ordinary kind, a strong variety, having a leaf nine to ten inches long, and of light yellow colour in the good grades. The Aromatic is mild and very fragrant. It bears a leaf five to six inches long, light of weight, and bright yellow. The Basma is a tobacco grown from seed brought from Cavalla, and is a new venture in the district. The growers are confident that they will be able in the future to rival the famous Cavalla product so popular with American buyers.

The chief tobacco-growing region of the district, so far as the American market is concerned, is that lying around the town of Agrinion and its adjacent lakes on mainland Greece just north of the Bay of Patras. The tobacco region round about the old city of Argos, though it furnishes a large supply for the domestic market and for certain foreign markets in times of peace, does not produce a sufficiently good quality to attract American buyers. The Agrinion crop for 1916, which has now (November 1916) all been harvested and put in the drying barns, shows a falling off in quantity of some 15 per cent. as compared with the normal crop of that region, though the quality is reported to be good. The total crop, all grades, is estimated at 5,000,000 pounds. This is about equally divided between the Patofyllo and Tsembelia grades on the one hand and the Myrodato and Cavalla-seed grades on the other. The short crop is attributed to the exceedingly hot, dry weather that prevailed in May and June.

Grades.	Price per 100 pounds.			
	Feb. 14, 1914.		Nov. 14, 1916.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Patofyllo	—	2 16 3	—	5 14 7
Tsembelia I.	4 17	8 10 8	2—10	10 3
Tsembelia II.	3 10	4 7 12	6—7	13 4
Tsembelia III.	2 2	6 4 16	8—4	12 6
Aromatic (Myrodato) I.	8 0	0 13 12	6—13	14 7
Aromatic (Myrodato) II.	6 13	3 10 14	7—10	16 8
Aromatic (Myrodato) III.	3 0	0 11 0	0—8	4 2
Cavalla seed (Basma)	6 13	4 10 6	3—15	6 3

Sharp Advance in Prices.

The tobacco of this region usually commands a less attractive price than the well-known qualities grown around Cavalla—so much so, in fact, that in the past American buyers have not shown a disposition to invest heavily in the Agrinion article. However, with the closing of the port of Cavalla to outside markets on account of hostilities in that region, and the consequent cutting off of tobacco supplies from there, prices have risen sharply in the Agrinion region. Buyers state that prices have risen 100 per cent. since September 1, 1916. The following tabulation, showing the prices per 100 pounds of the different grades, f.o.b. Patras, on February 14, 1914, and November 14, 1916, will indicate generally the advance in prices.

To these prices must be added ocean freight. The grade Patofyllo comprises in general the seconds or lugs of the Tsembelia and Aromatic grades; hence the wide range in price, as the quality varies greatly.

Treatment of Leaves Affects Cost.

No small part of the cost of the higher grades is chargeable to manipulation of the leaves. Dealers estimate the cost of manipulation about as follows per 100 pounds: Tsembelia, 1s. 5 1/2 d. to 4s. 2 d.; Aromatic, if bunches are tied at ends, 14s. 7 d. to 20s.; Aromatic, if bunches are tied in middle, 20s. to 40s.; Cavalla seed, 29s. 2 d. to £5. according to fineness of quality. For the highest grades only the best and smallest leaves are used. These are sorted carefully as to size, and placed with great exactness one upon the other in the bunching process. The higher grades are handled repeatedly in order to secure the desired colour.

The crop of 1916 will not be ready for exportation before May or June, 1917. The prices given above are for the crop of 1915, which is now moving on the market. Prices are also quoted for May-June delivery, but there is little disposition on the part of buyers to place advance orders at present. American firms have recently become interested in Agrinion tobacco, and considerable purchases have already been made for their account.

ALGERIAN ALFA GRASS.

Some interesting notes by an American consul stationed in Algeria have been reprinted. We extract the following therefrom:—

The botanical name for esparto grass is *Stipa tenacissima*, but "alfa" is the name given to it by the Arabs in Algeria. It is inferior to and cheaper than the true esparto, which is still to be found in Spain; but being much more abundant in the Barbary States, and since both are often used by the same mill, the common name of esparto continues to be popularly applied to both grasses. Alfa grows wild in Southern Algeria, principally in the highlands of the Province of Oran, where it covers vast plains. It thrives where practically no other vegetation can exist and successfully resists both excessive heat and drought. It is of a dull-green colour, but after being plucked it is spread out to dry in the sun, when it gradually turns a bright yellow. When dry it is made up into bundles and stacked ready for sorting.

Long before esparto was used for paper-making it was, and still is, employed in Spain in the manufacture of baskets, mats, ropes, cords, etc. Marseilles and the South of France are also buyers for the same purposes. Esparto was never successfully employed upon a practical working scale for the manufacture of paper before 1861, when it was introduced into England. There is now hardly a paper mill in the United Kingdom where esparto is not employed.

The process of treatment at the mills is described as follows: Esparto does not require cutting, but is subjected to four or six hours' active boiling in lye to decompose the resinous substances and colouring matter contained in the grass. The fibre is then taken to the washing and bleaching machines and there rapidly converted into "half stuff" or stock ready for the beater or pulping engines for reduction to paper pulp, the subsequent processes being precisely similar to those employed for rags. The substantial difference between the treatment required for esparto and that employed for rags consists more especially in the careful and proper apportioning of the chemical ingredients used, this being absolutely essential to a successful result.

It may be remarked that two tons of raw esparto are required to make one ton of white printing paper.

FAMINE PRICES IN TURKEY.

Food conditions appear to have become very stringent again in Turkey, the *Times* Athens correspondent telegraphed on February 13. Telegraphic demands for the dispatch of foodstuffs for the Diplomatic and Consular staffs of one of the neutral Legations in Constantinople have been received in Athens, and it is declared in these that bread prices are becoming exorbitant, the equivalent of 1s. 8d. per lb. having been reached on one occasion lately, though there are, of course, fluctuations. The correspondent states that he has seen a very much censored letter from Smyrna, in which the writer speaks of persons in the easiest circumstances celebrating the birthday of one among them by the gift of some lumps of sugar, than which at present nothing could have been rarer or more costly.

BUSINESS MAN, many years' commercial experience in Egypt, East and West Africa, etc., seeks situation as AGENT or REPRESENTATIVE: free to go any country.—Write Box B.M., care of THE NEAR EAST OFFICES, Devonshire Square, E.C.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Berlin to Baghdad by Hanging Cars

In spite of the desperate position in which Germany stands to-day, the German dream, *Drang nach Osten*, of a Central Empire with full sway from Berlin to Baghdad, is still enjoyed. According to recent reports, there has been a conference at Stuttgart of leading German engineers for the discussion of the question of overland communication for goods traffic between Central Europe and Asia Minor. The main purpose is that "it shall be complete, with sea routes, and independent of English influences under all circumstances." Privy Councillor Professor von Schmidt suggested the construction of an overhead cable line, with hanging cars, from Berlin, via Constantinople, to Baghdad, which, he said, would be easy to make, and would satisfy all traffic demands. Another scheme discussed was for an electric railway along the same route, with only a few stations, at great distances apart, as collecting points for goods traffic. Considering the distance between Berlin and Baghdad and the climatic condition in the regions over which the cable line would run, the professor's scheme seems rather daring, if not impracticable. However, there is no harm in conferring over grand schemes, nor in the unprofitable practice of counting chickens before they are hatched.

Oilfields in England.

Dr. Forbes-Leslie, addressing a meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists at the Royal Society of Arts the other evening on "The Occurrence of Petroleum in England," said the districts which up to the present had yielded oil in commercial quantities were in the north of Britain. But there were in the south and east indications of vast quantities of oil-shale. In Norfolk an important and practically inexhaustible source of mineral oil had been proved to exist. The boring made at Kelham, near Newark, demonstrated that all the conditions were present for the formation and retention of petroleum, and that a true oil-field existed in England.

Why Not?

It is very satisfactory that attention is being drawn to the possibility of striking oil in commercial quantities in England; indeed, there is no reason why petroleum should not exist in this country, considering that it has been found in practically every other European State. The results at Kelham may not mean much; in fact, according to the opinion of an expert expressed to the present writer, it is doubtful whether petroleum will ever be struck in paying quantities there; but, anyhow, it means a step in the right direction, and if sufficient capital could be found a few boreholes in different parts of England might more than repay the necessary expenditure. The expert thought that there would be more prospects of success if Heathfield were tried.

Motor-Car Engine Heater.

Motor-car owners can tell grim stories of the great inconvenience they have experienced during this winter from frozen radiators and other parts of the engine. The season is the worst for them since motor-cars came into general use. An ingenious device which has recently been invented will prevent such inconveniences, enabling every bonnet to be kept warm throughout the winter. The device is simple. It consists merely of a specially designed resistance coil within a perforated container. With it is supplied a length of insulated wire and an ordinary coupling suitable for making a connection with any ordinary incandescent lamp-holder. Hung within the bonnet, it serves as an effective safeguard against the effects of frost, and relieves owner, driver, and mechanic from further anxiety on that score. Such a relief, at the

cost of 25s. per fitting, is cheaply obtained. But, apart from this, there is the undoubted advantage, more apparent in some chassis than in others, that the use of this device enables an easy start to be made on mornings succeeding cold nights. The device is made to suit any voltage between 50 and 260, and consumes 100 watts per hour.

Economy in Gas Cooking.

A cheap and simple device, by the aid of which gas is saved in cooking, will interest not only gas users at home but, particularly, those in the East, where the use of gas for cooking purposes has been much extended in recent years, but with the present very high price, gas-cooking there is quite a luxury. The device is a simple gas-cooker top, and can be used with any gas-cooking stove. This top is perforated, and formed in such a way that the heat from the burners is radiated and conserved, the result being that one burner will often suffice instead of four. In this way four utensils can be kept cooking at the same time with only one burner going. This results in a great saving of gas. The device requires no fixing; it is simply placed in position on the top of the stove. The tops, which are also suitable for use with a gas-ring, are made in three standard styles, one being so arranged that it revolves, and thus saves the necessity of moving cooking utensils when a greater or less heat is desired.

The Nile Dam.

The *Mokattam* learns that it has been agreed that the best place for the construction of the White Nile dam is either at a place 60 miles to the south of Khartoum, or a place at a distance of 120 miles. The Minister of Public Works will give his opinion definitely with regard to these two places after inspection.

GEZIRA PLAIN IRRIGATION.**Cotton Industry Deputation to the Board of Trade.**

A report of the proceedings of the great Cotton Conference, held in Manchester on December 13, 1916, is now available. Its representative character can be gauged by the fact that no fewer than fifteen bodies connected with cotton and cotton textile manufacturers sent delegates. The principal of these were the British Cotton-Growing Association, the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, the Liverpool Cotton Association, the Manchester Cotton Association, and the Bleachers' Association.

The discussion embraced all the cotton-growing countries in the Empire, but our readers will be interested principally in that portion of the proceedings which related to Egypt. The report formed the basis of the submissions made a few days ago by a deputation from the Conference to the Board of Trade, where the members were received by Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., the Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

The following was among the resolutions passed by the Conference:—"That the authorised irrigation works for the development of the Gezira Plain should be pushed on with the least possible delay."

We take the following from the note of the proceedings used by the deputation to the Board of Trade:—

"While there are very large openings for the future development of cotton growing in many parts of the Empire, there are two propositions that are urged upon the Government to be taken in hand with the least possible delay. One is the development of the Gezira Plain in the Sudan; the other is the extension and improvement of cotton in India. The most immediate of these is the development of the Gezira Plain. This is the tract

of country lying between the Blue and the White Nile immediately South of Khartoum. It is thought to be ultimately capable of growing as much cotton as is now grown in the Egyptian Delta.

"The preliminary scheme, estimated to cost £3,000,000, has already received the authorisation of his Majesty's Government. The details of this proposition were fully inquired into by the late Lord Kitchener, and were drawn up under his personal supervision. Briefly stated, the scheme is as follows:—

The construction of a dam or barrage on the Blue Nile capable of supplying water to irrigate 3,000,000 acres.

The construction of a preliminary main canal and of subsidiary canals to irrigate 300,000 acres, of which 100,000 acres would be under cotton.

"It is estimated that if the work is pushed on rapidly the water supply will be available in two years from now, and that the whole of the preliminary area of 300,000 acres will be brought under cultivation five years hence—viz., in 1922. This area should produce about 80,000 bales of 500 lbs. per annum. It is hoped that the cultivated area will extend rapidly afterwards, but this will depend on two factors—namely, a sufficient population and the supply of water from the Blue Nile, part of which is required by Egypt.

"Many years must elapse before the whole of the Gezira Plain can be brought under cultivation, and further investigations of the conditions will be necessary, and more especially as to the relative allocation of water to Egypt and to the Sudan. This does not however apply to the preliminary scheme, for full investigation has already been made as to suitability of soil, sufficiency of population, and the necessary supply of water. In addition, two large experimental stations on a commercial scale have been working for several years, and it has been definitely proved that Egyptian cotton of good quality and most suitable for Lancashire requirements can be grown in the Gezira on a sound economic basis.

"The Gezira scheme is the only proposition which offers any prospect of producing any appreciable quantity of cotton of high quality in the immediate future, and therefore it is of paramount importance that not one moment should be lost in pushing on its development."

THE DANUBE-RHINE CANAL.

A discussion of the advantages to be derived from the proposed deep-water canal between the Danube and the Rhine was published recently by *Die Zeit*, which states that it would be an advantage of great importance if from the industries of West Germany products could be shipped by a cheap waterway to the Balkan States and Turkey, while in exchange the agricultural products of the East could be shipped via the Danube and Rhine.

An engineer, who urges that the canal work be started at once, estimates the water freight from Cologne to the Middle Balkans (1,553 miles) at 8s. 6½d. per long ton, and probably even less, while the water rate for that traffic (4,561 miles) was 13s. 10½d. per long ton before the war.

"It is well known," says the paper, "that the greater part of the shipments go up the Danube, while it lacks return freight. This is the principal reason why the Danube is deserted and can in no circumstances be compared with the Rhine. The connection with the Main and the Rhine would doubtless cause a very considerable downstream of traffic. While corn, wood, petroleum, etc., could be shipped upstream, coal, iron, chemical products, and other articles could be transported downstream."

GRANT & CHINN.

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.

CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."

Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND.

Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).

ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABI
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 8066.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.

(AN ANGLIO-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.

EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.

Telegrams: Ottfried.

HOMS TO KOWEIT.

The Possibilities of the Great Railway Scheme.

In last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST we summarised the scheme, as outlined in *Cassier's Engineering Monthly*, by Mr. Francis Aldridge, for the great trans-continental railway, from Homs, in Syria, to Koweit, Persian Gulf, which many British and French people would like to see constructed after the war.

The concluding portion of Mr. Aldridge's article, which deals with the prospects of such a line, is as follows:—

No one naturally anticipates that a line of this nature will be immediately paying. It possesses almost incalculable possibilities, but, like the Trans-Siberian and the Uganda Railways, its working costs just at the start must necessarily be considerable. The following, therefore, are the financial proposals which at present hold the field. It is assumed not unnaturally that, in the immediate future at any rate, the investing public will not be content with a net return of less than 6 per cent. on such an investment as this scheme.

Assuming the sinking fund (sixty years) to be invested in bonds of the company, or otherwise at the same rate of interest, an allowance of about 0.2 per cent. has to be made on that account. Five per cent. Government Guaranteed Bonds (assuming the whole cost of the line is provided for by debenture capital) would have to be issued at a price which would provide for the sinking fund and yield a net return to the investor of 6 per cent.

Suggested Guarantee.

It will be noticed that it is suggested that the Government, which shall have a director on the board, shall guarantee the payment of interest on the debenture stock at a minimum rate of 5 per cent. per annum, which means, of course, that it should undertake to make good to the company any amount by which the net earnings of the line should fall short of the sum required to pay interest at this rate. The idea of this Government guarantee is, of course, borrowed from railway construction in India, and therefore raises no new principle, and only recommends one which is accepted and endorsed by public opinion in the Mid-East.

It should be added that it is suggested that the guarantee should remain in force until the line is purchased by the Government, provided that all surplus profit which may be earned by the company after paying interest on the amount of debentures issued shall be equally divided between the Government and the company. The issue of the debentures would be supervised and regulated by the Government according to the progress of the construction of the line.

How the Turks and Germans Co-operate.

For the purposes of comparison and to show that this proposal is eminently fair, the terms accorded by the Ottoman Government to the German concessionaires of the Baghdad Railway may thus be set forth. The Ottoman Government undertook to—

(1) Pay a construction annuity of 11,000 frs. per kilometre, to be met by an Ottoman State Loan bearing interest at 4 per cent. (and with sinking fund at 0.087538 per cent.), redeemable in ninety-nine years. Consequently the concessionaires were to receive bonds to the face value of 269,110 frs. 65 cents for each kilometre constructed and open to traffic (about £17,050 per mile).

(2) Guarantee receipts up to 4,500 frs. per kilometre (about £285 per mile) per annum. Should the receipts exceed that amount the whole amount in excess of 4,500 frs. up to 10,000 frs. is to go to the Government, and any receipts beyond 10,000 frs. per kilometre are to be divided in the proportion of 60 per cent. to the Government and 40 per cent. to the company.

Finance.

The next point to consider is the cost of working and the receipts. Working expenses should not be taken at less than 60 per cent. of the gross receipts, and on this assumption a gross annual revenue per mile of £22,000,

or £38.46 per mile per week, would be necessary to yield a net return of 5 per cent. on the nominal capital of the company. What receipts could be expected? The line would undoubtedly attract a large through traffic, passengers and baggage, mails, parcel post, light and perishable goods, and bullion, between Europe and the Far East, and this would be largely and in the near future, when the scheme of irrigation work already commenced in Mesopotamia is developed, be very extensively increased both by local traffic and by the extension of commerce with India, the bulk of which is already in British hands. As a matter of fact, the figure of £38.46 per mile per week is not excessive. Here are some comparative statistics on the point.

In India the East Indian Railway line earned £52.60 per mile per week gross receipts in 1913-1914, the Bombay and Baroda line £48.06, the G.I.P. £44.22, and the North-Western £38.25. The Trans-Caspian Railway, even before the war, earned £51.65, and the Trans-Siberian £39.34.

Of the above lines, the North-Western Railway of India, though it has no through traffic, is somewhat comparable to the line under consideration.

Possibilities of Mesopotamia.

There is no need to lay stress upon the potentialities of Mesopotamia, once the granary of the world, under an enlightened and energetic administration. Even to-day the trade is very considerable, and it would be possible in a very short space of time to repopulate and develop the extraordinary fertile district through which in its lower section the railway would pass. There might be one word added as regards the strategic value of this undertaking, which would be exceedingly important. A line between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf must be built—has to be built—by some nation, and we can afford to allow no other than ourselves to carry on the work of construction.

Such, in brief, is the main scheme. It possesses all the elements of success, and this time we should be wiser than we were many years ago, when we stood aside from any participation in the Baghdad Railway. Under the scheme we shall absolutely control railway communication between Baghdad and the Gulf; we shall have a thorough working understanding with France respecting railway development in Syria; we shall be independent of either the German or Turkish interest in the so-called Baghdad line; and we shall probably acquire certain of the existing branches. We shall open up a more rapid route to India, and develop in unfettered form our seaborne trade in the Mediterranean. It is a scheme, in short, which should be pushed ahead in the interests of the country and without loss of time.

FRUIT FLY IN WESTERN GREECE.

The American Consul at Patras, writing on December 6 last, says:—

The Mediterranean fruit fly has wrought great damage in the orchards of the Patras consular district during the fruit season just ending. This is the first time in ten years or more that the presence of this fly has been noticed in the district.

Among the fruits which it has attacked with damage to the crop are the orange, tangerine, peach, pear, and apple. So far as reports indicate, no damage has been done to the lemon, citron, or quince. The tangerine crop was practically a failure, owing to the ravages of this fly. Most of the fruit fell before maturity, and such as matured and was brought to market was infected with the maggots of the fly. The orange crop also suffered severely, a great part of the fruit falling before maturity, and the remainder being of inferior quality. The peach and pear crops were a failure, very little of this fruit even reaching the market.

The ravages of the fly did not affect directly the foreign trade of this district, since only the citron (in brine) is exported in commercial quantities. The pest had a serious effect, however, upon local conditions. The fruits mentioned constitute an important item in the food of the people, and it has borne hard upon them to have this shortage in their local fruit crops at a time when the cost of foodstuffs in general stands at a phenomenally high mark.

SYNTHETIC INDIGO.

Official Supplies for Egyptian Dyers.

The Press Bureau in Egypt has issued the following *communiqué*:—

An official statement says that the leading article of a local newspaper of January 4 has raised a question of some interest to Egypt where a considerable quantity of indigo is consumed annually by the native dyers; the value of artificial indigo imported in normal times is about £E70,000 per annum.

The Egyptian Government, recognising the difficulties and distress among the dyers of the country owing to the non-importations since the outbreak of war, made inquiries in England as to the possible sources of supply for the future, and received full information on the position of affairs.

It was found that owing to the elementary material for the manufacture of synthetic indigo and aniline coloured dyes being required for the manufacture of high explosives, no immediate imports of these dyes could be anticipated, although, as stated in the leading article above referred to, measures are being taken to manufacture the synthetic indigo in England.

The Egyptian Government therefore purchased supplies available from the Prize Court and are shortly putting this supply for sale throughout Egypt at the shoemahs of the Egyptian Markets Company in order to assist the native industry. Although necessarily the price charged is considerably higher than in pre-war times, it is being sold by the Government to the dyers at actual cost price.

In order to obviate any chance of speculation and cornering of stocks, special regulation for the sale will be put into force by means of permits obtainable from the Governorates and mamurs markaz to licensed dyers only.

By these measures the dyers throughout the country will be able to obtain a certain quantity of artificial indigo to carry on their industry for a little time, and it is hoped that when these supplies are exhausted a further supply may become available from Great Britain.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, etc.

Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants £500,000 5 per Cent. Sterling Loan.—Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co. announce the number of bonds drawn to be paid off at par.

The dividend on the Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. Loan, due on March 1, 1917, will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on and after that date (Saturdays excepted).

Meetings.

The ordinary general meeting of the Malta Tramways, Limited, will be held at the offices of the company, 4b, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, London, E.C., on February 20, 1917, at 12.30 p.m.:—To receive and consider the account and balance-sheet for the years July 11, 1908, to February 29, 1916, and the report of the directors and auditors thereon. To confirm the election of the present directors and to elect a director in the place of the retiring director. To elect the auditors for the ensuing year, and to transact any other ordinary business of the company.

The ordinary general meeting of the Credit Foncier Egyptien, which was to have been held at Cairo on January 22, 1917, was postponed owing to the absence of a quorum. The postponed meeting was convened for February 7, 1917.

Oil Outputs.

Bibi Eibat, 776 and 772 tons; Anglo-Egyptian-Gemshah, 18 tons; Hurgada, 1,297 tons; Baku Russian Petroleum (1909), 88,000 poods and 55,000 poods; North Caucasian Oil Fields, 626,575 poods; British Maikop, 1,773 poods and 2,282 poods; European Oilfields, 86,300 poods; Ural Caspian, 140,946 poods.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Thursday.

There has not been much doing this week in Egyptian securities, the inactivity being due to some extent to the great delays in telegraphic communication with Egypt.

Generally speaking, there is not much change to report in prices, except occasionally here and there where a holder is anxious to realise in order to invest in the new War Loan.

News from Egypt continues to be very satisfactory, both as regards the encashments which mortgage companies are effecting and also as regards the sales of land by agricultural companies. Trading companies are also reported to be doing very well.

Some few hundred Agricultural Banks have changed hands round 5, and National Banks at 13½. A few Behéras have been done at about 6½, at which price they are still wanted. Delta Light are ½ lower at 5½. Some transactions have taken place in Markets at 24s., and in Salts at 20s. 6d. Khedivial Mails, after some fairly large buying, which carried the price to 25s. 6d., are again rather quieter to-day at 24s. 9d. Aboukirs have been done round 16s. 3d.

In Greek securities the market continues very firm, but there is not much doing owing to the absence of sellers. Greek 84's have again changed hands round 51 and Funding at about 48½. Greek 1881 have been done at 51 and Monopoly at 46½. Here also the blockade and the great delay in telegraphic communication have seriously interfered with business.

Oil Shares.

There have been few alterations in the oil share market. Spies Petroleum have been in some demand and have changed hands at 14s. 6d., and Russian Generals recovered to 2s., marking an advance of 1s. 8d. North Caucasians and Ural Caspians have been neglected.

A little business has passed in Rumanian Consolidateds, but values are not changed so far as quotations go.

In Anglo-Egyptian "B's" a bargain was done at 9s. 10½d., and Suez scrip has been dealt in at prices ranging from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d. Anglo-Persian preferences remain at 20s. 9d.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Thursday.

Money has been in substantial demand at rates which have ranged between 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent., for from day-to-day loans, and weekly fixtures have been arranged at from 4½ per cent. to 5 per cent. It has been apparent all the week that the War Loan subscriptions have reduced the floating supply of credit, and this influence will be felt for some time.

The discount market has been steady: at the close the minimum quotation for bills of all dates varied between 5½ per cent. to 5½ per cent. Outstanding Treasury bills were offered in very free fashion at from 5 per cent. to 5½ per cent. A very fair supply was available.

The bank rate stands at 5½ per cent., at which it was fixed on January 18: a year ago it was 5 per cent. Bankers' deposit rates are now 4 per cent.

After being firm all the week at the abnormal price, the cash price of bar silver last night fell ½ to 38½d. per ounce, the movement being due to profit takers' operations. At the close buyers had satisfied all their needs and the market was dull.

Italian and Russian Exchanges have advanced; Alexandria stands at 97½ piastres.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester, Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price.	Price Feb. 9.	Present Price.
July 27, 1915.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	68½	65½
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47	47½
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	48	48
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5 % Bds	96	67	67½
Egypt Gov. 5 % Guar. Loan	93½	69½	69½
Egyptian 4 % Unif. Debt	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 % 1890	88	66½	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	50	62
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	80½	68½	68½
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1888 (24½) %	57	50½	50½
Greek 5 % 1881	56	50½	50½
Do. 5 % 1884	49	47	46½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	45	40½	40½
Do. 5 % Rentes, 1889	56	50	49
Do. 5 % 1890	54	49	48½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	77	61	61
Do. 4 % Ralls. Loan, 1902	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	87½	87½	87½
Do. 5 % Currant	82½	50½	50½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	91	75	74½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	82	67½	67½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, So., 860p.	67	72	75
Serbian 4 % Unif. Bonds	94½	70½	70½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1856	84	66	65½
Do. 4 % 1891	82½	50½	50½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	79	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	65½	37	37
Do. 4 % Unif.	69	38½	38½
Do. 4 % 1909			

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	2	7½	7½
Bank of Athens	22	22	22
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Eastern Bank	7	79½	79½
Imperial Bank of Persia	11	62	62
Imperial Ottoman Bank	34	34	34
Ionian Bank, Limited	62	5	5
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	13½	13½	13½
National Bank of Egypt			

RAILWAYS.

Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	5	5½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	82	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	78	78
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	84½	94
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	13	13
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	54	54
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	54	54
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	57	57
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 %	80	—	54½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	63	63

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	37	37
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	90½	90½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	8½	7	63
Do. do. Def.	4½	3½	3½
Bahera Co.	2½	2½	2½
Do. Pref.	—	—	—
Daira Sanieh	—	—	—
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9½	8½	8½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	85½	83½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	5½	6½	6½
Do. and Foreign Trust	1½	1½	1½
Gharbieh Land Co.	—	—	—
Do. Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	97	97
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	98	62	62
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	72½	71
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	8½
Sid Salem Co.	—	10½	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	25½	25½
United Egyptian Lands	—	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	102	100	100
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	12	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	1½	1½	24½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	92½	93
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99	20½	20½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	96	91	95
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	25½	24½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	76½	3½
Do. do. Pref.	90	94½	94
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	—	—
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (Fr. 500)	2179½	144	144
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Feb. 8.	Feb. 15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10½	10½
Anglo-Persian	21½	21½
European Oilfields	3½	3½
Roumanian Consolidated	8½	9½

PARIS BOURSE.

	Feb. 8.	Feb. 15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	425	424
Canal de Suez	4410	4450
Credit Foncier Egyptien	678	676
Turkish Unif. 4 %	62.50	—
Egyptian Unif. 4 %	90	89.65
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 30.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E. 14½	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Fr. 85½	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E. 12½	—
Soc. Anonyme du Bahéra	L.E. 68	—
Do. priv.	L.E. 3½	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Fr. 126	—
Bons de Panama	Fr. —	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Fr. 69½	—
Do. Privilegiée	Fr. 97	—
Cheikh Fadl	Fr. 73½	—
Urbanes et Ruraux	L.E. 24	2½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£ —	—
Building Lands of Egypt	L.E. 30	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 45½	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. —	—
Unif.	L.E. —	—
Privilegiée	81	—
Land Bank of Egypt	41½	—
Do. Fondateur	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	34	—
Nungovich Hotels	2½	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	5½	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	27½	—
Do. Ord.	34	—
Alex. and Ramlah Railway	4½	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	104	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Fr. 155	—
Do. Jouissance	Fr. 155	—
Egyptian Markets	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 260	—
Do. Div.	Fr. 204	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Fr. —	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	21½	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 634	—
Do. 1886 Oblig.	Fr. 331½	—
Do. 1903	Fr. 263½	—
Do. 1911	Fr. 264½	—
Delta Lands	—	—
Port Said Salt	37½	—
Cotton Ginners	4½	—
New Egyptian Co.	8½	—
United Lands	P.T. —	—
Levant S.S. Co.	297½	—
Do. Fond	132½	—

THE EASTERN BANK.

We take the following from the Banking Supplement of the *Financial Times* of January 24:—

"The Eastern Bank, Limited, is the latest British institution to enter the banking field in the Middle East. It was formed in 1909 under the auspices of E. D. Sassoon and Company, and thus began life with an excellent amount of goodwill, that intangible asset which means so much to a bank, but which seldom or never figures in the balance-sheets. Already good progress has been made. The paid-up capital was originally £400,000, but in 1914 it was increased to £600,000 by the issue of new shares of £10, having £4 paid, at a premium of 15s. per share. There is a reserve fund of £55,000. The bank, in addition to its two Indian branches, has establishments at Baghdad and Basra. At the end of 1915 it controlled nearly £2,000,000 of deposits. Since the commencement of business the shareholders have received dividends of from 4 to 6 per cent., the distribution for 1914 and 1915 being 5 per cent."

SUZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
February 5, 6, and 7	Frans. 780,000	Frans. 680,000
February 10 and 11	270,000	300,000
February 12 and 13	580,000	290,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended January 20, 1917.

	1916.	1917.
Jan. 11-Jan. 20	£E. 7,068	£E. 6,437
April 1-Jan. 20	146,058	171,319

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916.	1917.
Week ended Feb. 3.	1,197	1,355
General markets	399	404
Cattle markets closed	2	11
Receipts (£)	1,596	1,769
Total from commencement of year (£)	6,818	7,696

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 303.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	386	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Behind the Veil in Yildiz		Notes and News	401
Turkish Treachery in Irak ..	387	Kiosk	393	The Sudan and its Economic	
A Greek Seminary at Larnaca	388	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	394	Advance	402
“The Baghdad Railway and		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT..	398	The Cotton Trade	403
Its Tributaries”	389	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	399	Produce Report	404
Albania Past and Present.		LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Engineering Notes	405
I.—The Language Question		The Resurrection of Armenia		Trade Within the Empire ..	406
(M. Edith Durham)	397	(Mr. A. S. Safrastian) ..	391	Company Meetings	407
LEADING ARTICLE—		The Employment of Turkish		Company Reports	407
Persia and the War	396	Prisoners (Mr. H. M. Wallis)	391	Company Notes	407
TANGIER TO TEHRAN	392	Famine in the Holy Land		On ‘Change	408
		(The Bishop of London and		Stock and Share List ..	408
		others)	391		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

From Mesopotamia this week has come news of a success and of a reverse. Continuing his operations on the right bank of the Tigris, General Maude, on February 15, launched an attack on the enemy's right in the Dahra bend of the river, west of Kut. This was successful, and was at once followed up by an assault on the Turkish right centre, as a result of which an advance along a front of 700 yards was made. These gains were still further extended, and attention was immediately afterwards paid to the left of the enemy's line. Again the attack was successful, and the whole of the Dahra bend was thus cleared, except for small detachments holding points on the river bank. The same night even these last areas were occupied. Meanwhile cavalry had been working round on the left of the British line, and, during the two days, contrived to establish a hold on the south-west corner of the Shumran bend. These operations entailed the capture of 1,995 prisoners, including 89 officers, together with five machine-guns and quantities of rifles, ammunition, and equipment.

Against the success on the south bank of the Tigris has to be set a check on the left bank at the Sanna-i-Yat position. These formidable lines have resisted all attempts to pierce them since the investment of Kut by the Turks in December, 1915. They extend over a short front and are protected on each side of the river by marshy ground. Once at least the Relief Expedition of 1916 managed to reach the first line of trenches, but no permanent hold could be established. Again, on February 17, the attack achieved an initial success, and the enemy's two front lines were occupied on a frontage of a few hundred yards. The first Turkish counter-attack was repulsed, but a second one half an hour later forced the right of the British line back to its original position, and the left had to be withdrawn after dusk. According to the Turkish version one British officer and sixty men were made prisoners on this occasion. After the successes on the right bank it was inevitable that the Sanna-i-Yat position should be tested again. It seems to constitute the key to the Kut defences, or at least it is desirable that, when the Turkish line does break, it should break both east and west of Kut. General Maude's tactics have been slow, but eminently successful, and we may look to the experience gained in the check on February 17 being put to good use in further opera-

tions. Since the advance began in December the enemy's casualties are estimated to have been 15,000.

Greece is still experiencing great difficulty in playing the game. The trouble, as was to be expected, is over the surrender of rifles. In all 80,000 rifles are reported to have passed the scrutiny of the Allied officers on their way to the Peloponnese, and it is felt that the muster, as far as the official army is concerned, is satisfactory. But a considerable number of rifles is known to have passed into the hands of reservists and the civilian population generally, and practically none of them has been forthcoming. The Greek Government met the Allies' representations on this subject by promulgating a decree for the disarmament of civilians. But no rifles have been handed in, and meanwhile the Greek Press is adopting a truculent attitude once more towards the Entente Powers and lashing itself into a fury because the blockade has not been raised when all the Allies' demands, as it avers, have been met. In these circumstances the Protecting Powers have adopted a wise course in issuing a *communiqué* direct to the Greek people. This document points out very clearly that there is every reason to suppose that hidden arms remain north of the Peloponnese, and that in default of the correct attitude which the Allies have the right to expect of Greece, the guarantees stipulated by the Note of January 8 cannot yet be regarded as obtained.

The course of events is entirely in keeping with what might have been anticipated; but if the representatives of the Allies act circumspectly and patiently, Greece will fall into line in the end. A *sine quâ non*, however, is the retention of some means of exercising immediate pressure when it is needed. The Greek Government takes exception to the Allies' interpretation of the order for disarmament as an admission that the civilian population necessarily had arms to hand over. It also explains the excavations on the banks of the Corinth Canal, to which the Allies had called attention, as a measure undertaken “when the Entente Diplomatic Corps and the Venizelists had left Athens, and there seemed to be a possibility of war.” The works, it is added, had ceased as soon as the Allied Military Control raised objections to them. The upshot of the whole matter is that the blockade remains, but the Allies announce that they have already considered how to arrange for the re-victualling of Greece as soon as circumstances will permit. Meanwhile provisions are scarce, and bread rations in Athens are being reduced to vanishing

point. The Greek authorities have the remedy in their own hands, for if they have the will, they have the power to call in the hidden arms. An attempt will be made to represent the population as being out of hand and the authorities powerless; but that is an argument which does not hold water in Greece.

Both in Roumania and in Macedonia there have been only local outbursts of activity. In the latter theatre the Italians are meeting Germans, and French troops are for the first time confronted by Austrians. The appearance of flame machines in the enemy's ranks points to German reinforcements of a kind, but it is not yet established that any large bodies of troops are accompanying the introduction of the diabolical contrivances in which Germany specialises. Deserters have tales to tell of the coming employment of these various horrors. At this stage of the war it is most probable that a systematic attempt will be made by the Germans to keep up the spirits of their own troops, and those of their allies, by reports of the numerous shortcuts to victory which are always on the point of arriving.

A statement attributed to the Bulgarian Government in its reply, despatched to neutral Powers, to the Allies' recent Note, to the effect that Bulgaria entered the war because her neighbours threatened her existence, and planned to divide her territory, has elicited an interesting statement from M. Pasitch, the Serbian Prime Minister. The main course of the negotiations which preceded Bulgaria's entry into the war is familiar to readers of THE NEAR EAST, but M. Pasitch now gives an official account which enters more into details. At the very beginning of the war, he says, Serbia proposed to Roumania and Greece that they should make a joint declaration to Bulgaria, informing her that they were ready to proceed with a revision of the Treaty of Bucharest in her favour. Russia was informed by the Serbian Government that it was ready to grant territorial concessions to Bulgaria east of the Vardar. On the entry of Turkey into the war Serbia urged Bulgaria to discharge her debt to Russia, her liberator, and promised her in exchange territorial concessions. "Finally, some time before the mobilisation of Bulgaria, after the Entente had made *démarches* to the Serbian Government with a view to obtaining territorial concessions in favour of Bulgaria, Serbia declared that she was willing, in order to bring a speedy end to the war and to effect concord in the Balkans, to make these territorial concessions. The sacrifices which she promised were enormous. She agreed to cede territory west of the Vardar, almost all the famous line mentioned in the Treaty of 1912, including Monastir, with the exception only of Prilep, with the reservation that she should have a common frontier with Greece." Bulgaria, as we know, was too far committed to Germany by the time the Entente Powers had wrung from Serbia her assent to these sacrifices. Perhaps the value of the disclosures lies in the light it throws on national claims in the Balkans. When the final settlement is reached the course of the war cannot be entirely ignored, but a real effort must be made to reach finality on equitable grounds in the demarcation of boundaries.

Discussion on any subject connected with the Near and Middle East is to be encouraged at the present time, when it is so necessary that public interest in this region should be stimulated with a view to securing a satisfactory settlement of the whole Eastern question at the end of the war. But we are particularly glad to find the Baghdad Railway chosen as the subject of an address delivered by Mr. H. C. Woods before the Royal Geographical Society. Considerable uncertainty seems to exist in many minds regarding the future relations of Germany to this enterprise. It is, however, unthinkable that this line should remain what in the conception of the scheme it was intended to be, the instrument of German domination in Asia. On this point Mr. Woods had no doubts in his own mind, "The Allies

must leave no stone unturned to prevent the conclusion of a peace which would leave the enemy still possessed of a predominating control in an undertaking which, once it was robbed of its political significance, could easily be established upon an international basis. Arrangements would have to be made guaranteeing to Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy the safety of their respective positions in areas in which each of these countries was possessed of special interest." Lord Curzon, in speaking on the situation in Persia in the House of Lords on Tuesday, referred to the suspicions he had always entertained of Germany's Baghdad Railway project, and added significantly that "the plan was a bold one, but it was by no means completed, and it would not be completed until the Conference had met at the end of the war."

Talaat Pasha has met the Turkish Chamber in his capacity as Grand Vizier, and has elaborated the policy of the new Cabinet. He made a special point of the Allies' declaration of their intention to turn the Turks out of Constantinople and drive them from the Straits. The Turkish reply to these "ridiculous threats" was that they would not relinquish Constantinople as long as there was a single Ottoman left. They would persevere in this gigantic struggle in close fraternity of arms with their brave and victorious allies until they had compelled their enemies to recognize their right to existence. Talaat Pasha's rodomontades ignored the fact that the integrity of the Ottoman Empire was guaranteed by the Entente Powers so long as it remained neutral in this war. Only after the unprovoked attack upon them has the Allies' fiat gone forth that Turkey cannot be allowed to play into the hands of German militarism. To that unpardonable offence Turkey's rulers have added a long list of wanton crimes which have served to seal her doom, as far as her claim to remain in Europe is concerned. The time for carrying the Allies' intentions into effect, it has to be admitted, has not yet come; but the sentence has been pronounced and will remain until it has been executed. No one fully cognizant of all the facts of the case will hesitate to admit that the crimes have merited the punishment.

To those who still doubt how it stands with those who are responsible for Turkey's destinies to-day may be commended the story of the famine in Palestine and Syria. The widespread suffering, it is pointed out by the Committee of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, is caused by a deliberate policy of starvation, and the testimony of Lord Grey is cited: "It is clear that there has gone on in Turkey, on a scale unprecedented and with horrors unequalled before, an attempt to exterminate the Christian population." After all, the Turkish population will be amongst the first to benefit by their ejection from Europe, for it is unlikely that the present *régime* will survive such a *débâcle*. When the ruling clique has been eliminated there will be some chance of a permanent amelioration of the lot of both the Moslem and the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire.

In the absence of further pressure by British troops the Turkish forces on the Sinai frontier gained sufficient heart to cross over into the Peninsula and to establish themselves in two places on the southern route. They were allowed little respite, however. Simultaneous attacks directed against the posts occupied were completely successful. At Bir-el-Hassana the whole garrison of three officers and twenty-one men was captured, while at Nakhel the detachment of about a hundred mounted men made good their escape, but left eleven of their number in the hands of the British troops. Our casualties, it is satisfactory to note, were nil.

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX.

Indexes for Volume XI. (May 5-October 27, 1916) are now ready, and may be obtained, post free, by readers on application to the Manager.

TURKISH TREACHERY IN IRAK ARABI.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 27.

Akif Bey and the Holy Places.

A copy of an Arabic paper published in Busreh has just come to hand, giving details of the attack on Hillah, to which I referred in my last letter. These show up the treachery of the Turkish commander, Akif Bey, in all its cynical brutality. Following certain disturbances, brought about by Turkish injustice, the Unionist Government decided to send to that town, and to Nejef and Kerbellah, a punitive expedition composed of seven battalions, under the command of Akif Bey.

On the arrival of this force at Musseyib, the Commander-in-Chief went in person to Kerbellah, and had an interview with its leading sheikh, Mohammed Ali Kamouna. In the course of this interview he said: "We have come to guard your faith, to protect your country and your women's honour from the enemy, and our only object is the passage of our troops in your town and the maintenance of security." The Sheikh replied: "The town of Kerbellah does not lie on your way; and as to maintaining security, that is our concern, and we are able to attend to it. If, however, you have another object in view, know that we are ready to fight you in return for your iniquitous acts."

The Turkish commander thereupon returned, crest-fallen and furious. He then wrote to the chiefs of Nejef to meet and parley with him, but received no reply. Finally, he started negotiations with the chiefs of Hillah, beginning with Qazwini Zadé Mohammed Ali and Nur-ed-Din Zadé Muhye Agha. One of his letters ran thus: "Our soldiers, the protectors of the Faith and fatherland, are seeking the enemy to expel him from the land of the Moslems. We, therefore, request from you freedom of passage through your town and the re-victualling of the troops." The two chiefs called the inhabitants together, and read this missive to them, but the proposals met with unanimous refusal. The commander repeated the request, even to the fourth time, and still the inhabitants persisted in their refusal. The two chiefs then wrote to him, saying, "We have done all we could to prevail upon the inhabitants, but without result, as they can place no faith in you and your promises, especially as they cannot forget your doings at Kut." The commander then took up a Koran and wrote upon it: "This, the word of Allah, presents us to you, and thus binds us to you with the solemn promise made before Allah and His Prophet. We bear you no ill-will, nor do we intend causing you any harm. You are in the trust of Allah and His Prophet, safe in your possessions and your honour. Our only object is freedom of passage for and re-victualling of our troops, in order to facilitate their march."

Perjury.

In face of such solemn and sacred declarations, El Qazwini could not but summon the inhabitants again; and he harangued them on two consecutive days, using every persuasion, but to no avail. He then told them: "I shall quit your town if you do not accede to my request." "That," they replied, "is easier for us to bear than to give up ourselves and our women's honour to a tyrant who has no mercy." In the evening he summoned them once more, and said: "In my religious capacity of *alim* I declare to you that if you do not accept the oath taken on the Book of Allah, and in His name and that of His Prophet, you will be denying Islam." This threw the inhabitants into perplexity, and they finally agreed to allow the Turks to enter the town. The commander received the news with unconcealed joy, but, by way of safeguard, he asked the Sayyed to send out all the chiefs of the tribes to meet him at Musseyib, which was done. The troops then advanced, escorted by about 500 horsemen of the different tribes, and spent the night at a spot about six miles from Hillah. Then the commander wrote to the inhabitants: "If you desire that our troops should enter your town, let all your men and women come out to meet them." This also was done.

The Mask Thrown Off.

The troops then moved from their encampment in companies of 50, one after the other, until some of them got behind the inhabitants, when they closed round them in a circle, brandishing their swords. This created panic, and some of the inhabitants fled. Thereupon Akif Bey came up and greeted them; and they returned the greeting, and gave assurances of their loyalty and submission. He then asked about some of the chiefs who were not present; and, being told that they were away, ordered the people to distribute themselves quarter by quarter. There were five such divisions. Inhabitants of other quarters had not come up, and the commander knew it. The people remained in their position for four hours, then the commander ordered four battalions to enter Hillah and occupy the forts and defences on the pretext of restoring order, and, after the troops had firmly established themselves therein, he ordered the inhabitants to return to the town. Further troops followed. In the evening the chiefs called on the Commander and professed their loyalty. Next morning, however, he ordered that they should be called up before him, on the pretext of discussing with them matters of public interest, but no sooner had they arrived than he had them surrounded by troops and forthwith imprisoned. Gallows were then erected, and fifteen innocent notables and chiefs were hanged that day, while the Sayyed who had done so much to win over the inhabitants was clapped in the house of Es Sayyed Abdul Selam, which was guarded by troops.

That night the inhabitants formed armed bands of seventy, eighty, and 100 men to attack the troops and rescue their families from the net in which the treacherous invaders had snared them. The Commander, however, had meanwhile ordered his troops, including the artillery and airmen, to destroy four quarters of the town. In a few hours these were reduced to ashes. On the following day he compelled men of the town itself to destroy the residences of their leaders, and finally started mobilising all men between twenty and fifty years of age.

Since then many of the inhabitants have fled to Busreh, which has become a veritable city of refuge for all Mesopotamia. It is estimated that the total number of fugitives who have hitherto flocked to Busreh from Nejef, Kerbellah, Hindia, and Baghdad, including some Syrians, amounts to not less than 50,000.

A Notable Visit.

In this connection reference should be made to the recent visit of Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Seoud, which marks, indeed, an epoch in the war history of Busreh. The great Emir of Nejd and El Hasa arrived at Busreh by the s.s. Koweit, and had several meetings with the notables of the town, where matters of high moment were discussed. It may not be long before the effect of the decisions arrived at in these meetings will be felt. On the occasion of one of these meetings, when Sheikh Khaz'al, Emir of Mohammerah, sat beside the great Emir of Arabia, a poet asked leave to read a poem, and the noble chieftain readily assented, saying in the Nejdian dialect, "Sem." The poem, of course, starts with incisive remarks on the enemy's attack on Arab religion, honour, and literature, and then calls upon the great Emir, who personifies the noble traditions of the Arabs, to defend the nation, and save also "Baghdad, which mourns, and Damascus, which cries for redress."

Emir Ibn Seoud, after spending a few days at Busreh, returned to his capital, Riadh.

Town Improvements.

As in Damascus and Beyrout, the Young Turks with perverse vanity have chosen this time to carry out the project of the late Nazim Pasha for re-planning Baghdad, and have cut through it, from end to end, streets from 14 to 15 metres wide; while the inhabitants have been left to die of hunger and disease! The opening of such wide streets in a crowded town like Baghdad necessitated the demolishing of a considerable number of houses, and the result was that many homeless families, finding no more shelter in their own town, had to emigrate to Nejef, Kerbellah, and neighbouring villages.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The *Morning Post* published on Tuesday the following communication, which it received from Sir Starr Jameson, Chairman of the Central Prisoners of War Committee. It relates to an article which appeared in the *Post* of January 29, and to which reference was made in THE NEAR EAST of February 2 (p. 314):—

The full report of the International Red Cross Commission which recently visited certain of the internment camps in Asia Minor and hospitals in Constantinople has not yet been received, but from information supplied by the American Embassy in Constantinople the statement that the Turkish authorities are "regardless of all considerations of humanity" or "that their aim is to render the lives of their British prisoners intolerable" appears to be an exaggeration. The cost of living is very high, but the American Embassy has the means of supplying money to those who need it. From the same source the British prisoners of war receive clothing, the lists of articles delivered by the Embassy to the Turkish Red Crescent being checked and receipts forwarded by the prisoners of war for whom they are intended. Thus, between December 1 and 15 of last year 606 native quilts, 455 raincoats and overcoats, 192 pairs of boots, besides 216 woollen jackets, and many other articles of clothing were despatched to various camps. During that fortnight 189 Christmas puddings and eighty-one Christmas cakes were also sent to the camps in Asia Minor by the American Embassy, in addition to any parcels which may have reached the prisoners from England.

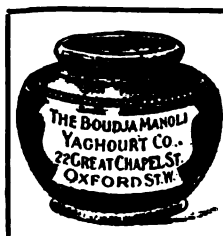
The question of parcels is one of great difficulty, but the reason of their non-delivery would seem to be a question of transport—especially in the cases of camps which are some scores of miles from a railway—rather than indifference or ill-will on the part of those responsible. On the whole, though the British prisoners of war, especially the Kut Garrison, have undergone great sufferings and hardships, the conditions now existing in the internment camps in Asia Minor appear to be improving.

It is certainly comforting to be assured that some, at least, of our countrymen imprisoned in Turkey are not so utterly without "comforts" as was feared. Nevertheless, a note appended by the Editor of the *Morning Post* to Sir Starr Jameson's communication informs us that the statements in the original article were taken from the letter of a British officer-prisoner in Turkey; so that it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that, in some internment camps at least, the lot of the British prisoners is far from a happy one. It is to be hoped that those responsible for any unnecessary suffering or hardships will eventually be called to account.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Mr. J. F. Hope, answering a question by Mr. G. Lambert, said: The present number of British prisoners of war in Turkish hands is as follows: British Army, 323 officers, 1,652 other ranks. Colonial Army, 13 officers, 140 other ranks. Indian native, 195 officers, 3,573 other ranks. There are still untraced 17 British officers and 1,388 other ranks, and Indian natives, 4,879 other ranks. In answer to a supplementary question with regard to the conditions of the prisoners, Mr. J. F. Hope stated that a very long report had just come in, but he was not yet in a position to generalise.

The Montenegrin Government denies the rumours that negotiations have been taking place with the Central Empires for the creation of a Jugo-Slav State governed by the reigning Montenegrin dynasty under Austro-Hungarian protection.

All Serbian subjects living in the British Isles and the Dominions born between 1862 and 1898, inclusive, are warned by the Serbian Legation that they are liable, according to the new law, to present themselves for examination before the Recruiting Commission in London, 115, Gloucester Road, S.W., before March 2, on pain of being treated as deserters. All persons presenting themselves for examination must be prepared to start for their military duty at once if they are found fit. All Jugoslavs under Serbian protection must also present themselves to the Commission.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS YAGHOURT

may be obtained, in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTL.

22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also LEVANT PRODUCE:
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locomes, Maiva,
Bamias, &c.

Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

GREEK SEMINARY AT LARNACA.

(By OUR CYPRUS CORRESPONDENT.)

Some years ago the present Bishop of Kition, who recognised the urgent need of a better education for the village clergy, formed a training school at Larnaca, which is under his direction. It has been recognised by the High Commissioner as a school for elementary teachers. Little is heard of this seminary outside Larnaca, but it should become in time the means of effecting considerable progress, in raising the standard of the rural clergy, and creating a new atmosphere in the villages. Various subjects besides theology are taught, including a certain modicum of agriculture and gardening, for which adjacent land is provided. In the last report of the High Commissioner on the Blue-Book, the hope was expressed that the seminary will help to remedy the deficiency of teachers, especially in small hamlets, where the duties of schoolmaster and priest may be well combined.

Mr. Gennadius, when Director of Agriculture, insisted that in Cyprus, as in Greece, agriculture could be best taught to peasants by priests and schoolmasters. "Everywhere," he says, "particularly in the East, priests and teachers are the advisers of the peasant in every emergency, especially when by their conduct they manage to acquire his good opinion and esteem." These services, he adds, can be rendered in a very short time, and without expense. By no other means could they be secured so easily. With the co-operation of the Departments of Agriculture and Education good results should be obtained, as suggested.

As regards the Government Agricultural School at Nicosia, there has been good progress, and in 1914 students were selected for employment by the Agricultural Department. It was hoped that the majority of students, who were to complete their course of instruction, would return to their farms to put into practice the knowledge acquired at the school. The courses of instruction in agriculture now given annually to village teachers at Nicosia, Limassol, and Paphos has been another excellent move. All this shows that in various directions the teaching of elementary agriculture is proceeding. It remains to push forward practical demonstrations as far as practicable in all branches, and in as many centres as possible.

CAUSES OF TURKISH GREATNESS AND DECAY.

In the course of a lecture last Wednesday—one of a series dealing with the historical causes of Near Eastern Problems now being delivered at the London School of Economics—Dr. Pember Reeves said that undoubtedly the Turks conquered first of all because they had the luck to be led for a couple of centuries by a most extraordinary succession of able and vigorous rulers. Undoubtedly, too, the original little clan were a race of men who fought well. But much more important as a cause of the Ottoman rise to greatness was the fact that they were able to attract or force into their service picked men from all the peoples with whom they came into contact, that they organised and trained these men, and blended with them, so recruiting the Turkish race. In the day of power and prosperity the Turkish system was a barbarous, but none the less elaborate, and, in its way, scientifically organised thing. The regular army and the Civil Service were composed entirely of slaves of the Sultan. Christians were not allowed to bear arms, but every few years Government officials visited the districts where a Christian population resided and summoned all the families before them. From among the boys of from twelve to twenty years of age a certain proportion of the most promising, physically and intellectually, were selected to be the slaves of the Sultan, and from these the army and Civil Service were recruited. They were not forcibly converted, that is to say they were not offered the alternative of Islam or death; but, short of this, every sort of pressure was brought to bear, and in practice they all became Moslems. Those who were thought to be most intelligent were first of all well trained physically and then well educated. They were usually taught to speak four languages, and instructed in the whole Moslem code of religion and law. They were well dressed, taught to bear themselves in a dignified manner, and gradually moved into Government offices, where promotion under the earlier and more vigorous Sultans was strictly a matter of merit.

It was estimated that about 3,000 boys of the very pick of the Christian population were thus taken every year: a number which was increased to as much as 8,000 by slaves taken on the frontiers, received as presents or bought in the market. From the year 1350 until 1600 the system showed a most extraordinary measure of efficiency. Its greatest weakness was that the boys having been inhumanly torn from the arms of their parents and made to change their religion when they were old enough to understand what they were doing, developed, as a rule, into men with no religion at all—shiftless, selfish, unscrupulous, scheming, and corrupt. Some, of course, became enthusiastic Moslems, others always remained Christian at heart, but most developed in the way stated, and, ultimately, it became beyond the power of the Sultans to control them.

THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held on Monday evening at the Theatre, Burlington Gardens, Mr. H. Charles Woods read a paper, "The Baghdad Railway and its Tributaries." The lecture was illustrated by maps and lantern slides, many of the latter having been made from Mr. Woods' own photographs. Whilst series of maps were thrown upon the screen during the reading of the more serious passages of the paper, Mr. Woods paused at intervals to show groups of pictures which illustrated the particular areas about which he had been speaking. Thus, there were slides depicting respectively the Seljukian remains at Konia, the Taurus Range, and the kind of country and cities through which the railway passes. Many of these photographs, and particularly those of the Taurus section, proved the magnitude of the engineering difficulties which have had to be overcome in the construction of the Baghdad Railway.

After briefly explaining that the Baghdad Railway now under construction was by no means the first line ever proposed from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, Mr. Woods went on to give two reasons which led to the starting of that railway, not from the Mediterranean but from the Bosphorus. The first of these reasons was that the opening of a through line to Constantinople in 1888 meant that if there was to be an overland route to the Persian Gulf at all, such a route would naturally start from Constantinople. The other and, from the military and political points of view, the far more important reason for the change of plan was that German influence had been entirely directed towards the construction of railways which would not be easy of attack by a group of Powers possessing the command of the sea. Thus, whilst a line starting from the Mediterranean would, under present circumstances, have been quite useless to Germany or Turkey as a means of through communication between East and West, a railway broken only at the southern end of the Bosphorus—and therefore at a point effectively protected against naval attack by the forts of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles—enabled the Sultan and his Germanic Allies rapidly to convey troops or foodstuffs from Europe to Asia Minor, Syria or Mesopotamia in the very face of the Allied Fleets, which were powerless to interfere in an area in which the enemy practically enjoys the advantages of naval power.

Starting from Haidar Pasha, opposite to Constantinople, it was now possible to travel by train or by water across the greater parts of the areas which lie between the Ottoman capital and Baghdad on the one hand and the Egyptian frontier on the other. As a result of the opening of the Taurus tunnels in November last, direct communication had been established as far as a junction about ten miles north of Aleppo. From here the Baghdad Railway proper continued its way in an easterly direction as far as a point situated between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris. At the other, or Baghdad end, the railway had been completed in a northerly direction, at least as far as Samara, and probably up to Tekrit. Even if we took it that the respective termini were at Ras-el-Ain and at Tekrit, this means that out of a total distance of approximately 1,500 miles from Constantinople to Baghdad, over 1,100 miles can be accomplished by train. It was therefore obvious that the progress of the railway had had its military advantages to Turkey in the Mesopotamia campaign. But what was of equal importance was that the Baghdad Railway provided an easier and quicker means of communication between Constantinople and Eastern Asia Minor than would otherwise have existed.

The southern prong of the Asiatic railway system starts from Aleppo. Passing through Damascus, it runs in a more or less due southerly direction for a distance of 330 miles, and as far as Deraia. From this point there were two railways: the first was the Hejaz line, which continues its way in a southerly direction as far as Medina; the second bent off in a westerly direction towards Haifa, but, before reaching that port, turned south near Nazareth, running thence as far as El Auja, to the south-west of Beersheba. Although there was at least one break of gauge, at Rayak, near Damascus, the strategical importance of this great southern prong, or more correctly of these southern prongs, was enormous. Indeed it was the existence of the railways, some of which had only been completed since the outbreak of war, that rendered possible the threatened attack upon Egypt.

In 1888 the three railways existing in Asia Minor were completely—or, at least, practically—in the hands of English capitalists. From that time, when the Germans obtained possession of the Haidar Pasha-Ismid line, the diplomacy of Berlin had gradually secured the various concessions leading up to the construction of the Baghdad Railway. The Anatolian Railway Company, which came into being in 1889, built and owned the line to Konia, which was opened in 1896. The completion of that line was most important, not only because it laid the foundation for the construction of the Baghdad Railway over its present route but because it established railway connection between Smyrna and Constantinople by means of a line which connected the former town with Afium Karahissar, on the main route to Konia. It was the second visit of the Kaiser to Turkey in 1898 that led up to the promise of the real concession for the Baghdad Railway, which was signed on March 25, 1903.

The completion of the first section of the railway, which runs across the plain from Konia to Ereğli, and which was opened in

the year 1904, was followed by a prolonged delay. This was due partly to geographical and partly to political and international conditions. The early construction of the second section, which was not begun until early in 1910, entailed by far the most difficult work on the whole line. This was due to the facts that the line was obliged to follow narrow winding gorges, and that, in addition to four tunnels, which had a total length of about eleven miles, there was a great amount of earthwork cutting and bridge building to be done. This meant that there was a gap in the Taurus section of the railway for a period of nearly three years and until November last, and that the Turks were compelled to utilise the road which runs through the Cilician Gates for the purposes of military transport.

In connection with the section of the railway which lies to the north and north-east of Alexandretta, Mr. Woods pointed out the significance of the route which had been adopted. The importance of that route was that while various suggestions had been made at different times that the line ought to run via Alexandretta to Aleppo, the route as defined in the original concession had actually been adopted. This meant that instead of passing for a number of miles absolutely along the sea-coast, the railway ran nowhere within less than ten miles of the shore, and that it was, therefore, practically secure against attack from the sea, as to seize it would require not merely a raid, but actually an expeditionary force of considerable size. This plan was obviously dictated by reasons of strategy.

Were it not for the fact that the war could hardly fail to obliterate many of the more important results of the events which preceded and followed the signing of the new agreements between Turkey and the Company in March, 1911, these arrangements might have been possessed of more far-reaching political consequences. The signature of that agreement almost immediately followed the meeting of the Tsar with the Emperor at Potsdam, a meeting during which the relations existing between Turkey and Germany were temporarily adjusted. It remained, then, for Berlin to negotiate with England and France for agreements as to the development of districts in which they were specially interested, and particularly as to the future construction of the Baghdad-Persian Gulf section, to which the Company had more or less renounced its rights in 1911. The Tripoli war and the Balkan war were not favourable to negotiation, and it was only in 1913 that Turkey, in agreement with Germany, despatched to London the ex-Grand Vizier, Hakkı Pasha, to try to bring about agreements to be drawn up between the Foreign Office, the German Embassy, and the Ottoman Embassy—agreements to settle the outstanding differences as regards the Baghdad-Persian Gulf section, and other cognate matters of river transport in those regions. These agreements presumably presupposed a continuance of friendly and peaceful relations between Turkey, Germany, and Great Britain, and it is believed they were practically already concluded when, in August, 1914, Great Britain found herself compelled to declare war on Germany.

Speaking of the possible future of the railway, Mr. Woods said that the line was single, the gauge was the normal Continental one, and the stations, or passing places, were separated by an average distance of 12½ miles. The original agreement stipulated that after the opening of the railway as far as Aleppo there was to be a weekly express train as far as that point, and subsequently a fortnightly express to the Persian Gulf. By agreement the speed for these trains was to be about twenty-eight miles an hour, which meant that the journey from Constantinople to Baghdad could be accomplished in about fifty-four hours, and from the Turkish capital to Busreh in about sixty-six hours. Taking all the conditions at their most favourable value from the point of view of the Baghdad Railway, travellers and mails might be conveyed from London to Bombay by that route in about nine days seventeen hours instead of, as before the war, in between thirteen and fourteen days by way of the Suez Canal. Prior to the outbreak of the war, however, the traveller could not be provided with the comforts which would have led him to choose such a route in preference to a first-class ocean steamer. The average speed on the Anatolian Railways was nowhere more than nineteen miles per hour; there were no night trains, and those which ran in the day time were made up partly of passenger coaches and partly of goods waggons, thereby causing a considerable delay necessary to allow for the loading and unloading of goods.

In conclusion, Mr. Woods said that the present was a moment at which it was not desirable to make a detailed forecast of the Baghdad Railway. Two things, however, seemed to him to be certain: first, that sooner or later the line would be completed; and, second, that its ownership and control would depend not so much on any agreement already made as upon the results of the war, and particularly upon the fate of Turkey. For years the Germans had turned their attention to the East, towards development of an influence which, so to speak, pivoted upon the Baghdad Railway. It was for this reason that whatever concessions should be offered to them near at home, the Allies must leave no stone unturned to prevent the conclusion of a peace which would leave the enemy still possessed of a predominating control in an undertaking which, once it is robbed of its political significance, could easily be established upon an international basis. It was too early to lay down definitely the form of that internationalisation. It depended, and it must depend, upon the future status of parts of the now Asiatic dominions of the Sultan. If there were to be spheres of influence, of protection, then it was obvious that the main lines and their branches existing in these various spheres must pass under the direct or indirect control of the Power most closely interested in the area in question. If, on the other hand, Asiatic Turkey were not to be divided into such spheres, or if only part of it were to be so divided, then as the Turks could not manage their railways without foreign assistance some scheme of internationalisation would have to be devised

for the railways located in the areas still left under the direct control of the Sultan. Whether that scheme should give to each country, or to each group of countries, the line in a particular district, or whether the railways should be internationalised as a whole, are questions which could not be decided until the advent of peace. It was clear, however, that arrangements would have to be made guaranteeing to Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy the safety of their respective positions in areas in which they possessed special interests.

In the course of a short discussion which followed, Sir Edwin Pears said that he remembered that, about 1903, a party of German engineers, scientists, and workmen was sent out to take possession of the oilfields. It was commonly reported that few ever returned; and the report added that the tribesmen of Mahmoud Yahia, who claims exclusive rights over the districts in question, had made away with them. Mr. Woods could have told them how enormously wealthy in petroleum and other mineral produce was the neighbourhood of the Upper Tigris. A great German expert, who had gone out just before the unfortunate expedition alluded to, had said that the Baku district was not in it with the oilfield of the Upper Tigris. He (Sir Edwin Pears) was a little sceptical as to this, because an expert sent out by the Standard Oil Company of America had satisfied himself that no German or English company could take that Upper Tigris field and work it profitably against the great American field. Another matter was that, whatever might be said against the Young Turks, when they first came into power they endeavoured to reverse the policy that Abdul Hamid had followed of granting concessions to Germans in the most reckless fashion. He recalled the case of a project of railways into north-eastern Asia Minor. In that case the Young Turks had granted a concession to a powerful American group, notwithstanding German opposition.

Col. A. C. Yate said that he remembered travelling home in May, 1890. Among his fellow-passengers was a German named Richarz, with whom he had a good deal of conversation on the voyage to Marseilles. Richarz was a very interesting man and a fine musician. He surprised Col. Yate by telling him that he had been for two years at Baghdad studying archæology, and that he had a steam launch there. Within a year of that date, if Col. Yate remembered aright, there was an announcement in the newspapers that Richarz had been appointed German Consul-General at Baghdad.

TALAAAT: GRAND VIZIER.

Under date of February 16, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs:—A telegram from Constantinople reports that a statement read to the Chamber by Talaat Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, setting forth the policy of the new Turkish Cabinet, contained the following passage:—

"Our country, which has always been exposed to internal difficulties, has found itself compelled to make sacrifices such as our past has never previously known. Our enemies have declared their intention of thrusting us back into the depths of Asia Minor, turning us out of Constantinople, and driving us from the Straits. To these ridiculous threats of our enemies, who took flight at the Dardanelles as a result of the defeat inflicted upon them by our valiant army, we reply that we shall not relinquish Constantinople as long as there is a single Ottoman left. We shall persevere in this gigantic struggle in close fraternity of arms with our brave and victorious allies until we have compelled our enemies to recognise our right to existence. That is our aim."

Talaat Pasha then proceeded to speak of the necessity for internal reform and reorganisation, but he added:—"In this great crisis it is quite impossible to undertake important reforms, as all the nation's effort must be concentrated for the moment upon dealing with the internal difficulties created by the war. Every step with a view to the establishment of important industrial enterprises emanating from the capitalists and manufacturers of allied and neutral countries will be favourably welcomed."

At the conclusion of the Grand Vizier's statement the Government was given a unanimous vote of confidence.

MR. BERNARD SHAW says:

"The New Witness' employs more specific literary talent to the square inch than most of our journals could enlist even if they liked literary talent (which they mostly don't)."

Mr. G. K. CHESTERTON contributes each week an article on current events, under the title: "AT THE SIGN OF THE WORLD'S END."

Mr. HILAIRE BELLOC writes special articles on matters of public import connected with the national crisis.

Mr. ERNEST NEWMAN, our Musical Critic, writes weekly.

M. ERNEST DIMNET, whose articles on French politics have attracted so much attention, will continue his series, entitled "France at War."

Mr. RAYMOND RADCLIFFE, the City Editor of THE NEW WITNESS, replies to any queries accompanied by a coupon.

Mr. HERBERT VIVIAN, our Special Correspondent on the Italian front, contributes a series of striking articles from Italy.

DRAMA: THE NEW WITNESS follows closely all dramatic performances.

LITERATURE: All books worth reading are reviewed by distinguished literary critics.

THE NEW WITNESS.

Every Thursday. Edited by G. K. CHESTERTON. Price Sixpence.

Terms of Subscription: Post free to any address in Postal Union, Twelve months, £1 8s.; Abroad, £1 10s.

OFFICES:—20-21, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, LONDON.

FUTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

The future of Constantinople was the theme of a discourse delivered by Mr. G. P. Gooch at the Ethical Church, Bayswater, last Sunday. Mr. Gooch remarked that of cities it might be said, as Shakespeare said of men, that some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. Rome rose to greatness, Washington had greatness thrust upon her; but of Constantinople more than of any other city in the world it might be said that she was born great. Of the future, he said there were several possible courses. The first was that the Turks might remain in full nominal sovereignty; subject only to the influence of Germany, which had now ruled Turkey for twenty years. A second course, if the Turks were beaten but not turned out of Constantinople, would be that an international body might take over the responsibility for the navigation and defence of the Straits. Such a body had partial control of Turkish finances in the interests of bondholders, and another example was furnished by the International Commission for the navigation of the Danube. A third course was that the Turks should be turned out of Constantinople and the city be internationalised. It would be necessary to add to it a strip of land on both sides of the Straits from the Black Sea to the Ægean. Internationalisation was proposed by Sir Edwin Pears, in this country the man who had the best right to speak with authority on Constantinople. He was urging that if Turkey was turned out no other great Power should be allowed to enter in, but that the city should be taken over like a ward in Chancery, to be administered by Europe as a whole. An argument against the proposal was furnished by the increasing distrust and ill-will of the great Powers towards one another. It was difficult to imagine them after the war quietly co-operating to give the inhabitants of Constantinople the good government to which they were entitled. A fourth suggestion, that of Mr. Arnold Toynbee, was that, so far as concerned civil affairs at any rate, Constantinople should be independent. About half the present population of the city was Turkish. If the Turkish Government was turned out, many of these would go with it to the new capital at Brusa or Konieh, or wherever it might be. Of the very mixed population that would remain the two largest groups would be the Greeks and the Armenians, each numbering about 150,000 people. The Armenians had most money, but the Greeks, in view of a hundred years' experience in their own country, would probably be most ready to take political control. An independent Constantinople dominated by Greek brains and culture would be a partial revival of the Byzantine tradition. But could the independent city be trusted to have control of the Straits? These could not be left undefended, because that would be a perpetual temptation to a sudden raid. A defending army was necessary. A small Power would not be strong enough, the great Powers could not trust one another; it was suggested that the United States should be asked to take control of the Straits, and should look after the interests of a Europe too divided to look after itself.

The last proposition was that of a Russian occupation. The conquest and occupation of the city whence his race derived its church, its art, and its culture was the dream of every Russian peasant however ignorant. The rulers of Russia had professed various opinions on the matter, but the present Russian Government was avowedly in favour of taking the city. Besides the sentimental reason was the fact that the control of the Straits would add to the economic and naval strength of Russia. At the time of the war with Japan Russia had been unable to send her Black Sea Fleet to the Far East, and during the wars of 1913 and 1914 the Straits had been closed against her. The first objection to Russia having control was that it would be a denial of the principle of nationality. There were very few Russians or other Slavs in Constantinople. Next, Russia would need a land approach. This would mean a further denial of the principle of nationality, whether the approach was by the Balkan Peninsula, at the expense of Roumania and Bulgaria, or whether it was by the inclusion within the Russian Empire of the greater part of Asia Minor. Despite these and other disadvantages of Russian occupation, there was nevertheless to-day a considerable number of people—neither Russophiles nor yet favourably disposed to despotic government—who yet thought that a Russian occupation was the only possible alternative to the pan-German idea. An independent Bohemia, an independent Jugo-Slavia, and Constantinople in Russian hands, were regarded as necessary dykes against the flood.

A successful entertainment in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Roumania was given at the Criterion Theatre on Tuesday afternoon.

Five hundred officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers who had deserted from the Greek Royalist Army arrived at Salonika on Saturday and joined the Venizelist forces.

Under date of the 19th inst., Reuter's Jassy correspondent reports:—The Roumanian states that the Grand Duke George of Russia, who is visiting Galatz, declared to the authorities of the town that the military situation had now completely changed.

A telegram from Athens received in Paris states that an official order has been issued there directing under pain of heavy penalties that arms of all kinds retained by civilians shall be handed over to the authorities. The decree authorises the searching of private houses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE RESURRECTION OF ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—You are quite right in making those remarks in the last issue of your paper in connection with some passages which you have quoted from P. W. Wilson's article in the *Westminster Gazette* on "The Resurrection of Armenia." By suggesting an autonomous Armenia you are truly voicing the deep-seated aspirations of the Armenians, who cannot, owing to the tragic circumstances in which they are, put forward at present their national claims in the same way as Poles, Southern Slavs, and others can do in the Allied countries. As a result of this enforced silence on the part of the Armenians, most people seem to have come to the conclusion that the only possible solution of the Armenian question is to extend Russian sovereignty over the vilayets of Turkish Armenia. The Armenian element in the Caucasus, they say, has made great economic and social progress under Russian rule, and if Armenian vilayets also went over to Russia, they would make rapid progress. "Under Russian rule," says Mr. Wilson, "Tiflis, with its theatres and newspapers, has become a thriving and prosperous town, so will it be, given the same conditions, with Van, Trebizond, and Erzeroum." On the face of things, no one would deny the assertions and predictions made by Mr. Wilson. It seems, however, that behind such sweeping statements there is the momentum of old political conceptions and a good deal of misapprehension of local conditions.

Excluding a few large towns like Tiflis, Erivan, etc., and several thriving hamlets on the high roads, one may say that most of the Armenian peasantry in Trans-Caucasia, in consequence of the prevailing system of land tenure, education, and other causes which cannot well be specified here, was little better off than the average Armenian peasantry across the frontiers. This may seem extremely paradoxical to those who have seen advanced centres or travelled in Trans-Caucasia in motor or carriage without having an opportunity of examining the conditions obtaining in outlying regions.

Unfortunately, in the present state of affairs, one cannot discuss the subject as fully as one would have wished. A comparison may, perhaps, be made without much indiscretion. After about a century of Russian rule, Tiflis, they say, has become a prosperous town; but they seem to forget that Sofia rose from a filthy village to its present standing in less than forty years. Bearing such examples in mind, is it not more reasonable to look forward to a thriving Erzeroum, Van, or Trebizond under self-governing Armenia, than under Russia, who has gigantic territories awaiting development and innumerable cities wanting material and social improvement?

Mr. Wilson and other British friends have been urging us to give up political aspirations and concentrate our efforts on erecting under Russian rule "an Armenian Empire of the mind and the soul"—an Empire within, not an empire of politics. An appropriate answer to the above well-intentioned expectation is supplied by Prof. Migulin, the well-known Russian economist, who, discussing the future of Turkish Armenia in one of the November numbers of the *Novii Economist*, exhorts the Government to cease thinking of small nations; the victors must compensate themselves by annexing conquered territories. After some argument, the Petrograd professor concludes by telling his readers that Turkish Armenia, already occupied, must be annexed in the interest of Russian industries.

One might, perhaps, fairly hope that, after what has happened during the last forty years, the statesmen of the Allied Powers are not going to allow Armenians to be subjected to industrial exploitation.

If, after so much bloodshed and suffering, Europe is not divested of at least part of its prejudices and commercial selfishness—if, after so many nice phrases about the public right and small nations, Europe emerges from this ordeal leaving Armenia still under alien rule, then many wounds will be left unhealed and bitterly aching. People apparently continue to think in the good old ways and in terms of numbers and present circumstances, without considering moral and spiritual values involved in the problem.

Now, what Armenians demand is an honest and fair opportunity for themselves.

An autonomous Armenia guaranteed at least for a generation by the Allied Great Powers would not only produce a

resurrection of Armenia, but would also serve as the most trustworthy outpost of the Russian Empire on the south-western frontiers.

I am, etc.,

A. S. SAFRASTIAN,

Former British Acting Vice-Consul at Bitlis.

47a, Redcliffe Square, S.W.

February, 14, 1917.

EMPLOYMENT OF TURKISH PRISONERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your Cairo Correspondent raises this question in your last week's issue. It may be interesting to record that in the winter of 1912-13 I repeatedly saw Turkish prisoners of war engaged in civil employment at Sofia. I was told the men were paid one lev (franc) per diem, and that employment was popular. Certainly the appearance and bearing of the men concerned left little to be desired. I also heard of Turkish prisoners being employed upon Tsar Ferdinand's experimental farms, where they were trusted to fetch goods from the nearest station *without supervision*; but these were Pomaks, not Turks *pur sang*.

If given employment and wages, it is not unlikely that our prisoners may prefer to settle in Egypt rather than return to less pleasant conditions in Anatolia, etc.—

I am, etc.,

Reading, February 19, 1917.

H. M. WALLIS.

FAMINE IN THE HOLY LAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The latest news clearly reveals the extremely serious conditions in Syria and Palestine. Many thousands of the inhabitants are starving, and in one district alone a careful estimate, made on the spot, puts the deaths from this cause at fully 80,000. Many villages have lost half their population. Cholera, typhus, and other diseases are rampant. Children are being sold in the streets for a shilling or two. An eye-witness says:—"We passed women and children lying by the roadside with closed eyes and ghastly pale faces. It was a common thing to find people searching the garbage heaps for orange peel, old bones, and other refuse, and eating them greedily when found. . . . In three different places which we visited were camps of women and children where any man could go in and select a child or a woman and take them with him, dragging them along by the hair." (*The Times*, September 15 and 27, 1916.)

This widespread suffering is caused by a deliberate policy of starvation. "It is clear," said Lord Grey on October 28, "that there has gone on, and is going on in Turkey, on a scale unprecedented and with horrors unequalled before, an attempt to exterminate the Christian population." Massacre by the sword is terrible enough; massacre by famine is tenfold worse.

At the moment we seem powerless to meet this appalling situation. If, however, the success of the Allied operations permits, it may be possible to bring relief to these sufferers even before the close of the war. In any case, the needed supplies of food, medicine, and clothing should be poured in as soon as ever this becomes possible. They can be bought and stored in Egypt, whence they can be conveyed in a few hours to the ports of entry for the Holy Land when opportunity offers. A small beginning has been made, but at least £50,000 should be forthcoming if anything like an adequate supply is to be ready.

No country on the face of the earth should make a stronger appeal to people of all classes in the British Isles than that in which our Lord lived, and to which we owe the Scriptures and our whole religious inspiration. Now is the time to help. It will be of little avail to collect this sum after the Holy Land is open to us.

The distribution of the fund will be in the hands of those who know the people and have lived amongst them. Though the policy of starvation is mainly directed against the Christian population, help will be given to all in need, irrespective of creed or race. Pains will be taken not to pauperise, but to re-establish the people in their homes and on their farms. We appeal with confidence for your help in trying to meet the needs of these innocent sufferers in Palestine and Syria.—We are, Sir, yours very truly,

A. F. LONDON.

RENNIE MACINNES,

Bishop in Jerusalem.

JOHN BROWN,

Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

GEORGE ADAM SMITH,

Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland.

HENRY MACMAHON,

Chairman of the London Committee.

J. F. W. DEACON,

Honorary Treasurer.

Church House,
Westminster, S.W.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

According to a Press *communiqué*, issued in India in the middle of last month, "the inadequacy of the present supply of fresh fruit, vegetables, and garden produce for the use of the increased Mesopotamian Field Force has recently seriously affected the health of the troops there, especially the Indian troops." To any one—if any one there be—who still regards "The Thousand and One Nights" as a reliable guide to conditions in El Irak to-day this will doubtless come as a painful surprise. For were not Baghdad, Busreh, and other cities of the Land between the Rivers almost as famous for their gardens and their fruits as they were for their incomparably lovely ladies? But to those who know the country as it is, and as it has been since the Mongol hordes from the East reduced it to a howling wilderness, the announcement will cause little or no astonishment. At the best of times fruit and fresh vegetables are hard to obtain in any quantities. You can get dates, of course, at any time; and in their season cucumbers and melons ("sweet" and "water") are plentiful. But beyond these things I can remember few fruits or vegetables that can be described as being abundant, though tomatoes, *badinjân*, and one or two other vegetables were not scarce in Baghdad.

The fault does not lie, I think, with the soil or the climate. The former is certainly impregnated with saline matter, and the latter makes constant watering an indispensable condition of success. But with care it is possible to grow a variety of European vegetables, as the American expedition to Nippur proved conclusively; and careful gardeners would no doubt be able to achieve results that would astonish the natives. The point is now to be put to the test; for I see that Lord Pentland, as President of the Madras War Fund, has offered to raise, equip, and despatch to Mesopotamia a "Madras Gardeners Corps," and the G.O.C. has gratefully accepted the offer. Apparently, at first, sufficient gardeners will be sent to cultivate about sixty acres, and other units will probably follow later on. The corps "will be placed under the command of a European superintendent as commandant, who will have the status of a commissioned officer and will have as his assistant a European subordinate of the status of a quartermaster-sergeant." Sixty acres is not a large area, and it will be but a speck in the wilderness, no doubt. But the experiment is full of interest and of promise; and we shall all wish it success, not only for the sake of our troops, but also for the object lesson that it ought to afford to the people of Mesopotamia.

These Arabs, by the way, are not bad market gardeners in their own fashion. They are conservative to a degree, but in recent years they have learned the advantages of modern methods of irrigation, and those who could afford it have imported British made pumps and installed them in place of the old-fashioned *churd*. The result was that before the outbreak of war considerable areas that had formerly lain idle had been brought under cultivation; and when peace returns to the land once more it is to be hoped that this work will go forward with fresh energy—under British auspices, or, at any rate, freed from Turkish obstruction. Given protection from plundering by Bedouin and by greedy Turkish officials, the Arab would work with more hope and energy; and in view of what he has done in the past, I believe he would very soon become a good and successful agriculturist. One point in connection with the growth of vegetables for the Baghdad market is perhaps worth mention. As the Tigris falls it leaves a number of mudbanks in its stream, and these are always staked out in advance by thrifty growers, who have their reward, as a rule, in really wonderful crops.

On the day these lines appear in print the King will formally open the London School of Oriental Studies in Finsbury Circus. His Majesty is to be accompanied by Queen Mary, and the ceremony bids fair to be an imposing one. It will undoubtedly give the school a first-class advertisement—and that, I venture to think, it really wanted. For, so far, the British public has not apparently realised the importance of the new institution; and the City has not woken up to the fact that the venerable London Institution, overhauled and renovated out of all recognition, is likely very soon to become a centre from which will go forth a steady stream of budding empire-builders and empire-holders. At least, that is what we all hope. But if the hope is to be transformed into accomplished fact, it is certain that the country, and the Empire as a whole, will have to unloose its purse-strings. Up to date the school has met with generous help from several public bodies and from not a few famous financial and commer-

cial houses. But much—very much—remains to be done yet. A sum of £150,000 is required for the foundation of Chaire. And it is up to the public to see that it is forthcoming, unless the public really does not care, after all, whether we are to see our rivals beating us in the future in the race for efficiency.

It is, by the way, rather surprising, and not a little disappointing, to learn that of the comparatively small number of students attending the school the majority are taking up the study of Japanese. Why Japanese? Why not Arabic or Persian? I admire the Japs enormously, and their conduct as our Allies has been absolutely ideal. But it seems to me that they are such excellent business men that, whatever is to be done in Japan, they will do themselves; so that we shall never expect to do any great things commercially in their field. On the other hand, in the Near Eastern markets there will be, as soon as peace comes, magnificent openings for business; and the man who will go out there and get in touch with the native buyers should—and would, I feel sure—reap a rich harvest. It is especially the "smaller man" that I should like to see entering this market: the man who is content to book small orders, if only he books enough of them, and who is not too big to study his customers' requirements. Such an one, if he were early in the field, and able to dispense with the services of an interpreter, would secure a connection that ought to prove priceless. I do not know whether the London School of Oriental Studies is arranging classes likely to help this class of man, but I hope it is, and I hope there is still enough enterprise in this country to take advantage of the school.

A correspondent, signing himself "A. S.," writes to me suggesting that someone in Cairo has been pulling the leg of a certain pressman. In a telegram dated Saturday last the latter announces that: "Reports from Siwa show that acute distress prevails among the Senussi, who have been reduced to a diet of camel flesh and dates." On this "A. S." comments: "Acute distress, indeed, considering that these Bedouin live usually and mainly on a diet of camel's milk, a little dari seed, and dates! Only on festive days do they ever indulge in the luxury of camel flesh, or any flesh at all." I agree with "A. S." as to the distress that the Senussi are likely to feel at having to eat camel flesh. But I expect they are feeling "acute distress" all right as a result of experiences that they have gone through recently.

CORSAIR.

Send for this New Book Now

IF you are not thoroughly pleased with it, send it back within seven days and we will refund your money. But we are confident that you will like it because it makes Company work easier, saves mistakes

and money too. In its 350 pages there is all you want to know—ranged so that you can find it easily and quickly. It explains things as clearly as a human being would and contains draft forms of Memorandum and Articles of Association and a list of valuable tables and facts. Lastly, there is a fine clear Diary which will remind you of all your appointments.



CONDUCTING
THE BUSINESS OF
A COMPANY
is much easier
with this book
beside you.

3s. 6d. net. Postage 6d. Extra.

Our money-back guarantee will be substantiated by our Bankers
—Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Aldersgate Street Branch, E.C.

H. HOWES & COMPANY, LIMITED,

2, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

BEHIND THE VEIL IN YILDIZ KIOSK.*

The glamour attaching to Oriental sovereignty possesses fascination for the Western mind, and many writers have attempted to raise the veil which guards its harámlik from scrutiny. Mme. Demetra Vaka is the latest traveller in that well-beaten track. The plot of her novel rests on a train of wildly improbable incidents. Lionel Deguerney, the ne'er-do-well scion of an ancient English family, drifts to Constantinople, where he is pitchforked into the responsible office of tutor to the Sultan's sixteen sons. Mme. Vaka's picture of the inner life at Yıldız Kiosk has been evolved from her inner consciousness, for it fails to render the mixture of magnificence and squalor which is characteristic of every Oriental Court, past and present. By a miraculous accident Deguerney obtains a glimpse of Kizatesh, the mother of the Sultan's youngest son, and, of course, falls head over ears in love with the beautiful Sultane. Exasperated by her Imperial master's tyranny, she lends a willing ear to the handsome stranger's suit; and he, aided by an impossible Chief Eunuch, succeeds in spiriting his lady-love with her little son on board a friend's yacht. Readers who prefer a happy ending will be delighted with Mme. Vaka's dénouement:—

Lionel was wholly in the mood of the woman that he loved. They smiled at each other like two children who had wandered into the Never-Never land.

"And have you no more dreams now?"

She looked, remote and ethereal; yet the warmth of life was in her eyes, and they encouraged him to say: "Yes, I dream now that some day you will care enough for me to become my wife." Before his gaze her eyes faltered, and he—with the capacity of a lover for tormenting himself—waited, fearing that he had spoken too soon. Her face was averted. The sunset claimed her attention, and there, above the mass of colour, a little white cloud floated. Kizatesh turned toward her lover, her lips parted, her slender figure swaying like a lily in a breeze. "See!" she cried, "Your cloud is touched with gold!"

This peroration is a fair sample of Mme. Vaka's staccato style. Her novel is a mixture of the late Colonel Meadows Taylor, Pierre Loti, and Ethel Stefana Stevens, with the common or garden "shilling shocker" thrown in. Intrigue follows intrigue, and the reader is kept for 300 pages in a state of breathless suspense. W. T. Benda's double-page illustrations show some artistic power, but their general effect is ruined by the inevitable dividing-line.

F. H. S.

FLYING MEN.†

This book has no connection whatever with the Near East, but it is one that we can heartily commend to our readers. It contains a number of sketches and narratives, "mostly founded on fact," as we are told in the preface, all concerned with the work of our flying men. They make excellent reading, and, with one exception ("A Personal Incident"), they have about them an air of reality that leaves no doubt in one's mind that they are written with inside knowledge of the Air Service. In the case of the exception, the lack of reality makes itself felt not in regard to the technical side of the story, but in the straining of the long arm of coincidence. The world, however, is a small place, after all; and it is possible that even in this story the foundation of fact is actually broader than seems likely on the surface.

In any case, the book deserves to be popular, for it will help the uninitiated to appreciate the dangers—and the pleasures—of flying, as nothing else that we have read so far has done. Now and then the reader may feel tempted to believe that the author is exaggerating the risks faced by the splendid men of the Air Service, but he need only turn to his daily paper to clear his mind of the doubt; and then he will feel grateful to "Hermes" for enabling him to realise more clearly what we all owe to our airmen. For the rest, he will find the little book enjoyable throughout, and when he has turned the last page he will probably be inclined, like *Oliver Twist*, to "ask for more."

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Longmans issued recently a second edition of Sir Julian Corbett's "England in the Mediterranean, 1603-1713," at the price of 16s.

The scene of M. Robert Hichens' new novel, "In the Wilderness," is laid partly in the Near East—in Turkey and in Greece.

Vol. XV. of "Nelson's History of the War," by Mr. John Buchan, deals with General Brusiloff's offensive and the intervention of Roumania.

* "The Grasp of the Sultan." By Demetra Vaka. With Illustrations by W. T. Benda. (London: 1917. Cassell and Co. Price 6s. net.)

† "The Hornets' Tales of the Air." By "Hermes." (London: Eveleigh Nash Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

FUND FOR RELIEF IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

A meeting was held on Tuesday at the Mansion House, London, the object of which was to raise funds for the relief of sufferers in Syria and Palestine.

The Lord Mayor, who presided, said that during the war large sums of money had been collected at the Mansion House for the relief of sufferers in Belgium, Poland, Armenia, and elsewhere, but until now no appeal had been made on a national scale for the relief of the starving population of Syria and Palestine. Yet the latest news confirmed what had preceded it, and left no doubt as to the condition of affairs there. In one district alone 80,000 people had perished from starvation. The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem was prepared to pour the needed supplies of medicines, food, and clothing into the Holy Land at the earliest possible moment.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry McMahon (Chairman of the London Committee) said that the conditions obtaining in Syria and Palestine did not permit of the application of relief at present, but so great were the increasingly evil straits of the poor people of those countries that we must make every effort to afford relief at the earliest moment it became possible. It was proposed to collect funds and organise measures of relief for effective and rapid work when the time came, and to this end large stores would be accumulated in Egypt ready for immediate transfer to the Holy Land. The committee proposed that the distribution of relief should be directed in the first instance to meet the immediate needs of those who were starving, ill-clad, and homeless. In the second place, it would seek to re-establish the people on their lands and in their homes, and to provide them with agricultural employment, with seed and other things which would enable them to become again economically independent. It was proposed to put the work of distribution into the hands of those who knew the country people, who could administer relief with tact and sympathy, and, above all, with the local knowledge and experience which alone could enable charity to promote independence. Other organisations were moving in the same direction, and it was important by timely action to get into touch with them, so as to secure that efficiency and economy which co-operative working alone could provide. The objects of the fund were non-political and non-sectarian; its work would not be used as a means of either political or religious propaganda. Its promoters aimed only at responding to human need, and proposed to distribute to all alike, whatever their race or creed. Its founder, the Right Rev. the Bishop in Jerusalem, was one who had given his heart to the country to which it applied. With him were associated other workers who had devoted their lives to Syria and Palestine, and who knew—none could better know—the circumstances and needs of the people. During the last two years they had already done much by assisting refugees who had succeeded in leaving Syria. Many thousands of these, chiefly Jews, had come to Egypt, and had been sheltered and fed until they could become self-supporting. Several thousands were still being supported there at the expense of the Government and private charity. A second and greater task, of providing help to the destitute in Syria and Palestine, they had not been able to accomplish, because any attempt to get large funds into the hands of communities and institutions had been frustrated by the interception of those funds by the Turkish Government en route. Small doles to a comparatively small number of individuals had, however, been successfully distributed through neutral agency. Whatever could be done in this and other ways for the relief of Syria had been done by the willing agents of the United States of America.

Sir Henry McMahon concluded by reading letters expressing sympathy from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., the late Lord Cromer, and others.

The Bishop of London said that we had been absolutely misled about the Turk. In the course of the present war more devilish things had been done by the Turk than had ever been done in history. Seven hundred thousand Armenians had been done to death, and hundreds of thousands of people slowly starved in Palestine and Syria.

Miss Inglesi (a Syrian lady by birth) said that when the men who had been forced to fight for the Turk returned they would come back crippled and worn out, and with no provision made for them. They would find a barren country, for the trees had been cut down for fuel and the gardens were ruined for want of irrigation. All mission premises, too, had been taken and looted.

Viscount Bryce said we knew little about Palestine. At the very beginning of the war a dark curtain dropped in front of that country—a dark curtain from behind which we could only faintly hear the sobs and cries of the suffering people. But we knew that a year ago in Jerusalem alone 40,000 people were living on rations doled out by the German Government. This was in a country which previously had provided more than sufficient for its own support.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Flaming Sword, in Serbia and Elsewhere. By Mrs. St. Clair Stobart. Illustrated. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

The Hornets: Tales of the Air. By "Hermes." (Eveleigh Nash. 3s. 6d. net.)

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

We much regret that, by a slip of the pen, in our review of the above book, the author's name was given erroneously as Vasitch instead of Savitch.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. Feb. 23	1917. Feb. 10			5677.
24	11	Friday	1335. Jumad. I.	Adar.
25	12	Saturday	1	1
26	13	Sunday	2	2
27	14	Monday	3	3
28	15	Tuesday	4	4
March. 1	16	Wednesday ..	5	5
		Thursday	6	6
			7	7

To-day is the birthday of Princess Vera of Montenegro, fifth daughter and seventh child of King Nicholas. The Princess was born in 1887 at Rieka.

Sunday is the birthday of Princess Alice of Greece, the wife of Prince Andrew, who before her marriage was Princess Alice of Battenberg. She was born in 1885.

The Empress Zeoditu of Abyssinia was crowned at Addis Ababa (the capital) on February 11 amidst great general enthusiasm. The procession from the Cathedral to the Palace was characterised by splendid pomp.

Lady Howard de Walden left Seaford House, Belgrave Square, on Monday, for Dean Castle, Kilmarnock.

Sir Henry McMahon has accepted the chairmanship of the London Committee of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund. On Tuesday he presided at a meeting in support of the Fund, held at the Mansion House. A report of the meeting will be found elsewhere.

Prince Emanuel Bibesco, brother of Prince Antoine Bibesco, the Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in London, has arrived in New York from England.

On Wednesday, at Buckingham Palace, the Earl of Ronaldshay was received in audience by the King, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Bengal, when his Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. The Earl of Ronaldshay subsequently had the honour of being received by the Queen.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland has appointed Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary (unpaid). Captain Herbert will continue to perform the special military duties for which he has been detailed.

Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

Colonel I'imitrievitch, Colonel Popovitch, and Colonel Subotitch, members of the Serbian Medical Mission, arrived in London on Wednesday from Paris.

General Iliesco, of the Roumanian Army, who is specially attached to the French Headquarters Staff, and who last week visited London, has now returned to France.

M. Diomides, M. Venizelos' special envoy, had a long conference with Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on Thursday of last week.

M. Gennadius, Diplomatic Agent of the Greek Provisional Government in London, presided last Friday evening at a meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League, which was addressed by M. Diomides on the subject of M. Venizelos' policy and aims.

A marriage has been arranged between John Henry Goldsmith, Sudan Civil Service, eldest surviving son of the late Rev. H. Delpratt Goldsmith and Mrs. Goldsmith, of Lyndewode Road, Cambridge, and Mary Melesina,

younger daughter of Sir Algernon Coote, Bart., and Lady Coote, of Ballyfin, Queen's County.

Count de Salis, the new British Envoy to the Vatican, gave his first reception in Rome on Tuesday evening. It was given in honour of Cardinal Bourne.

In a very interesting article, "The Late Lord Cromer," contributed to the *Morning Post* (February 20) by "Oge who worked with him," we read:—"It is of special interest to record his views regarding Orientals in general. No one could be more convinced than he of the essential and fundamental differences between the West and the East. So far from irritating him, this difference of outlook and standard was a constant source of amusement and interest. Any idea of introducing institutions in the East because they had succeeded in the West appeared to him the last word of unsound reasoning. He used to illustrate the fundamental difference of outlook by the story of a leading Egyptian Minister, who, when war was thought to be imminent between England and Russia, on being asked what public opinion in Egypt would be if war between these Great Powers were to break out, replied: 'Nous penserons comme cela-rien du tout.'"

"Natives," the writer adds, "Lord Cromer regarded with sympathy and affection, but emphatically considered them as belonging to a different race, with different ideas, different aspirations, and different capabilities. He frequently quoted a remark made to him early in life in Corfu when acting as private secretary to Sir Henry Storks: 'The English should remember this—we Greeks prefer bad government by our own people to good government by foreigners.' Lord Cromer never forgot this saying. Whenever it was possible to achieve approximately the same end through native instrumentality, he preferred employing native Ministers and officials to Europeans. He was resolutely opposed to Europeans at low pay in subordinate posts. 'Let us have few of them, but let them be first-rate and well paid.' And the article concludes: "Though somewhat abrupt and curt in manner, Lord Cromer was at heart a genial and a kindly man. He had a great sense of humour and great enjoyment of the simple pleasures of life. His intellect was essentially sane, his fortitude unflinching, his courage equal to any emergency. It is doubtful if England has ever sent out a sounder or a stronger Administrator, or one who triumphed over greater difficulties."

The Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Refugees' (Lord Mayor's) Fund has received grateful acknowledgment of the gift of 10,000 roubles towards the support of the Armenian Orphanage at Erzeroum from General Pierre de Kalitin, of the Caucasian army, who writes:—"It will help Russia's mission of civilisation and progress in the conquered territory. The native population, feeling already the beneficent results of Russian rule, looks forward with hope and confidence, and joins with me in heartily thanking you."

If You are willing to help the Serbian Army

send your Donation for

THE SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."

There is a separate fund for the

RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION

at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., will deliver the first of a series of five lectures on "The Oncoming Revival of Church Life in the East and West" at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Tuesday, the 27th inst., at six o'clock. The remaining lectures will be given by Father Nicolai Velimirovitch, Head of the Theological Faculty in the University of Belgrade.

At the urgent request of the Russian Red Cross, Dr. Inglis, of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, London Unit, recently agreed to open a hospital for Russians at Galatz, where it remained six weeks. During the period of severe fighting near that port the evacuation and refilling of the 100 beds the hospital contained were almost continuous. The Scottish Women were fortunate in meeting with the British Armoured Car Section, and when the time for the evacuation of Galatz came the unit, with their equipment, were shipped to Reni on barges belonging to that section. At Reni another building was handed over to Dr. Inglis to convert into a hospital, and there the nursing of the wounded was continued. The general in command of the Serbian Division said he could not speak too highly of their work, and the chief of the Russian Red Cross with the Danube army has thanked them in the name of the army. A consignment of medical stores will shortly be despatched, and funds are needed to meet maintenance expenses. Contributions should be sent to Lady Cowdray, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.

Mr. Alexander Pallis, greatly esteemed during a long career both in the high places of British international commerce and as a citizen of Liverpool, has thought it wise to retire from the Liverpool bench of magistrates (says a "Day to Day" writer in the *Liverpool Daily Post*). He is of opinion that it is best in the public interest for British subjects who are not British-born to avoid public functions in the present war circumstances. Mr. Pallis has received from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster a letter expressing "appreciation of the feeling which has prompted" Mr. Pallis to take this course. The Chancellor of the Duchy "does not question" his "right to take it," but accepts the resignation "with very great regret, and hopes that in more tranquil times the city of Liverpool may again have the advantage of" Mr. Pallis's services. It is scarcely necessary to add that Mr. Pallis is a warm friend of the Entente cause and an influential Venizelist in Greek affairs.

M. Jean Psichari, Director of Studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes and professor at the National School of Living Oriental Languages, has presented his magnificent library of about 25,000 volumes, bearing upon Eastern philology, history, and literature, to the Luxembourg, in memory of his son "Ernest Psichari, who fell on August 22, 1914, fighting for France."

A supplement to the "London Gazette" of February 15 contained a long list of decorations conferred upon members of the British forces by H.M. the King of Serbia. Of these the most important are:—

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.

2nd Class (with Swords).

Maj.-Gen. W. Campbell, C.B., D.S.O.
Maj.-Gen. Sir H. V. Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.I.

Col. (temp. Maj.-Gen.) A. G. Dallas, C.B., C.M.G.

Maj.-Gen. (temp. Lt.-Gen.) Sir A. J. Godley, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.

Maj.-Gen. W. R. Marshall, C.B.

Maj.-Gen. F. C. Shaw, C.B.

Maj.-Gen. E. M. Woodward, C.B.

Maj.-Gen. M. Cowper, C.I.E., I.A.

Maj.-Gen. A. W. Money, C.B.

Surg.-Gen. F. H. Treherne, C.M.G., F.R.C.S.

Maj.-Gen. W. C. Hunter-Blair, C.B.

ORDER OF KARAGEORGE.

2nd Class (with Swords).

Maj.-Gen. (temp. Lt.-Gen.) the Hon. H. A. Lawrence.

Maj.-Gen. R. G. Egerton, C.B.

Maj.-Gen. H. D'U. Keary, C.B., D.S.O.

3rd Class.

Principal Chaplain the Rev. A. V. C. Hordern, C.M.G., Army Chaplains Dept.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

In a message dated February 19, the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs:—In Greek circles here it is considered improbable that M. Simopoulos, Secretary to the Greek Legation here, will accept the offer to proceed to London to take charge of the Greek Legation there, as stated in an Athens telegram.

In the same message the *Post's* correspondent says:—"Information reaches me from Salonika that Earl Granville is giving great satisfaction there as the British representative to the Provisional Government."

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Service Order to Captain Henry Warton Worsley, K.O.S.B., attached Egyptian Army.

The King has granted the following gentlemen permission to wear decorations (as stated against their respective names), which have been conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—Third Class of the Order of the Nile: Mr. William Swanson, Inspector, Ministry of Education, Cairo; and Mr. John Montith Furness, Headmaster, Khedivial Secondary School, Cairo. Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile: Mr. William Valentine Shearer, Lecturer, School of Engineering, Giza; Mr. Thomas Morton Chinn, Lecturer, Sultania Training College for Schoolmasters, Cairo; Mr. John Frederick Burrill, Assistant Master, Abbassia Secondary School, Alexandria; and Mr. James Serle Butler Peacock, Assistant Master, Tewfikia Secondary School, Cairo.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM GREECE.

Lady Neave, president of the Executive Committee of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, has received several letters asking for help for British refugees from Athens, who, being stranded in England, after their sudden flight from that city, are in need of assistance, and had hoped to be helped by her fund. This, we understand, is not possible, as the money subscribed is only for British refugees from Turkey. Lady Neave hopes that some kind British resident from Greece will offer to raise a fund for the refugees from that country. If no such offer is forthcoming, however, Lady Neave will be pleased to accept any donations towards helping those ladies who have found themselves so unfortunately placed in England. She will also be pleased if all such as require help will write to her, stating whether they require monetary assistance or employment. All subscriptions and letters should, for the present, be addressed to Lady Neave, Eithinog, Abbey Road, Llandudno, N. Wales.

"THE BALKAN PROBLEM."

Lieutenant A. F. Whyte, M.P., R.N.V.R., spoke on "The Balkan Problem" before a large audience in Edinburgh University last Saturday afternoon. Principal Sir Alfred Ewing presided. Lieutenant Whyte said three out of the four Balkan thrones were occupied by foreign potentates who had not acquired that sense of nationality and understanding of their own peoples which was vitally necessary in regions where national aspirations were still developing and had not yet reached their full realisation. They would not be able to secure a satisfactory peace in the Balkans until the dynasty of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria had been removed. To get the Germans out of Belgium, out of France, and possibly out of their own colonies, but still enable them to realise some of their ambitions in the East—that was what he conceived was meant by those who spoke of "peace without victory." He was convinced that unless the German dream was destroyed in the East as well as in the West we could not have the foundations of a lasting peace. A vote of thanks was accorded to Lieutenant Whyte, on the motion of the Rev. Dr. Kelman.

OBITUARY.

Colonel Sir Horace George Proctor-Beauchamp, Bart., C.B., Norfolk Regiment, late Lieutenant-Colonel, 20th Hussars, previously reported missing, is now officially presumed to have been killed at Suvla Bay on August 12, 1915. He was the third son of the fourth baronet and Lady Beauchamp, daughter of the second Lord Radstock, and brother of the fifth baronet, whom he succeeded in 1912. He served with the Sudan Expedition, 1885, at Suakin, and was awarded the medal with clasp and the bronze star, and he was present at the action of Gamaizah, being mentioned in despatches, and receiving the Third Class of the Medjidieh. He again saw active service in the South African War, was mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's medal with four clasps and the C.B. At the outbreak of the present war he was asked to take command of a battalion of his county's regiment, and was appointed to the 1/5th Norfolk Regiment, with which he went to Gallipoli, where he was killed in the gallant assault on the wad above Suvla Bay.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Alleyne Clarke, late of the Cheshire Regiment, has died in Italy, aged seventy-four. He entered the Army in 1867, and in 1885 saw service with the Sudan Expedition, taking part in the operations at Suakin; and was mentioned in despatches, and awarded the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Bronze Star. He became lieutenant-colonel in 1888, and retired seven years later.

Mr. Wilfrid Ball, a well-known painter of charming water-colours and an etcher, of Sunnerset, Lymington, died from heat-stroke at Khartoum on the 14th inst., aged sixty-four years. He had exhibited at the Royal Academy for many years, and was the holder of the Bronze Medal, Paris Exhibition, 1900, for etching. He also won the London Athletic Club challenge cup for walking in 1876. Mr. Ball, whose loss will be felt by many friends, gave up his painting and went out to do war work in Egypt.

Lieutenant Edmond St. Vincent Ryan, R.M.L.I., who died on active service on February 2, aged 22, was the only child of Colonel and Mrs. St. Vincent Ryan. He was educated at Beaumont College, Old Windsor, and passed into the Royal Marines in October, 1912. He was wounded at Smyrna, and was serving in H.M.S. *Triumph* when that vessel was torpedoed in the Dardanelles, and was also in the battle of Jutland.

Second-Lieutenant Humfrey Theodore Shulldham Cole, London Regiment, attached Yorkshire Light Infantry, was the younger son of Canon T. E. F. Cole, Chaplain to the Salonika Forces and formerly Indian Chaplain. He was educated at Radley, and had just begun to study at Oxford when the war began. He received his commission in the London Regiment on September 1, 1915. He went to the front in March and was attached to the Yorkshire L.I. in December. He received the wound from which he died on February 11.

A Reuter's message from Petrograd announces the death in that city of M. Zinovieff, who was Russian Ambassador in Constantinople from 1897 to 1909.

A meeting of the Dardanelles Commission was held at the House of Lords on Wednesday, when a general discussion took place on procedure and other matters. No witnesses were examined.

German interests in Egypt, hitherto under the care of the United States Consul-General, have been placed under the charge of the Swedish representative.

The first train bringing disabled Serbian prisoners of war released from Austria arrived at Lyons on Wednesday. There was a public demonstration in their honour.

WHERE TO STAY.**Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.****SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.**

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL, Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

Alexandria.**CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.**

Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.

Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.

Patronised by the *Elite*.

Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. Full Pension P.T. 50 per day.

G. AQUILINA, Proprietor.

(Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

THE NEAR EAST.

Any Newsagent or Bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of the *NEAR EAST* every Friday morning.

Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, a post card addressed to the Manager, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C., will oblige.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1917.

PERSIA AND THE WAR.

The veil which has so persistently hung over Persia for the greater part of the war has at last been lifted in part by Lord Curzon in the House of Lords. His speech dealt with the German schemes in operation in the country, which represented the natural development of a long system of intrigue carried out before the war with a view to the extension of Germany's power to the Indian Ocean, and proceeded to sketch the steps taken by the British and Russian Governments to checkmate the enemy's machinations. The main facts of the Turco-German activities in Persia are already familiar to readers of THE NEAR EAST, but Lord Curzon was able to add some interesting details. The Consuls of the Central Powers at Ispahan and other large towns were the centre of the hostile organization. Numerous German and Austrian prisoners who had escaped from captivity in Russian territory formed the nuclei of a number of bands scattered about the country, of which at one time there were "quite a hundred." These bands were supplied with machine-guns and rifles, and traversed the country, terrorizing the peaceful tribesmen and offering bribes. Some of the Swedish Gendarmerie—of whom Lord Curzon said that they might be regarded as Germans under the thinnest of disguises—joined them, and no doubt proved useful in stirring up some of the tribes against the Central Government. Then came the Turkish invasion, which was not only calculated to assist Germany's object in Persia, but must have appealed to the Turks as an opportunity for taking possession of territory along the Turco-Persian frontier which had long been a matter of dispute between the two countries. This military advance, it will be remembered, was undertaken shortly after the fall of Kut. The movement reached its maximum force, Lord Curzon considered, in August last. It "was exercising so disastrous an influence on the situation in Teheran at that time that the Persian Government was on the eve of evacuating the capital." The intrigue which was to bring about that *coup d'état* failed, as we know, and the enemy realized that his more grandiose plans had miscarried. "Since then there has been not merely a sensible alleviation, but a steady improvement in the conditions."

Two factors contributed to bring about this result. In the first place, the recovery of the Russian Army, which had previously been compelled to fall back before the Turks, stemmed the tide of invasion and interposed an effective barrier before the capital. "In this manner," Lord Curzon pointed out, "the Russian force rendered great service to the Allied cause, and we found ourselves in the somewhat strange and anomalous position of having the Russian Army acting as a successful screen of defence to our Indian Empire." The second factor in the situation was the arrival in Persia of General Sir Percy Sykes for the purpose of reorganizing a Gendarmerie to take the place of the force which had been used by Swedish officers for their own treacherous ends. General Sykes landed at Bunder Abbas in March, 1916, with a small force and proceeded to Kirman. Here the initial steps of forming a Gendarmerie were taken. The British public now learns for the first time that General Sykes led his force from Kirman to Ispahan, and thence to Teheran.

At the present moment he is back again in South Persia, at Shiraz. The strength of the Gendarmerie amounts to five thousand, and that of the British military escort to eight hundred; but the military position, we are told, is being strengthened by reinforcements from India under a military officer experienced in tribal warfare. It is thus evident that Great Britain has at last accepted the responsibilities of her position in Persia. Sir Percy Sykes's march across the country to Teheran was clearly not a recruiting parade for Gendarmerie purposes. It represented, although on a small enough scale, a military enterprise undertaken for the purpose of proving to the Persians that both the protecting Powers were resolved to uphold the authority of the Central Government. The expedition, with its limited numbers, was only rendered possible by the Russian recovery in the north. It is satisfactory, therefore, to find that the intention is not to restrict the British force to such modest proportions that it can only operate behind, so to speak, a Russian screen. The Gendarmerie is ultimately to attain a strength of 11,000 men, of whom about one-half will be raised among the Bakhtiari tribesmen, who have always been friendly to Great Britain. With this force, and with the additional troops from India, it is expected that Sir Percy Sykes will shortly be in a position to start upon a fresh expedition with a view to clearing up "the brigand camps and robber nests" in South-West Persia. Meanwhile on the eastern side similar success has been achieved under a British officer, Major Keith, who has pacified the whole of that considerable quarter.

Lord Curzon is too well acquainted with his subject not to recognize the limitations of what has been accomplished up to the present. He could not say that the situation was altogether free from anxiety. Turkish troops had still to be turned out of parts of Persia, and in the hinterland of the Persian Gulf there was still disorder. No one who knew anything about the East cared to venture to prophesy about it; but he hoped that it might be said that the worst was over, and that the great chain of ambition and aggrandisement stretching from Europe to Asia had been twisted aside, if it had not been broken. By far the most valuable portion of Lord Curzon's speech was the indication he gave that the British Government's policy in Persia was at last to be guided by expert knowledge. He declared emphatically that it would be the object of Great Britain to see not merely that the chain of German ambition and aggrandisement was broken, but that it should never be reformed. To achieve this end, we may point out, it is necessary that there should be on Great Britain's part a complete reversal of the policy of *laissez faire* and of playing second fiddle in the Middle East, which was responsible for the situation at the outbreak of the war. Lord Curzon pointedly challenged the soundness of the British attitude in the past towards the Baghdad Railway—Germany's principal instrument in her attempt "to strike at the dominion of Great Britain in India and to take from us the hegemony of the Eastern world." He believed that every word uttered by those who, like himself, were suspicious of the scheme had been amply justified by what had passed. From these remarks we should like to infer that at the end of the war the status of the Baghdad Railway will be revised, and that before then there will be a definite understanding with Russia regarding the new rôle which Great Britain has been forced by circumstances to play in Persia. That rôle, it is hardly necessary to state, will not lose sight of Persian interests; rather will it be prompted by the knowledge that the former policy of drift was equally prejudicial to Persian and to British Imperial interests. The failure of Great Britain to act up to her responsibilities in the country was Germany's opportunity, and gave Russia and the world at large the impression that the British Government was indifferent to the welfare of the Persians and to the protection of the British position in India. A definite pronouncement that the Middle East is not to be given away to any who may care to intrigue for it will lay the foundation of a happier era for this part of the world.

ALBANIA, PAST AND PRESENT.

I.—The Language Question.

By M. EDITH DURHAM.

It was in the year 1901 that I first visited Albania and was struck by the vigour and originality of the people. But it was not until a much longer visit in 1904 that I came in close touch with the national movement. The patriots of Koritza first inspired me with the interest for their heroic little nation which subsequent travels have ever increased.

The tale indeed of Albania's struggle for education and development is one of the most remarkable in the history of education, and deserves more detailed telling than we have space for here. The Turkish Government learnt by bitter experience that the result of permitting national schools to the Greeks, Bulgars, and Serbs was that they became centres of political propaganda, which was supported by money and teachers supplied by various Great Powers. And Greek, Bulgar, and Serb insurrections and independence followed. The Sultan resolved that no such thing should happen in the case of Albania. The Albanian tongue was prohibited; the printing of it and the teaching of it were made punishable by heavy terms of imprisonment. If an Albanian child was to learn to read, he or she must first learn a foreign tongue, and in that case the child was classed as belonging to the nationality of the school selected. This fact I found caused intense bitterness.

"When I was a little boy," said a Moslem Albanian, "I was sent to school at Constantinople. They said that I was a Turk; I said that I was an Albanian. I would not say that I was a Turk. Then they turned on me, and called me a dog. I have hated them ever since."

"I hate, hate, hate the Greeks," said a Koritza woman. "When I was a child the Government would not permit any Albanian school. My parents wanted me to learn, so I had to go to the Greek one. There were Greek teachers. They used every day to tell me and my little friends that we were Greek. It was a lie. We did not know one word until we went to school. They used to tell us that Christ was Greek, and that it was useless for us to pray in Albanian because He did not understand it. Now they pretend that we are Greek! I will never again defile my tongue with their dirty language. Nor shall my children learn it. I hate, hate, hate it."

Similarly, children attending Slav schools are denationalised, if possible. I had formed on previous journeys a very favourable opinion of certain Montenegrins, and afterwards found that they were not Slavs at all, but Albanians, who spoke their mother tongue at home; but they had been educated in Serb, for Albanian schools are prohibited also in Montenegro.

England, in 1880, made a strong effort on Albania's behalf. Lord Goschen, then H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople, in his report on the subject, put Albania's case in a nutshell, when he said: "Nor can it be denied that the Albanian movement is a perfectly natural one. As ancient and distinct a race as any by whom they are surrounded, they have seen the nationality of these neighbour races taken under the protection of various European Powers and gratified in their aspirations for more independent existence. . . . Meanwhile they have not received similar treatment. Their nationality is ignored, . . . exchanges of territory are proposed, other difficulties arise, but it is still at the expense of Albania, and Albanians are handed over to Slavs and Greeks without reference to the claims of nationality."

Lord Goschen then mapped out a large Albania with a view to its autonomy and future independence. Not all the Powers agreed to this scheme, unfortunately, and it was dropped. Had these frontiers been delimited, very many recent complications would have been avoided. It appears, indeed, that injustice to a small nation recoils sooner or later upon the Great Powers which inflict it. A tiny shell splinter will make a whole limb suppurate.

So will a small race incorporated in a large one act as a perpetual sore which undermines the conqueror's strength. The result of the Sultan's attempts to crush Albanian development were the Albanian insurrections of 1910-11 and 1912. Similar results may be expected by any nation trying forcibly to annex Albanian territory.

To return to Koritza in 1904. An unhappy schoolmaster for a time had had permission to open an Albanian school, the permission had been suddenly withdrawn, and he was still working out his sentence of fifteen years' imprisonment.

Much talk did I hear of the difficulties and dangers of learning. Turkish spies and Greek propagandists were ever ready to denounce the readers and importers of Albanian books and papers. But I was furnished with the addresses in various lands where such could be obtained. And at great risk papers, published in London and Bucharest, were secretly circulated. A luckless zaptieh had just been given two years' imprisonment for being found with one in his pocket. And a poor restaurant keeper at Scutari, to whom one had been sent by post by some foolish foreigner, ignorant of the possible results, was condemned to fifteen years', and only released by the efforts of all the Consuls.

In Scutari both Italy and Austria opened schools and protected them. In Koritza the American mission opened a girls' school. For a boys' school permission could not be obtained. Even under the protection of the Stars and Stripes the heroic schoolmistress ran great risks. Turkish authorities spied on her continually. But she used English school books and translated her lessons, and so managed to teach her mother tongue. The girls taught their brothers to write at home. And though the school was essentially a Christian mission school, yet Moslems, too, sent their daughters, because it was Albanian. I visited with very great interest the homes of several of the parents of the school children, and was much impressed with the earnestness of their desire that their children should not be denationalized.

From Koritza I rode through Albania from south to north with one of the colporteurs of the British and Foreign Bible Society, himself an ardent patriot. It was a ride almost equal in incident and excitement to Borrow's well-known journey with the Bible in Spain. The Turkish authorities had not the smallest objection to the sale of the Scriptures. It was to the sale of them in Albanian that they objected. But the society had leave to sell all its publications, and the Albanians seized upon this as a means for circulating books in their mother tongue. We had a stock of the Gospels and of the Book of Genesis. We were stopped and searched in all places except those where the local Governor happened to be an Albanian. There we were warmly welcomed. One Turkish Kaimakam seized all our stock, but we picked up more at a depot further on. Everywhere folk flocked to buy, secretly in some places, publicly in others. I realised the strength of the national feeling when a Moslem schoolmaster brought all his boys, and they bought a book apiece.

At Liaskovik a deputation waited on me and begged that I would make a school under English protection. And at Permeti we were received with such enthusiasm that the Turkish Kaimakam would not allow us to speak to anyone without a soldier as witness. As some of our visitors spoke French the soldier's presence did not incommode us much. More than one officer in the Turkish army bought books, and even begged us to come again with a greater variety.

That journey I shall never forget. What a people, indeed! They have survived five empires, and successfully resisted every effort to denationalize them. Brave, intelligent, and receptive—the artists of the Balkan peninsula—they have retained their language, their national customs and traditions through all the centuries. But Mr. Asquith has declared that the present war is waged for the purpose of defending the rights of little nationalities, and we may therefore hope, together with the Albanians, that their day, too, is about to dawn.

The story of their epic struggle for existence we may tell in another article.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

News of Persia.

Feb. 20.

Viscount BRYCE asked whether the Government could, consistently with the interests of the public service, give some information regarding the present position of affairs in Persia? He pointed out that a long time had passed since a statement on the subject was made, and it was desirable that it should be known how far the Government were satisfied with the present position of affairs; whether the German agents and officers and the bands collected and hired by them, who were trying to make mischief in portions of Persia, were still at work, or had been dispelled or reduced to impotence; and what was the condition of Persia in regard to public safety? So far as had been heard, the numerous attempts which had been made by the German Government to provoke trouble, discontent, and even aggression in the region of the Indian frontier had failed.

Earl CURZON said that it was now possible to view the Persian problem and situation in something approaching a proper perspective. It was common knowledge that before the war began Germany had been engaged in intriguing for the extension of her power to the Indian Ocean with a view to striking at the dominion of Great Britain in India and taking from us the hegemony of the Eastern world. In order to carry out this plan, Austria in the first place was to be treated as the washpot of Germany as far as the Balkans were concerned; Turkey was to become her slave in order that she might obtain control of the Straits; Egypt was to be menaced; Persia was to be controlled; Afghanistan was to be stirred up. This plot dated as far back as 1898, when the German Emperor made a theatrical entry into Jerusalem, and afterwards addressed a great meeting and told the 300 millions of the Moslem world to look upon him as their true and only friend. The principal instrument of this policy was to be the Baghdad Railway. He had been unable to understand the curious *punchant* of some politicians of both parties for that scheme, and he believed that every word uttered by those who, like himself, were suspicious of the scheme had been amply justified by what had passed. The plan was a bold one, but it was by no means completed, and it would not be completed until the Conference had met at the end of the war. Referring to German intrigue in Persia during the last twelve months, the speaker said that that country was one of the principal Asiatic pieces on the board. The Consuls of the Central Powers at Ispahan and other large towns were well organised, and use was made of a considerable number of German and Austrian prisoners who had escaped from captivity in Russian territory. They had a number of machine-guns and probably a large consignment of rifles. At one time there were quite 100 of these German bands scattered about in different parts of Persia, terrorising peaceful tribes and bribing right and left. They found help from some of the Swedish gendarmerie, and they stirred up trouble with the tribes who were habitually at peace with the Central Government. Of all such people the German agitators and agents made friends, and they carried on the operations in the neighbourhood of the British-Indian border. Meanwhile, Germany succeeded in getting a more powerful ally. The Turks, intending to pay off old scores against their hereditary enemy, and anxious to recover territory on the borders of Persia and Turkey, penetrated into Persia and overran part of it, and the Turkish army was still there. Then stories were spread everywhere that the German Emperor had embraced the creed of Islam, and one might have thought that the German *picklehaube* was a synonym for the Cap of Liberty. The movement in Germany's favour reached its maximum force in August last. At that time the Persian Government was on the eve of evacuating the capital. Since then there had been not merely a sensible alleviation but a steady improvement in the conditions. The Russian Army had recovered its position and effectively barred the way of the Turkish forces to Teheran. In that manner the Russian force had rendered great service to the Allied cause, and we found ourselves in the somewhat strange and anomalous position of having the Russian Army acting as a successful screen of defence to our Indian Empire. The British Consul at Shiraz and the few male members of the community there who were imprisoned with him had been released after eight months of harsh captivity. Most of the German agents in the country had been captured, and he hoped that before long the few who were still at large would be taken. The harm that a single evil-minded European, plentifully provided with money, could do in a country like Persia was almost incredible, and not until all of the German agents were captured could the situation be cleared.

The march of the force under Sir Percy Sykes from Bunder Abbas to Ispahan, and finally to Teheran, for 1,000 miles in circumstances of the most arduous and, in some places, of a perilous character, had not, he thought, been mentioned hitherto in this country. It resulted in establishing order over a wide area. In Teheran itself we had secured the existence of a Government friendly to the Allied Powers; and Russia and Great Britain had been constant, although not imprudent, in giving steady financial assistance to the Persian Government in the difficult times through which it had passed. The object of Sir Percy Sykes was to organise in Southern Persia a force of military gendarmerie or police, under the Persian Government, but officered by British officers with Indian training and experience. That force was ultimately to attain to a strength of 11,000 men. Sir Percy Sykes had at present a force of 5,000 men in addition to a military escort of about 800 troops from India, and his military position was being strengthened by reinforcements now being despatched from India under a military officer experienced in tribal warfare. A similar force of gendarmerie was being raised from Bakhtiari tribesmen, who had always been very friendly to us. He hoped

that before long Sir Percy would be able to march from Shiraz, where he was now, and to clear up the brigand camps and robber nests with which that part of Persia was infested. On the eastern side of Persia a similar success had been obtained by another force under a British officer, Major Keith, who had succeeded in pacifying the whole of that considerable quarter. In Afghanistan the Ameer, in spite of solicitations, offers, and bribes, had, so far as the Government knew, remained faithful to us. The improvement in the general situation in Persia was considerable, and it had been materially assisted by the success of our arms in Mesopotamia and by the Shereef of Mecca's movement against the Turks. As far as he knew the position of the oil wells was adequately secured. No one who knew anything about the East would venture to prophesy about it; but he thought the worst was over, that the link which Persia supplied in the great chain of German ambition and aggrandisement had been forcibly twisted aside, if not broken; and it would be our object to see not merely that the link was broken but that it was never reformed to the lasting peril of Great Britain and menace of the whole Eastern world.

The Marquess of CREWE said that with regard to the appointment of the Swedish officers to the gendarmerie in Persia, it was not easy to come to a conclusion as to which neutral Power should provide the officers. As many of the Swedish officers had received their training in Germany it might be they had retained a German bias. He wished that Earl Curzon had been able to say that the German agents in Persia had been all cleared out. They all knew, however, how immense was the difficulty of hunting down a few individuals in a great and sparsely populated country. He feared that it would be necessary to send considerable reinforcements to Persia before we could hope to drive the Turks completely back. The vast distances that separated the scenes of operations ought never to be forgotten. We could not, therefore, expect that any success likely to be obtained on the Tigris in the near future could have more than an indirect effect upon the state of affairs in Southern Persia. In regard to Mesopotamia, while viewing with admiration the successes of our troops, he was glad that the noble earl had not given that over-encouragement which the public might be tempted to gather from some of the accounts which had been published. The march of Sir Percy Sykes was very remarkable and well worthy of the traditions of the Indian Army, and he hoped that the nature of that task and of the obstacles which Sir Percy had to surmount would receive greater recognition than they had done hitherto in the pressure of news concerning the war. The statement of the noble earl as a whole would give great satisfaction. It was clear that some progress had been made in Persia, and it might be said with some confidence that the situation tended to improve and that we need not take a gloomy outlook.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Aden Field Force.

Feb. 14.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if he could now state what arrangements had been made for the organisation of the Aden field force similar to that of other expeditionary forces.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The Government of India informed me in December of their intention to issue orders placing the Aden field force on a footing similar to that of other expeditionary forces. They had not then decided as to the grant of special field allowance. I am inquiring whether the orders have actually issued, and what is the decision as to the special field force.

Colonel YATE: Thank you, sir; the Aden field force will be very grateful.

Persian Rates of Exchange.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if he would say what was the fixed minimum rate allowed to the Indo-European Telegraph Department in Persia in exchange from pounds sterling to krans and from rupees to krans; and what was the rate given to the troops engaged in operations in Persia and on the Perso-Afghan frontier.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Gazetted officers of the Indo-European Telegraph Department are paid in rupees converted into Persian currency at the official rate fixed quarterly on the basis of market rates. The present official rate is 280 krans per 100 rupees. Non-gazetted officers enjoy a minimum of 385 krans per 100 rupees on half their pay, and receive the other half at official rate. A petition asking for a revision of these arrangements on account of the appreciation of the kran is under consideration. The Government of India have not informed me of the arrangements made for troops.

The Mesopotamia Expedition.

February 16.

Mr. MACPHERSON, Under Secretary for War, in a written reply to Sir J. Jardine, states that the situation as to supplies and transport in Mesopotamia is now very satisfactory. Hospital accommodation is being provided at Nasiriyah, and as soon as it is ready nurses will no doubt be sent there.

Colonel AUBREY HERBERT, having asked whether the War Office was considering the question of double pay and pension for officers and men, British and Indian, engaged in Mesopotamia, having regard to the very exceptional character of that campaign, was informed by Mr. FORSTER that the matter was not being considered.

Dardanelles Commission's Report.

Feb. 19.

Mr. BONAR LAW, replying to Mr. G. LAMBERT, stated that the report of the Dardanelles Commission would be published at once, and he hoped that it would be in the hands of members in the course of a few days.

Sir H. DALZIEL: Will the evidence be published?

Mr. BONAR LAW: The Minority Report will be published, but not the evidence, as at present advised.

Czecho-Slovaks.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Czecho-Slovaks referred to in the Allies' Note as being a people for whose independence they were fighting were two distinct nationalities, or, as suggested by the hyphen, were they Slovaks of Czech origin?

Mr. BALFOUR said the Czechs and Slovaks were two branches of the same race.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked if it would be possible to decide the territory to which independence would be granted, so that we might learn something about the people?

Mr. BALFOUR: No, sir.

Mr. PRINGLE: Have the Foreign Office a map showing the territory occupied by the Czecho-Slovaks?

Mr. BALFOUR: There are a number of maps at the Foreign Office, but whether they are absolutely correct I cannot say.

Persian Gendarmerie.

Feb. 19.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Swedish gendarmerie in Persia was to be reorganised under fresh Swedish instructors as recently reported.

Mr. BALFOUR: The reply is in the negative.

Roumania and Her Enemies.

Mr. BALFOUR, answering Mr. J. King, said he had no information leading him to suppose that the state of war now existing between Roumania on the one side and Germany and Turkey on the other was preceded by a formal declaration of war. As to whether Roumania had given adhesion to the pact of London, he did not think it desirable in the public interest to reply.

Cyprus Timber.

Mr. WALTER LONG, answering Colonel Yate, said the exportation of timber from Cyprus was prohibited by law, but this prohibition had been relaxed in order to assist the troops in Egypt. What was possible was being done to develop the forest resources of Cyprus consistently with the pressing need for reafforestation in the island.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Peaceful Kerman.

So few articles on Persia and Persian affairs have been published of late that particular interest attaches to one, entitled "In a Persian City," which appeared in *The Times* on Wednesday. It was sent off from Kerman on December 8, and the writer tells us that he has reached that city after many days of caravan travel. There is, he adds:—

satisfaction not unmixed with relief in the thought that my wanderings are for the time being over. For in Persia, even when the world is at peace, he who starts upon a journey can never be sure that he and his goods will arrive at his journey's end. Marauding tribes are many and powerful, and their operations are far-reaching; there is not a caravan route that is not liable to be closed for weeks at a time by robber bands. If in other countries "all roads lead to Rome," in Persia it may be said that all roads lead to the robber's den.

As a matter of fact his caravan, though strongly escorted, was actually attacked. But the brigands were driven off with considerable loss to themselves, and the party got through to its destination safely. The article continues:—

Here at Kerman peace reigns, though it be that of the calm which follows a storm. Although the greater part of the British colony, including the ladies, has not yet been allowed to return, British prestige stands as high as ever. It seems to have suffered nothing from the temporary eclipse which it underwent last winter and spring, when the local Democratic revolutionaries, led and financed by German and Turkish agents, turned out the British colony and with the help of the Swedish Gendarmerie ruled Kerman. The advent of General Sir Percy Sykes's column in June last most effectively turned the tables, and now Kerman itself and most of the province are strongly on our side. Never were relations between the Consulate and the local Persian authorities more satisfactory. The new Governor-General, a young Prince of the Royal House, who has travelled in France and Russia, and, together with most of his staff, speaks French with an excellent accent, is thoroughly pro-Ally in his sympathies. The Deputy-Governor Sirdar Nusret, who is the most powerful noble in the province, is one of the oldest friends of the British cause, and remained loyal in its darkest hour. Everyone is ready to help us, and the voice of the Democrat is stilled.

The Only Hope for Armenia.

In the course of an editorial, entitled "Bag and Baggage," the *Christian Science Monitor*, of Boston, Mass., sketches events in Turkey since the "Young Turks" came into power; and, having weighed the Envers and the Talaats in the scale, it finds them wanting. The Armenian massacres naturally con-

stitute the most damning indictment against the reckless criminals. The *Monitor* concludes:—

It is because of all this that it is absolutely necessary that whatever other form the coming peace may take, the monstrosity known as the Sublime Porte shall be expelled, as Mr. Gladstone put it, "bag and baggage," from Europe, and shall cease to be permitted to misgovern in Asia. What is needed to make this effective is a European guarantee for whatever new state of affairs may be established in Asia Minor. In the case of Armenia, which is the case at present under consideration, the way is simple, if the Great Powers have learned enough during the war to cause them to set aside the jealousies of the past, which have ended in making Armenia a martyred nation. An autonomous Armenia, under a European guarantee, a guarantee in which everybody would like to see the United States join, would be, in one way, the most satisfactory solution. Unfortunately the statement of Talaat that there is no Armenian question is so nearly literally true that it is doubtful if an autonomous Armenia, with an Armenian population, could be formed to-day out of the Turkish possessions in Asia Minor. In order to make such a State a possibility it might be necessary to draw on the ethnologically Armenian provinces of Russia and even Persia. Russia would probably be willing to add her own provinces to such a State, and to agree to the incorporation of the necessary Persian territory in such a State, the more so as such Persian territory all happens to fall within her own present sphere of influence in Persia. Persia would have distinct grounds for objecting to this were it not that compensation could certainly be made to her, in some form or another, for the territory she would be called upon to surrender. It is obvious, however, that Russia would only agree to such a course provided the new autonomous State were placed under her guardianship; and in order to make such an autonomous Armenia a realisable condition it may be desirable, as well as necessary, to consider Russia's requirements in this respect.

Some years ago the Armenians would have objected to the control of Russia, but many snows have melted on the slopes of the Taurus range since those days. The restoration of the Armenian nation, if it is to be successful, may make an absolute demand for the inclusion of the Russian Armenians, and this may be the overwhelming factor in the formation of the new State. What the boundaries of such a State should be, under what conditions such a State should be set up, is another question altogether. But it is tolerably certain that if, as a result of the war, an autonomous Armenian State does not take concrete form, the Armenian nation will cease to exist.

Why We Must Take Kut.

The *Daily Chronicle* published on Monday a leading article, "The Kut Victory," from which we quote the concluding passages:—

The town itself is only a miserable collection of Arab dwellings; but its capture and that of the north bank are essential if the important military position formed by the junction of the Hai and Tigris is to be held by us for future purposes. At present, with the enemy holding one bank and ourselves the other, the use of the river from Sanna-i-yat up to Shumran is denied to the flotillas of both armies. With the whole under our control we should greatly improve our situation, whether for holding or for advancing, besides wiping out the stigma of last year's reverses. Thus the recapture of Kut has become of material importance both to our prestige and to our safety in Mesopotamia. We hope, however, that the War Cabinet will count the cost very fully before allowing success to tempt them to any ambitious advance further. The Mesopotamia expedition requires for its support more shipping in proportion to its size than any other; and though it was necessary up to a point, and our defeats made it necessary up to a further point, one must remember that in itself it can never have any decisive effect on the war as a whole.

America and Constantinople.

The *New York Independent* (January 29), in referring (under the heading, "A New Hand at the Pen") to Mr. Balfour's Note, remarks that it is "a joy to read, merely for its wording," and that "it will carry conviction where a dull State paper would remain unread." It goes on to say:—

We must recognise also the skilfulness of its silences as well as of its wording. It is hardly necessary to argue before Americans that the Turk has forfeited all right to Constantinople, but we should like to know who is to get it. Russia has publicly announced that Great Britain has promised it to her. Great Britain declines either to affirm or to deny this, and Mr. Balfour's note, especially devoted to the question, makes no mention of Russia. Americans would like to see the Sultan ousted from Constantinople. But Americans are very doubtful about the advantages of installing the Czar in his place.

The "Clean-fighting Turk."

On Tuesday *The Times* published an article with the above heading, written by "a distinguished authority on Oriental affairs," who "has had exceptional experience in the ways of the Turk." It begins with the statement: "During the present war we have heard a good deal of the good nature of the Turks, yet they have pursued the most devilish policy that even this war has

seen." The writer then refers to the massacres of Armenians, the starvation of the Lebanese, the outrageous treatment of the Syrian Moslems and the Jewish colonists, and the neglect—to use no harsher term—of the British prisoners of war. Nevertheless, says he, the sportsmanship and chivalry of the Turks is a favourite theme of some writers; and he asks how the paradox is to be explained:—

The plain fact is, that the Turk as a ruler is a merciless oppressor; as a negotiator a cunning Byzantine; as a soldier a tough fighter; as a victor a remorseless bully—but when he feels he has met his match he is chivalrous, when he is defeated he is a pathetic and distressed gentleman. And so he contrives that the Turk has never been in the wrong, no one has ever convicted a Turk of a mean or cruel act. When he is beaten, or near beaten, he would have us believe that the Armenians were killed by wicked Kurds, that the Lebanon famine was a disaster which was beyond the power of man to avert, that the British prisoners died because they were delicate, that the war itself was the work of the Germans (curses on them), and so on.

When his star is in the ascendant, however, the tale is pitched in another key, and we may then "get a glimpse of the seamy side of Turkish mentality, which is made up of the craft of Byzantium, the ruthlessness of the nomad of the Steppe, the cold cruelty of the fanatic." He is a puzzle indeed:—

The Turk has strewn the earth with ruins and has made the prettiest nursery rhymes; he has shattered civilisations both Moslem and Christian; he has coined the most witty and delightful proverbs. He is a thoughtful and solicitous host, an easy-going master, and a mild landlord, but he is a merciless misgovernor, a feckless squanderer, and as revengeful as a camel.

To a certain extent the puzzle may be explained by the difference between the "Old Turk" and the "Young Turk." A pleasing portrait of the former is given by the writer:—

The good old Turk with a rosary, a melting eye, a long white beard, a compliment on his lips, a large turban on his reverend head, a small child nestling in the folds of his ample gown, is a picture which has bewitched many a heart. A philanthropic and gentle philosopher, you will find him contemplating vacuum in many a mosque and shrine in Asia Minor, and no one can deny that he is a good old Turk, charitable, benevolent, and kind; I have no doubt he would save Armenians from pursuit if they came his way, though he would not go a yard to find them; he would surreptitiously convey food to English prisoners just as he would share his last crust with a mangy street dog, for the pious must be kind even to unclean things; but his benevolence is individual and isolated; he is a sort of hermit crab dwelling in a rosy shell of personal philanthropy, he counts for nothing, nor would five million of him count for anything.

This picture is in sharp contrast with that of the "Young Turk" with a German uniform, a German parade voice and German technical education:—

He has been reared in a Stamboul harem; when he was four years old his mama helped him first at table, and taught his elder sister to kiss his hand; his papa taught him that by blood alone could Christian subjects be governed, and that by diplomacy alone could the Christian Powers be set by the ears; his German professors taught him all there was to be known about mass-suggestion, *Weltpolitik*, and high explosives.

Breeding, environment, and education combine to produce a very complete foil to the passive philanthropist of the shrine. This young man is the embodiment of ruthless action and inflexible tyranny. His mother taught him that whatever he wanted was his; his father taught him to hold whatever he got; and his German schoolmaster taught him what he believes to be the universal method of getting what he wants. Moreover, the German professor reinoculated him with some of the destructive virus of his plundering Turanian ancestors. *Yeni-Turan* is the latest creed.

The writer then refers to what the Turks owe to the Arabs, the Persians, the Greeks, and so forth; and declares that the German professor has taught our Young Turk to purge his mind of these lessons, to hark back to the palæolithic state of mind, so to say. And, we read: "so strong is the taint of the Turanian stock which runs through that maze of cross-bred Celts, Sumerians, Hellenes, Iranians, Semites, and Caucasians which we call the Turkish people, that *Yeni-Turan* is a living thing which finds a responsive echo in the Turkey of to-day." Unfortunately:—

The old Turk with a turban is the negative, the young Turk with a Mauser pistol is the positive; and, contrary to all rules of philosophy, it is the evil principle which is positive, and the good, for what it is worth, which is negative.

The violent Young Turk reactionary is the controlling power, the old Turk quietist has about as much influence on actual events as a decaying monument of a forgotten age. The young Turk who snubbed his mother, pulled his sister's hair, kicked the Armenian porter, cringed before his father, gobbled up the dogmas of the German professor, mastered the formulæ of the Prussian military instructor, and resuscitated the dormant lusts

of his savage ancestors in his heart, is the man who counts.

His dream is to exterminate or Turanise everything within reach, and nothing is to stand between it and its realisation.

"In the Heart of Roumania."

Under the above title the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey and J. V. Bates contribute to the February *Fortnightly* another delightful article describing life in Roumania in pre-war days. It opens with a picture of Vaja, a little village near the foot of the North-Eastern Carpathians, and describes the homesteads in some detail. Each is surrounded by its own wattle stockade, topped with thorn bushes.

They are all alike, the little country homes of Free Roumania, the only difference being that some may be prettier than others, and in the hill districts, such as this, they are built of wood, whereas those on the plains are made entirely of clay and wattles. One by one the logs were felled and carted down from the forests which fringe the mountain slopes; one by one they were hewn into beams and fixed securely together into these spacious, one-storied, thatched-roofed cottages. Then, with infinite care, the plaster, compounded of earth and cow dung, was put on. When the clay had been dried by the sun and wind, the walls were whitewashed till they glistened like snow, and, finally, the adornment of the woodwork, the doors, the window sashes, ceilings, and the verandahs was commenced. The clay used for the adorning, which is dyed a warm red, was smeared on carefully in long straight stripes; the pillars, or tree stems, supporting each *prispă* (verandah) and the balustrades of the staircases that lead from the *casa*, or yard, in front of each dwelling, were enlivened by red bands of this clay paint. There are many buildings beside the house itself enclosed within the stockades. In every well-to-do *casa* there stands an outhouse for the cattle, a commodious pigsty and a hen-coop, and, if the family be prosperous, there is a *cosâr*, or barn, for storing maize.

A little later, in connection with the large supply of domestic utensils to be seen in each house, we are told that "it is customary in Roumania to set apart special vessels for use when celebrating the various religious fasts and feasts, for each fast and feast has its own utensils, and these must not be employed except on the special occasion for which they are intended."

It was in this part of the country that when "fell the blighting shadow of the Middle Ages, the hour of the Turkish rule, and the misery of the Greek oppression" . . . "the people who are to-day the purest and strongest element of the Roumanian nation held the passes against their enemies." As to the Greeks, the authors write:—

Undoubtedly the Greeks were the people who wrought the most enduring harm in Roumania, for they laid the seed of class-hatred in the land. Before their coming—not as a conquering warrior host, but as a mean, cruel army of worthless, cowardly adventurers—there existed little, if any, bad blood between the wealthy landowners, the *boiars*, and the peasantry. But with the advent of the Greeks the true *boiars* became demoralised. Little by little the original nobility sank under the Greek influence, and either went down like gentlemen into poverty and oblivion or turned traitor, intermarried with the foes of their country, and learnt and adopted their vices. The peasants were forced to toil for alien masters, in whose eyes they were no better than sheep and oxen, and from this time onward the name *boiar* was altered by the lower classes into the name *ciocoi*, which means an upstart or parvenu. Although the Greeks were eventually sent about their business, they left their evil trail behind them, which can be traced only too plainly in the character of the decadent Roumanian nobility who frequent the capital and whose Roman blood has been tainted by the hated Greek element. Still more plainly also, as it has been said, can the track of the Greek serpent be seen in the bitter animosity which exists between the rich and poor. In most of the mountainous districts, however, the injurious foreigners failed to upset to any very serious degree the good fellowship between the classes.

Articles to Note.

"The Trojan War and Constantinople," by Edward Carpenter, and "Famine and Strategy," in the *Nation* (February 17).

"General Lyantey and his Work," in the *Contemporary Review* (February).

"The End of the Senussi Adventure," in the *Field* (February 17).

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Mr. Henry Charles Woods, who lectured at the Royal Geographical Society on February 19, on the Baghdad Railway, made very intelligent use of the mass of information available regarding that great undertaking, and his main conclusion, that the future of the line must be secured free from enemy domination, was very sound, not to say obvious. He was lamentably adrift when he came to discuss the final sea stage of the trans-continental London to Bombay route, however. Calculating the journey from Busreh to Bombay as rather more than 1,900 miles, it cannot be done, even at the speed of twenty knots, in eighty hours. Four days would be more approximately correct, assuming that the provision of a service of steamers on a twenty-knot contract would be a paying proposition, which I very much doubt.

Sixteen knots would even be an extravagant speed; but even if the Government of India, or whoever becomes responsible, were prepared to sanction so expensive a project, the journey would occupy five days; or—to accept Mr. Woods's estimate of six days from London to Busreh—eleven days for the entire journey. Such a route, it need scarcely be pointed out, would be suitable only for mails and passengers. Would the latter use it? I have my doubts. London to Bombay, via Marseilles or Brindisi and the Suez Canal, takes, say, from fourteen to fifteen days. The journey is comparatively comfortable, the P. and O. people are remarkably efficient in their conduct of the line, and the great majority of travellers would certainly prefer the journey round to the long, monotonous trip across Europe and the Middle East, with all the well-known climatic disadvantages.

The City Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* a few days ago, in discussing certain aspects of the financial situation in India, made an interesting reference to the ultimate destination of the rupees in which the wages of Indian troops employed in Egypt and Mesopotamia are paid. "The rupees," he says, "take a long time to find their way back to India, if they do not remain permanently in Egypt and Mesopotamia." Some of the money, perhaps, does remain in restricted circulation in those countries, but not much. The Indian sepoy, generally speaking, is not a spendthrift; he saves as much of his pay as he can and sends it back to his people. It is probable that the Indian money, up to now, in permanent circulation in Mesopotamia is not great. The interesting question is raised, however, as to what form the future coinage of Mesopotamia will take. Indian, like so many of the British areas in East Africa?

Turks will not have derived much comfort from the statement which Djavid Bey, the Finance Minister, made in the Turkish Senate on February 13, when the House adopted a Bill authorising the Government to accept from Germany advances of £42,500,000, and to issue £732,000,000 of notes. It will be seen from the report, which appears elsewhere

in this issue of THE NEAR EAST, that the Minister of the Imperial Ottoman Government builds up a very optimistic future for Turkey on a series of hypotheses; but he discounted entirely the value of his convictions "that German statesmen would do everything to facilitate Turkey's payment of her debts" by his expression of surprise that the value of the notes, "which will be cashed by Germany in gold," was decreasing, and that the public were "giving three paper pounds for one pound in gold."

The fact is that Germany has no intention of fulfilling any of the promises which have been made to Djavid Bey. If that confiding personage has been hoodwinked—and people of his class are usually difficult to deceive—the Turks themselves refuse to be bluffed, and no more direct or definite testimony regarding the financial position of the Turkish Government could be forthcoming than this obvious and popular vote of no confidence in Turkish paper currency. German statesmen will have so much to do, after the war, to set their own house in order that there will be little time left in which to assist quondam allies who have fallen by the way, even apart from the finer question of good faith. It is obvious that the Turks realise this, and it will be interesting to see how long the Sultan's Ministers will continue to deceive themselves—if they are really doing so. The people who ultimately have the task of adjusting the Turkish financial tangle after the war will be confronted with many grave difficulties.

Cotton producers and shippers in India are directing some little attention to the claim which has been made by Germans on behalf of the typha plant, which, it is alleged, will make the Faderland independent of cotton, jute and wool. Typha is a sort of "cat-tail" plant which grows in marshes and can be worked in threads according to the kind of cloth made. I have heard something of the kind before, and am inclined to think that if before the war the Huns could have made themselves independent of foreign supplies of cotton, jute and wool, they would have done so. It is interesting to note that the United States has been chosen for the publicity campaign on behalf of this addition to the list of German war-time substitutes, and that the correspondent of a Chicago paper has made himself responsible for the statement that "capital has been subscribed by the greatest spinners, merchants, and bankers for the exploitation and manufacture of the material."

I have my doubts. The American Pressman writes with obvious uncertainty. "I have been told" (he writes) "by a Berlin merchant, whose name is known throughout the world, that Germany as early as next year will make enough of the material to equal all the supplies usually imported, largely from America and Egypt." The name of the famous merchant would have added strength to the story. "The discovery is considered of extraordinary importance, and it may make Germany an exporter of this product instead of being an importer of cotton, wool, and flax. The first work with the new capital will be to develop the coarser grades of material, and then,

after further experiments, the finer grade. Real results are expected next year." The italicised words will serve to emphasise that the journalist declined to vouch for the statements made to him. Egypt need not, I think, be afraid of the threatened rival to its cotton.

Some interesting speculations have been rife recently regarding the future population of Mesopotamia, and men who know the country have expressed the view that in many corners of it Sikhs would, after the war, find a happy and profitable scope in it. It is pointed out that the conditions there are almost the same as obtain in parts of the Punjab, that the characteristics of agriculture would be the same in both countries with similarity of climate, and that if the Government of India are entrusted with the administration of affairs—which the establishment of Indian departments would seem to indicate—Indian settlers would find the old conditions ready-made for them in a new land. The subject abounds in interest, and I hope more will be heard of it. Traders from Bombay and Karachi have already established themselves in the Busreh bazaar, and there is a considerable colony of Indian labourers. It is possible now to place money in an Indian post-office savings bank and to buy British postal orders in the Garden of Eden! Mesopotamia was a blessed name in the past before the Turks defiled the land; it would seem that its future will be as happy.

One of the happy results of the expulsion of the Turk from portions of Asia Minor is that the oppressed people of the freed areas are able now to take in hand the planting of what has hitherto been waste land. As is reported in our news pages to-day, the Mayors of the towns in the region of Trebizond have met to discuss the preparation for sowings, and all will join me in the hope that such difficulties as money will not be permitted to interfere with the development of whatever schemes may be decided on as being most suitable. The possibilities, it is unnecessary to point out, are immense. Wheat and other cereals and cotton are among the crops which could be raised with profit. Asia Minor under a new and generous régime should become a great producing area, and a people endowed with great genius—hitherto chained up by barbarous and tyrannical overlords—would not fail to become prosperous and contented.

I am glad to hear from a Cyprus correspondent that although there has been no great development of rural credit societies in the island, as was hoped for under the law passed in 1914, there has been some movement in a few of the larger villages towards co-operation. The main object of the law was, of course, to encourage thrift and self-help, neither virtue being very conspicuous in Cyprus; and the necessary machinery was provided under this measure for the purpose. So far the preaching of co-operation in general has fallen on rather deaf ears, although it would already have proved profitable in many directions. But it must be hoped that more advantage will now be taken of the law referred to as a means of defence against the usurer.

COMMENTATOR.

The Sudan and its Economic Advance.

* No. III.—The Blue Nile Province.

By PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

Prior to 1906 the Blue Nile Province, as a separate political division, did not exist. At that time the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan consisted of only twelve provinces, apportioned into eight first-class and four second-class divisions. The Blue Nile Province, formerly known as the Gezira, was created in 1906; the Nuba Mountains, by separation from Kordofan, was constituted in 1913; and the Sultanate of Darfur, by conquest, was added, as the fifteenth province, to the Sudan as recently as 1916. Thus the approximate area of the Sudan, including Darfur—150,300—is now 984,520 square miles.

Although the Blue Nile ranks as the second smallest among the different provinces, it can boast of possessing one of the largest populations, being exceeded only by the Bahr-el-Ghazal, Kordofan, the Upper Nile, and Mongalla. It is difficult, however, to make anything like an accurate counting of heads in this part of the Sudan, as there is always a roving population invading the province in years of a plentiful rainfall, and, perhaps, remaining in it for two or three years, after which the people either return to their own homes, when they hear that the rains there are good, or move elsewhere when the rains in the Blue Nile are bad. Surprising fluctuations in the total number of inhabitants, therefore, frequently occur, but just at present the population of the province may be put at between 190,000 and 195,000, which, for a territory of not more than 12,580 square miles, cannot be considered unsatisfactory. Although not regarded as "nomads," very many of the tribes, especially the Batahin, the Shukria, and Marharba, come under this description.

Dependence on Rain.

Like most other parts of the Sudan, the Blue Nile Province is dependent for its economic prosperity upon both river-water and seasonal rains. The agricultural crops raised include cotton and *dura*, the former being scientifically cultivated at the Government Experimental Farm, situated at Tayiba. Cattle-raising is another important pursuit, but, here again, much of the success achieved depends upon the rainfall met with. The province, of recent years, has not been very fortunate in this respect, while cattle-plague has still further added to the burdens to be borne by the inhabitants. The last visitation of this kind endured from the end of 1912 almost to the middle of 1914, by which time the entire cattle trade of the province had been dislocated. Locusts have also from time to time devastated the grain and other crops; thus the people have had their full share of trouble; but like the Aeneas of old, their policy was not to yield to misfortune, *sed contra audientior ito*.

For encouragement and assistance they have always looked to the Government, and they have not looked in vain. By showing the people how to help themselves, even in a dry season, by the establishment by the Government of one farm at Managil and another at Tayiba, by foregoing taxes, and even by financing the landowners to a moderate extent, the Administration have shown their practical sympathy with the people. The results obtained were in every way satisfactory, for so soon as things again became

normal, and rains fell in their proper season, the people began to reap the reward of their confidence and their patience. To Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Dickinson, the Governor of those days, much praise is due for his unceasing and indefatigable efforts to improve the condition of the inhabitants, whose lasting gratitude he assuredly must have earned. Colonel Dickinson retired from the Sudan Administration in the early part of 1914, after ten years' valuable service. He was succeeded by Mr. G. E. Iles, formerly Governor of the Halfa Province, and one of the most distinguished Arabic scholars of the day.

Development.

Including the Wad Medani District, the number of *manurias* in the Blue Nile Province is seven. The others are: Abu Deleig, Kamlin, Managil, Mesellemlia, Rufaa, and Wad Medani Town. The latter has been the seat of Government since 1905, growing gradually from a small native settlement into a substantially-built and pleasant-looking town, very agreeably situated on the left bank of the Blue Nile, just above its junction with the Rahad. The original settlement is said to have been founded as far back as 1800 A.D. by one Fiki Medani, whose name is still held in reverence by the people. These latter include representatives of a large number of different sedentary tribes—principally Khawalda, Ayakin, Jaalin, and Medaniim.

Abu Deleig.

No little historical interest attaches to the small native town, or village, of Abu Deleig—historical interest, that is to say, of a kind, for, after all, there is nothing in this African country that can compare with some of the associations in our own country, and some of its venerable institutions, such, for instance, as the Tower of London, the origin of which, like that of the Iliad, that of the Sphinx, or that of the Newton Stone, is lost in those nebulous ages before our definite history took shape. Nevertheless, Abu Deleig is very old. Up to February, 1898, the place, which stands in a melancholy district, treeless and almost grassless, was held by a Dervish force under the command of a redoubtable chieftain named Abd-el-Rahman Wad Abu Dugal; but, notwithstanding his terrifying name and well-known bravery, he was once surprised by irregular troops from Kassala and temporarily defeated. But soon afterwards he surprised them in turn, and took a terrible revenge upon the disturbers of his peace. To-day Abu Deleig is ruled by the Sheikh Mahommed Talha, and forms the headquarters of the tribe of Batahin. They are good and peaceable people, pay their taxes with commendable regularity, and occasion little or no trouble to the Administration. The people show complete confidence in the Government, and to them refer even their most trivial disputes instead of patching them up, with more or less violence, on their own account.

Kamlin is one of the districts of this province, and Eilafuu, its principal village, is both clean and well-kept; it is inhabited by the Mahas and Shaigia tribes, who appear to prosper under the local government of the Omda Mohammed Abd-el-Rahman. The picturesque *tuk'* town is situated on the west bank of the Blue Nile, about seven miles distant from the nearest point of the railway. At one time there existed here a small sugar factory, but nothing except the ruins now remains. Both Managil and Mesellemlia are very fruitful districts, and the waters of the historic Nile, which course through them, are considered more valuable as a fertiliser than those of the White Nile. And the richness of the pasture-lands and of the sub-soil found in these districts abundantly justifies the belief. Rufaa, situated some ninety-five miles from Khartoum by land and 104 by river, has a population of nearly 30,000,

composed mainly of Shukria Arabs. In size and importance the town ranks next to Wad Medani itself.

Pictures of Prosperity.

The whole of the Blue Nile Province strikes the traveller as forming one of the most pleasing and satisfying pictures of prosperity. By far the larger yield of *dura* comes from this district; others which contribute notably are the White Nile, Sennar and Kassala. In 1909, the Blue Nile produced 155,000 out of the total of 258,000 tons of *dura* raised in the four provinces named; while, in 1914, the same district produced 125,000 out of the total, for the four provinces, of 250,600 tons.

In the administration of his province the Governor, Mr. G. E. Iles, is assisted by four inspectors, Mr. J. W. Sagar, the Senior; Mr. H. C. Jackson, Second; and Messrs. T. McNeill and R. V. Bardsley, Third Inspectors. Mr. R. K. Winter, a very capable lawyer and Arabic legal authority, is the district judge, with Wad Medani as his headquarters. Two of the Inspectors, Messrs. McNeill and Bardsley, are located at Kamlin and Rufaa respectively.

THE BLOCKADE.

There was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette*, issued on Wednesday, the text of an Order-in-Council, made on February 16, in regard to tightening the blockade of enemy countries, as the result of the German blockade memorandum of February 1 and the similar directions by other enemy Powers.

"Whereas," the order proceeds, "these enemy orders are in flagrant contradiction of the rules of international law, the dictates of humanity and the treaty obligations of the enemy and render it necessary for further measures to be adopted in order to maintain the efficiency of those previously taken to prevent commodities reaching, or leaving, enemy countries, His Majesty has ordered that the following directions shall be observed in respect of all vessels which sail from their port of departure after the date of this order.

"(1) A vessel which is encountered at sea on her way to or from a port in any neutral country affording means of access to the enemy territory, without calling at a port in British or Allied territory, shall, until the contrary is established, be deemed to be carrying goods with an enemy destination, or of enemy origin, and shall be brought in for examination and, if necessary, for adjudication before the prize court.

"(2) Any vessel carrying goods with an enemy destination or of enemy origin shall be liable to capture and condemnation in respect of the carriage of such goods provided that in the case of any vessel which calls at an appointed British or Allied port for the examination of her cargo, no sentence of condemnation shall be pronounced in respect of only the carriage of goods of enemy origin or destination, and no such presumption, as is laid down in article one, shall arise.

"(3) Goods which are found on the examination of any vessel to be goods of enemy origin, or of enemy destination, shall be liable to condemnation.

"(4) Nothing in this order shall be deemed to affect the liability of any vessel or goods to capture or condemnation independently of this order.

"(5) This order is supplemental to the orders in council of March 11, 1915, and January 10, 1917, for restricting the commerce of the enemy."

The Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt invites offers for the purchase of the printing machinery, papers, and accessories of A. Safaronsky, Cairo (in liquidation).

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

* Previous articles in this series appeared in THE NEAR EAST of December 29, 1916, and February 2.

THE SUDAN TIMES.
PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.
For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—
**THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.**

THE COTTON TRADE.

No Improvement in Lancashire Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

So far as fresh business is concerned, the market during the past week has shown practically no improvement whatever, and producers of yarn and cloth continue to experience a very dragging demand. The outlook with regard to the future course of events is as uncertain as ever, and buyers all along the line are refusing to commit themselves to fresh contracts of importance.

Much more difficulty is now being experienced in moving goods on land and sea, and the ports are becoming very congested, shipping facilities being much less favourable than a few weeks ago. Many merchant houses are finding a large part of their capital locked up, and the financial side of trading has to receive more attention than in ordinary times.

Although the Egyptian cotton crop for this season will not be so encouraging as at one time expected, there are reports of preparations being made for a big acreage for next year. It is generally realised that difficulties are increasing as to obtaining supplies of raw cotton in this country, and it is quite possible that the Government will decide to issue regulations with regard to imports.

The inquiry in piece goods for Egypt has been on small lines, and although some attempts have been made at transactions, not much has been done. Buyers fear what may happen during the next few weeks, and are inclined to limit their purchases as much as possible.

A very disappointing inquiry continues to be reported for India, and the few offers put forward have been a long way out. The position in Calcutta and Bombay, however, is said to be improving.

The general demand for China continues rather better. Finishing and bleaching cloths have again moved off in moderate lots, and some business has been about in grey staples, chiefly in the poorer qualities.

The position of manufacturers as a whole tends to become worse, and in some weaving districts certain firms are faced with the possibility of looms having to stop for want of orders. The prospects for spinners remain very poor.

In the American section a little more business has been done on certain days at very low figures, especially for stock lots. Producers are determined not to accumulate supplies at the mills. Cases have been mentioned of coarse numbers being sold at a loss.

Export trade in yarns at the moment is demoralised by the uncertainty as to the shipping situation, and producers are pressing for fresh contracts. Egyptian yarns have been rather firmer in quotation, but no particular development in the offtake can be recorded.

NEW CONTRACT FOR EGYPTIAN COTTON.

The new Egyptian cotton contract form which has been adopted by the Liverpool Cotton Association, and which, it is intended, will come into force on November 1 next, make provision for Sudan cotton. It is headed: "— Bales. Egyptian and/or Sudan cotton delivery contract note. 12th February, 1917." In specifying the amount to be delivered the note says: "not lower in grade than good fair, of any growths, at the price of — pence per lb. for fully good fair Sakellaridis standard quality of the Liverpool Cotton Association, Ltd.; with additions or deductions for other qualities according to their value as compared with the spot value of fully good fair Sakellaridis on the day the cotton is tendered, allowance to seller not to exceed 3d. per lb. Sudan cotton, with the exception of that grown from American seed, may only be tendered on this contract provided the staple is not inferior to the average staple of Upper Egyptian cotton." The rules of the Association as in force at the date when any question arises under the contract are to apply, even if the rules have been altered from the form in which they appear at the back of the contract note.

LANCASHIRE COTTON STOCKS.

About a fortnight ago Lancashire users of raw cotton were requested by the Government to supply particulars of their stocks in hand, and to estimate their consumption during the next few months. It is understood that these statistics are about to be used in connection with the import question.

It is not usual for users in this country to keep large supplies at the mills. The stock of American cotton in Liverpool at the moment is 742,000 bales, against 579,000 bales at the same time last year. The average weekly consumption of Lancashire spinners is about 60,000 bales. Any interference with imports is bound to affect prices. About 80 per cent. of the cotton goods manufactured in Lancashire are sent abroad.

EMPIRE COTTON-GROWING.

Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, chairman of the Council of the British Cotton-growing Association, gave an address at Manchester on February 16 on "The development of the cotton-growing resources of the Empire." He said those actively engaged in the cotton trade were so accustomed to thinking in terms of American and Egyptian cotton that probably few realised that even at the present time something like 5½ million bales of cotton are produced in the British Empire. India herself requires more than half her crop of short-staple cotton, the latter estimated at 4,000,000 bales of 500 lb. As to the future, the West Indies could produce all the Sea Island cotton we required, but the production depended on the price and on whether the industry was sufficiently remunerative to the planters.

In the Sudan, Mr. Hutton said, the Gezira scheme is the only proposition which offers any prospect of producing an appreciable quantity of high-class cotton in the immediate future.

GOODS COMMANDEERED BY GERMANS

A case was heard recently in Hawick (Scotland) Sheriff Court, in which Messrs. Alfred H. Midwood and Co., Ltd., Leicester, sought leave to proceed with special dispatch on a decree obtained against Mr. John B. Currie, tweed merchant, Hawick, for £97 for goods supplied. It was stated, on behalf of Mr. Currie, who pleaded the Emergency Powers Act as a special defence, that the goods were supplied prior to the outbreak of hostilities. They were sent principally to Roumania and Austria, passing through German territory, and on the way a considerable portion of the goods was commandeered by the Germans. Owing to the war, the moneys due had not yet been recovered, and a claim was being put in against the German Government by the forwarding agent at Bucharest for the goods they took. The Sheriff held that the Emergency Powers Act applied to this case, and refused the plaintiffs leave to proceed further at present.

GERMAN CANAL ACTIVITY.

With reference to traffic on inland waterways in Germany, the *Neueste Nachrichten* (Munich) states that at the next sitting of the Landtag the Bavarian Ministry of Commerce will probably ask for 5,000,000 marks for the preliminary expenses of a scheme for connecting the Danube with the Main. It is proposed that the waterway should extend from Aschaffenburg (on the Bavarian north-west frontier) to Passau (on the Austrian frontier), and should accommodate ships of 1,200 tons burden. The cost is estimated at 650,000,000 marks (mark equals 11.8d. at par), not including the cost of constructing quays and of connecting Munich and Augsburg with the system. The locks are to be constructed to accommodate two 1,200-ton ships side by side.

ASIA MINOR CULTIVATION.

The correspondent of the Central News at Petrograd telegraphed on February 21 that on the previous day an important meeting was held at Trebizond of the mayors of the towns in the region.

Measures were discussed for the development of uncultivated land in Asia Minor; and among the schemes considered was one for the provision of seeds for the population in preparation for the coming sowings.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The consumption of Marsala (Italian) wine is increasing rapidly in Algeria.

The clock will be put forward one hour throughout France and in Algeria in the night of March 3-4.

An official bulletin issued at Cairo says the wheat crop is estimated to be normal in Lower Egypt and 99 per cent. in Upper Egypt.

A Greek ship and the Norwegian steamer Breim collided three miles off Biarritz on February 17. The Breim sank in a quarter of an hour. Her crew was saved.

German interests in Egypt, which have hitherto been under the care of the United States Consul-General, have now been placed under the charge of the Swedish representative.

The Greek Minister of the Interior has instructed the Food Commission to reduce the bread ration for the wealthier classes from 160 grammes (5½ ozs.) to 80 grammes (2½ ozs.) per head. It is proposed shortly to allow the same classes bread only twice a week.

Telegraphic advices from New York announce (says a Paris contemporary) that M. Seferovitch, the distinguished Consul-General of Montenegro in that city, has resigned. He is the fifth representative of the little Balkan kingdom who has given up his position since December last.

The provisional Hellenic Government in Macedonia has decided to establish a bi-weekly steamer service—the headquarters of which will be at Salonika—in order to serve regularly the islands which have adhered to the national movement. The steamers engaged in the work are of 500 to 600 tons net register, and serve Lemnos, Chios, Mytilene and Crete.

The French Ministry of War intends, through the local authorities, to buy up all the wool shorn in Algeria in 1917. Wool of all kinds will be requisitioned, but waste will, for the present, be left at the free disposal of holders. Waste from Algiers has of late been going to Marseilles, Mazamet, and Paris in considerable quantities, but has not given satisfaction to buyers, as the lots were sandy and dirty. Lots from the Bona district were better, but were also considerably dearer.

The C.P.R. steamship Princess Charlotte will make three round trips in the Alaska tourist service this year, which becomes effective on June 8. The list of sailings between Victoria, Vancouver, and Skagway, which has just been announced by the B.C. Coast Service, provides for three round-trip sailings for the Princess Charlotte, seven for the Princess Alice, and seven for the Princess Sophia, making seventeen round-trip sailings all told for the summer season. The accommodation on the Princess Charlotte will be largely reserved for parties booking in the East.

The Allies' blockade, says a message to *The Times*, is beginning to tell on Greece. To-day (February 19) seven-eighths of an ounce of bread per person was distributed in Athens, and yesterday none at all was available till mid-day. There does not appear to be a great lack of rice, macaroni, vegetables, and other similar foods, but the shopkeepers are selling them at high prices, and the situation is difficult for the poorer classes. The number of beggars has largely increased in Athens, but there are not obvious signs of distress. Nevertheless, Piræus workmen are beginning to arrive in the capital, going up and down the streets in search of work.

BUSINESS MAN, many years' commercial experience in Egypt, East and West Africa, etc., seeks situation as AGENT or REPRESENTATIVE; free to go any country.—Write Box B.M., care of THE NEAR EAST Offices, Devonshire Square, E.C.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, February 22.

Currants.

The market has been very active this past week, with a strong demand for all kinds, and prices have again advanced. Provincials are all cleared. Amalias are quoted 80s. to 84s., Patras 84s. to 85s., Gulf 84s. to 86s., Vostizza 85s. to 87s., Zante 82s. to 84s., and smalls, which are apparently in good supply, but not in much demand, 75s. to 84s.

Sultanas.

There has been only a limited demand during the week, mostly for Afghanistan fruit, while Australian and Greeks are comparatively quiet. Prices, however, are very firm, holders expecting a further advance in the near future.

Figs.

There has been only a moderate demand, with few transactions at late full rates.

Dates.

There is a good demand for all kinds, particularly for Persian, which are firmly held at last week's prices.

Seeds.

Linseed has been steady and sellers are more reserved. Calcutta to London, Feb.-March, is offered at 113s., Bombay ditto 114s., and Bombay to Hull, spot and afloat, was sold at 109s.; Feb.-March, also 109s. asked, with small grain afloat, at 107s.

Rapeseed is firm and dearer owing to scanty offerings. Ferozepore to London is not offered, whilst brown Cawnpore, prompt, is offered at 95s., with few buyers. Cotton seed is firm, and sellers rather scarce. Egyptian to London, spot f.a.q., is quoted at £19 15s., and prompt £19 10s.; Sakelarides, spot, offered at £19 to Hull, spot f.a.q., offered at £19 15s., whilst prompt was sold at £19 15s., and Sakelarides, afloat, sold at £19, with Bombay to Hull afloat at £18 15s. Rangoon beans are sparingly offered, and the market is strong. Spot is held at £53 per ton ex store, with new crop at £45 to £41 per ton, c.i.f. terms, according to position. Canary seed rules firm, on spot, at 125s. to 134s. per 464 lbs. ex store, as in quality.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm and dearer. Spot pipes offered at £51 10s., with spot barrels at £52; March-April, £53 15s.; May-Aug., £54 17s. 6d.; and Sept.-Dec. at £56. Rape oil continues very firm, with English in barrels, spot, at £59. Cotton oil is firm, with crude pipes spot at £49, refined pale pipes £52 10s., and sweet barrels £58 to £60. Olive oil is very little offered, and values remain nominal.

Oilcakes.

Cotton-seed cake, Egyptian, nominal, at Hull is offered at £15 10s., with Bombay at £14 15s. Linseed cake is quoted at £19 5s.

Cotton-seed meal continues scarce, and is firmly held, with American on spot quoted nominally at £17 10s. to £17 15s. per ton ex store net.

Locust Beans.—Values, owing to absence of offering, are nominal.

DEBTS DUE FROM OUR ENEMIES.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons on Wednesday, said:—"A Committee was appointed by the Treasury on November 13, 1916, under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., to report on the arrangements to be adopted for the liquidation of the commercial, banking, and other financial transactions between British and enemy persons, the completion of which was prevented by the outbreak of war, and for this purpose to consider the returns made to the custodians of enemy property and to the Public Trustee and the Foreign Claims Office and any information on matters relating thereto. The members of the Committee are:—Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., chairman, the Right Hon. Donald Maclean, M.P., the Hon. M. Macnaghten, Sir Algernon Firth, Sir William Plender, Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, of the Foreign Office, Mr. Brien Cokayne, Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Walter Leaf, Mr. Stewart, Public Trustee, Mr. J. J. Wills, of the Board of Trade. The secretary of the Committee is Mr. H. Mead Taylor, Gwydyr House, Board of Trade."



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.**

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Ural Caspian Oilfields.

The results of recent explorations in the Ural Caspian oil-bearing area has confirmed the impression that there is a great wealth of oil there. Numerous signs of oil have also been found many miles from the original fountain area. Telephones, telegraphs, and electric lighting have been installed on the fields, and the Gurief-Embe road is prepared to carry a motor service. Many ambars and reservoirs were erected before the war, while boring was carried on by day and by night. Enormous sums of money, it is proposed, will be spent in deepening the waterway and providing a port. A railway is also to be constructed to Astrakhan, and for this purpose a party of engineers was about to proceed with a survey when the war broke out. In view of these encouraging facts, and the present excellent relations between Britain and Russia, competent British contractors, engineers, and others interested in such enterprises should avail themselves of the present opportunity to study the requirements of that important district, and secure, in due time, some of the contracts for constructional work or machinery that will soon be required there and elsewhere.

Oil-drilling.

We have had occasion previously to refer to the system of oil-drilling that is employed in the South Russian oilfields, and to point out the opportunities which were open to British engineers if they desired to interest themselves in that direction. It is known that the only system of drilling used in the Maikop field is the Austro-Canadian. It is also the one employed, with slight modifications, in the Grozny field, where, before the war, there were more than 360 wells. The plant was said to give satisfactory results. The old Russian Freefall was formerly tried there, but it proved too cumbersome and expensive. Of course, in the Baku fields the latter rig is still the only one in use, nothing else having ever been found suitable, owing to the peculiar nature of the strata; but it is surprising why, when exploration work is being started in a new field, a trial is not given to the newer system, beginning with as wide a diameter as possible. It is less expensive, and capable of going down 4,500 to 5,000 feet. Anyhow, it gives excellent results in Maikop, where the strata is by no means easy to drill in. This oil-drilling outfit can, we are told, be supplied from England.

Old Water-lifts.

At a recent show a new water elevator was exhibited which recalled the water-lifts which have been in use throughout the Near East, Egypt, and India from time immemorial. It is constructed on a remarkably simple principle, which does away with the use of tubes, plungers, pistons, and valves, and to which motive power can be readily applied, either hand or engine. An endless chain is fitted with circular cups, the distance between the cups being about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. This chain is supported and made to revolve by an axle. The lower end is allowed to fall into the water or the fluid to be raised, the result being that as the chain cups pass through they are filled, and fluid is brought to the surface in considerable quantity. When it is desired to raise larger quantities and quickly, the cup chains can be used in parallel, double, or triple form. The chains are supplied in various lengths, and can easily be increased in length if the depth of the well requires it. It is said that from a well 250 ft. deep 240 gallons of water have been raised in an hour with the aid of a 1-h.p. petrol engine. The principle, it will be seen, is almost similar to that used by the "natives"

throughout the East for irrigating gardens and small plantations, but, of course, are more compact and efficient in work and less bulky in appearance. It will undoubtedly find a welcome in the East if properly introduced; it will appeal to the "natives" as an improvement on a method which they already know.

The German Way.

In their efforts to capture the Eastern markets, the Germans observed that modern mechanical means, or apparatus for pumping or lifting water from wells or other low-lying sources in the East, would be a line of business worthy of effort. A German firm endeavoured to introduce in Asia Minor and Palestine oil engines of 3 or 4 h.p. for pumping water more rapidly than it could be lifted by mules or oxen. At first no one would try these engines, garden proprietors in particular looking on them with suspicion. Finally, however, the agent of the firm in question volunteered to set up an experimental engine, free of expense, in one of the gardens, and it was found to work so well that several orders were at once placed. When first set to work these engines were made to pump up the water, but it was found that the pipes frequently became clogged with mud and sand. The enterprising German firm did not give up their attempts, and in order to secure sales suggested a very simple adjustment of the engine belt in connection with the old water wheel, which, with its buckets, was made to rotate, and the water was raised as formerly, but at a considerably greater speed. It was then found that an oil-engine could fill one of the large reservoirs in about six hours at half the daily cost of three or four mules, and the gain of the garden proprietors was, therefore, manifest. Ever since the employment of oil engines has annually increased, and of the many hundreds that were in operation before the war, two-thirds at least were of German manufacture, the remainder being British. In the meantime, the old water-wheels with their buckets have been gradually replaced by chain buckets or other modern water lifts. In recent years there has been a marked preference for British-made oil-engines, especially those embodying compactness and simplicity in construction, a matter not to be overlooked when it is considered that the engines are placed mainly in charge of native labourers.

LIQUID FUELS.

"The Nearest Approach to the Ideal."

Professor J. S. S. Brame, F.C.S., delivered an interesting lecture on February 20 at a meeting of Petroleum Technologists on "Liquid Fuel and Its Combustion."

Until recently, he said, the term "liquid fuel" was understood to refer exclusively to the heavier classes of oil used as fuel under boilers or in furnaces for metallurgical or other general heating purposes. With the introduction of the internal combustion engine, "liquid fuel" has acquired a much wider significance, and now covers the whole wide range of petroleum and shale-oil products, from the light petrol to heavy oils formerly only used for combustion; it includes also such fuels as benzol and alcohol.

The practical results which have followed the introduction of the latter type of engine for liquid fuel are of vast importance. The high-speed motor-car is familiar to all. The mastery of the problem of flight, for which man strove so long in vain, was accomplished through the petrol motor. That command of the deep through the submarine, which is playing such an important part in our national history, has been pos-

sible through the petrol motor in the first place, and has been extended and strengthened by the heavy-oil engine of the Diesel type. The air and the sea have been brought into subjection by man through the agency of oil.

Internal Combustion Engines.

"I do not propose to-night" (proceeded Professor Brame) "to deal with the whole subject of the use of liquid fuel, but to confine myself to the use of oil fuel when burnt free in air for steam-raising and other industrial heating operations. It will be better for me to treat this fairly large section of the subject as thoroughly as time permits rather than attempt what would have to be a somewhat sketchy outline of the whole subject if the use of liquid fuels in internal combustion engines were included."

"Suffice it to say that by the introduction of these engines the petroleum derivatives of every grade have been rendered serviceable to man as liquid fuels. Prior to use in internal combustion engines it was only the crude oils with very little low-boiling constituents present or heavy residues from crude oils which were applied as fuel oils. Now the range includes everything, from the lighter petrols, the illuminating oils, the intermediate oils, until finally the heavy fuel oils find their application in engines of the Diesel type."

"Again, I may be very brief on the question of sources and general production of oil fuel. In the Near East suitable fuel oils are obtained in Russia, Galicia and Roumania. In the East supplies come from Borneo, Burmah and more recently from Persia. In the West we have large outputs from California, Texas, and Mexico. The Trinidad supplies are naturally of interest to the people in the Mother Country. The proximity of some of the latter supplies to the great trade route which must be expected to develop through the Panama Canal will be an important factor contributing to the extended use of oil in ships. To the East again no great distances have to be traversed to put oil supplies on very important trade routes."

"The characters which a fuel oil should possess are high calorific value, fluidity at moderately low temperatures, freedom from solid matter which may choke the jets of atomisers or cause trouble through abrasion, and a satisfactorily high flash-point."

Methods of Combustion.

"Among the earliest methods which were used for the combustion of oil fuel were the open Nobel troughs and percolation on a porous bed of non-combustible material. The most natural further development followed, namely, attempts to gasify the oil and burn the oil-gas, but the general failure of such systems as gasification of heavy oils led naturally to attempts to burn the oil in the next best physical condition, namely, in the form of a fine spray."

"In the satisfactory combustion of oil fuel, assuming, of course, that an atomiser of efficient type has been installed, everything depends on suitable furnace arrangements. Too much stress can hardly be laid on this point. In general, experience of combustion has been gained with solid fuel, and, although certain guiding principles apply in all cases of combustion, conditions necessary for the proper combustion of a large quantity of oil are very different from those governing the combustion of solid fuel."

"All petroleum men have faith in oil fuel as being the nearest approach to the ideal fuel, if burnt under conditions founded on sound theory. I have endeavoured to expound these principles to-night. All look forward to its attaining increased importance in the future, especially in internal-combustion engines."

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
11 of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARREHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND

Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Vertical Engines, Sectors and Supersectors, Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating, Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MACHRYA.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2044.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.

(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.

EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.

Telegrams: Occyfrid.

TRADE WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

Will Imperial Preference be Adopted?

The Committee appointed by Mr. Asquith, when Prime Minister, under the chairmanship of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, to consider and report on Commercial and Industrial Policy on the subject of Imperial Preference has been submitted. The resolutions passed by the Committee have been issued as a White Paper and are accompanied by a covering letter to the Prime Minister, dated February 2 last, to which are appended two memoranda, one by Sir Frederick H. Smith, and the other by Messrs. John O'Neill and R. Hazleton.

The resolutions are as follows:—

(1) In the light of experience gained during the war, we consider that special steps must be taken to stimulate the production of food-stuffs, raw materials, and manufactured articles within the Empire, wherever the expansion of production is possible and economically desirable for the safety and welfare of the Empire as a whole.

(2) We therefore recommend that H.M. Government should now declare their adherence to the principle that preference should be accorded to the products and manufactures of the British Overseas Dominions in respect of any Customs duties now or hereafter to be imposed on imports into the United Kingdom.

(3) Further, it will, in our opinion, be necessary to take into early consideration, as one of the methods of achieving the above objects, the desirability of establishing a wider range of Customs duties, which would be remitted or reduced on the products and manufactures of the Empire, and which would form the basis of commercial treaties with Allied and Neutral Powers.

To Meet the Dominions.

The covering letter is signed by Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Chairman), Mr. Balfour, Lord Faringdon, Mr. Alfred Booth, Mr. Harry Gosling, L.C.C., Mr. J. Wardle, M.P., Prof. W. A. S. Hewins, Sir Charles Parsons, and others.

In the course of this letter the Committee state that they had not considered the position of the great staple industries in regard to this question of industrial policy, as they felt bound to wait for the reports of the Special Committees appointed by the Board of Trade. The announcement that an Imperial Conference will be held at an early date made it, in their judgment, expedient to state their opinions in the form of the resolutions given.

The Committee say that they have arrived at the conclusions chiefly on the ground that although to some of them any measures which might act in restraint of trade were in the abstract distasteful, they think it necessary that, for the sake of the unity of the Empire, a serious attempt should now be made "to meet the declared wishes of the Dominions and Colonies for the development of their economic relations with the United Kingdom, and that any abstract opinions we may hold should not, under the circumstances in which we are placed and with the experience gained during the war, stand in the way of any measures which are seen to be important, having regard to the general interests of the Empire."

Sacrifices and Compensations.

In recalling the resolutions of the Colonial Conference of 1902, the Committee say that whatever controversies may have arisen in the past, they think that, regard being had in particular to the sacrifices made and the services rendered by our fellow subjects overseas for a common purpose during the present war, the time has now arrived at which this request should be granted to the fullest extent which is now or may hereafter become practicable.

They did not overlook the practical difficulties involved, but they desire to emphasise the fact that for the purpose of recovering trade lost during the war, of securing new markets, and of consolidating the resources of the British Empire the development throughout the Empire of a system of mutual tariff preferences was a subject which cannot, in their opinion, any longer be neglected.

Measures must be devised to safeguard the interests of the consumer and the rightful demand of labour.

Sir F. H. Smith, in a memorandum, says that in his opinion it would be desirable before arriving at any conclusions on the subject they should meet the representatives of the Dominions for a confidential discussion, at which the question of our commercial relations with our Allies and other practical difficulties could be fully and freely discussed.

DEAL IN SUEZ CANAL SHARES.

In the Court of the Lord Mayor of London on February 19, before Sir Forrest Fulton, K.C., the Recorder, and a jury, a claim was made by Mr. Charles William Gordon, trading as Charles W. Gordon and Co., stock and share dealers, Broad Street House, E.C., against Mr. A. L. Dunning, Bankside, Eskdale Avenue, Chesham, for £10 16s. 10d., difference in the price of a deal in Suez Oil shares.

The plaintiffs' case was that the defendant got into touch with the plaintiffs, and made one or two purchases of Rhodesian shares which apparently were rather successful. He then purchased 250 Suez Oil shares and did not pay for them, and after a great deal of leniency on the part of the plaintiffs the shares were closed against the defendant by being taken in at a price. The plaintiffs were suing for the differences between the price at which the defendant had agreed to purchase the shares and that at which they were closed against him.

Mr. John Gordon, manager of the plaintiff firm, said that the 250 Suez Oil shares were sold to the defendant in June at 2s. 1d., they having bought them from Messrs. E. M. Vowler and Co., stockbrokers, at 1s. 10½d. A transfer in respect of the shares was sent to the defendant to be executed. In October, 1916, in consequence of the defendant not having paid for the shares they were bought back by Mr. Gordon at 1s. 3d., that price being based upon the market price of the day. The price of the shares now was 1s. 6d. to 2s.

In cross-examination, witness said the bargain with the defendant was a share-dealing transaction, not a stockbroking one. The parties were principals.

At the close of the plaintiffs' case counsel submitted there was no case for the defendant to answer. The plaintiffs claimed "a balance of a stockbroking account" and for moneys paid by the plaintiffs on account of the defendant and on an account stated. The whole of the evidence given on behalf of the plaintiffs was directly contrary to such a claim.

The Recorder held that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover, and he directed the jury to return a verdict for the defendant. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

CLAIM FOR PRIZE BOUNTY REJECTED.

Judgment was given in the Prize Court in London, on Wednesday, in an application by Commander Boyle, in respect of the torpedoing, by submarine E14, of a Turkish transport, carrying 6,000 troops. The claim was that £5 per head bounty should be paid in respect of these troops as well as of the crew of 200.

Sir Samuel Evans, the judge, said, in his view, an armed ship must be a fighting unit of a fleet and it had not been shown that this transport was such a ship. He therefore disallowed the claim, but without prejudice to a further application if additional evidence was forthcoming.

MALTESE LABOUR FOR FRANCE.

Mr. Walter Long, M.P., Secretary for the Colonies, announced recently in the House of Commons that he was consulting the authorities in Malta with regard to the suggestion that men there should be enrolled in labour corps for service in France. A message from the island, dated February 15, points out that Malta has already provided several battalions of such corps. The first of these displayed great coolness under fire and earned unstinted praise. Several officers of the Malta Militia serving with the corps were recently mentioned in despatches.

GERMAN "LOAN" TO TURKEY.

According to a Constantinople telegram and the German newspapers, the Turkish Senate on February 13 adopted a Bill authorising the Government to accept from Germany advances to 42½ million pounds (Turkish), and to issue 32 million pounds of banknotes, says Reuter's correspondent in Amsterdam.

In the course of his speech the Finance Minister, Djavid Bey, pointed out that the advances from Germany and Austria-Hungary since the outbreak of war amounted to 79 million pounds, repayable eleven years after the conclusion of peace.

His journeys to Berlin, continued the Minister, had convinced him that German statesmen would do everything to facilitate Turkey's payment of her debts, and that they were even ready to give Turkey, apart from these advances, the necessary money for her reorganisation after the war.

"If these hopes are realised," he declared, "if we receive this favour, and if we succeed during the years following the war in securing for our country 100 or 150 million pounds, then, provided that this money is spent on agriculture, railways, and the building of roads and factories, Turkey will be able in ten years to cover her ordinary expenditure, and the interest on the sinking fund, on the national debt, and on the debts contracted during the war."

After pointing out that the advances would not be guaranteed by any receipts until they had been converted into consolidated loans, when the question of the necessary guarantees would be decided, he explained that the banknotes issued were not paper money, but notes which would be cashed by Germany in gold, and he expressed his surprise that the value of these notes was decreasing, and that the public were giving three paper pounds for one pound in gold.

WANTED—ORGANISATION.

We have, then, to organise our merchant shipping (borrowing a lesson or two from the elaborate system of tariffs framed by the Deutsche-Levante Linie and other steamship companies for facilitating the despatch of goods in inland towns in Germany to inland towns in foreign countries), writes a correspondent in the *Financier*, in the course of an article on the British Consular System. Above all, we have to educate and organise our commercial travellers and trade agents abroad, so that, in addition to any paltry percentages or other direct profits of their work, they may feel that they are parts of a great and a properly-recognised and organised institution, which by promoting British trade is also propagating British methods, and instilling into the inhabitants of the waste places of the earth that love of liberty which lies at the root of British greatness and is at this moment destroying the most formidable and highly-developed system of tyranny that ever menaced mankind.

The mere mention of the Consular Service in the same breath with the great issues for which Great Britain and her Colonies are fighting side by side with their Allies, not to mention the neutral countries, who are really suffering in the same cause, or the United States of America, whose entrance into the lists appears to be merely a matter of time—seems to be a bathos.

Let the British nation organise itself for trade as it is organising itself for war, and the organisation of the Consular Service and of all other Government services at home or abroad will very quickly expand to meet the new demands made upon them.

BANNED FIRMS.

It is notified that persons and firms in the United Kingdom are prohibited from trading with the following:—

Dukali, Nokhtar ben el Maati, Laraiche; Kuhlmann, Alfred, Laraiche; and Nolting, Fritz, Laraiche.

The names of the undermentioned have been removed from the list of persons and firms with whom persons and firms in the United Kingdom are prohibited from trading:—

Amir, Taher Ben, Laraiche; Odadih, Joseph Brahim, Laraiche; Soudry (Essoudry), Samuel (Soudry, Mordechai and Elias), Laraiche.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., was held on February 19 at Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C., Sir Alexander Roger (the Chairman) presiding.—The Secretary (Mr. H. O. King, F.C.I.S.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—You see that I am alone to-day. I am sorry to say that Mr. Cruickshank—owing, no doubt, to the very heavy burden of public work which he shoulders—is ill, and is unable to be with us. I am sure you will hope with me that he will speedily recover. (Hear, hear.) So far as Major Goldie is concerned, he is with his troops, and, I am glad to say, is well. Gentlemen, the feature of our accounts this year is the unexpected recovery in our profit and loss account. For the first time in ten years—long before I was associated with the company—we have a credit balance, and I think it will interest you to have a résumé of the figures over the past ten years. In 1906 we had a credit balance in our profit and loss account of £11,800 odd; in 1907 the bottom fell out of Egypt generally, and our profit and loss account showed a debit balance of £13,300 odd; in 1909 this was increased to £16,000 odd, and from that date to this it has been a steadily decreasing item until, as I have said, this year, for the first time in ten years, shows a credit balance. (Hear, hear.) So far as this year is concerned, I doubt whether we are going to have as good a year as last year. For the most part our increase in revenue has been owing to one or two investments entering the ranks of dividend-earners, and so long as that continues our improvement will be maintained, but I am not quite certain whether it will continue. So far as our expenses are concerned, we have again "achieved the impossible," and reduced our expenses for the third time; and in this connection I should just like to make an acknowledgment to the auditors, who have again reduced their fee. So far as the balance is concerned, we propose that it should be carried forward. As regards the balance-sheet, I do not think I have anything of importance to say with respect to the debit side. On the credit side you will notice that the amount of our investments has been reduced, and our deficit on realisations has been increased by practically a similar sum. This, as you will imagine, is owing to our selling some of our non-dividend-payers and investing the proceeds in dividend-earners. I should like to draw your attention to the fact that even with our very limited resources we had at December 31 £5,000 invested in the French Loan. I am glad to say that we have also applied for £5,000 of the new British Loan. (Hear, hear.)

The bulk of our interest is still in Egypt, and we are naturally deeply interested in the position of that country. By a curious turn of the wheel of fortune, Egypt was probably never more prosperous than it is to-day. The presence of a large British army has brought trade, and has provided an outlet for native produce, while the price of cotton—now about 1s. 7d. a lb., compared with 11d. a year ago—has put money into everybody's pockets. Exports, both in value and in quantity, have increased, and trade generally is distinctly on the up grade. The fellah is having a prosperous time, and is not only paying up current balances due to the mortgage companies, but is actually anticipating future instalments. I often think that Egypt is not adequately appreciated by the business community of this country, and I wish that the great opportunity which lies there for British brains and energy were more widely known. Egypt has a unique situation, standing on the highway to the East. It has a prolific soil, abundance of labour, and a vast and rich hinterland from which to draw tribute. In the past much of the wealth and trade has been in the hands of German and other foreign interests when they might well have been in British or French hands; but I am glad to say that German interests are being vigorously stamped out, and I sincerely trust they will be replaced by strong British interests. (Hear, hear.) There is a large amount of capital in this country invested in Egypt, and shareholders should insist that the directors resident in Egypt responsible for their interests

should in all cases be approved by them. When Turkey disappears from Europe and establishes its capital in Asia Minor, the importance of a strong and prosperous Egypt will become more than ever apparent, and if British and French trading is protected and fostered, I can think of no more effective barrier between Germany and the riches of the Nile Valley and the East generally. I now propose: "That the directors' report and annual statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1916, be adopted."

Mr. G. A. Williams seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director (Sir Alexander Roger) and the auditors (Messrs. Russell Harris and Co.) were re-elected.

Dr. Moody proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the motion was seconded by Mr. A. H. King and passed unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

Ritz Hotels (Egypt).

An extraordinary general meeting of the Ritz Hotels (Egypt), Limited, was held on January 14 at the offices of Messrs. Russell Harris and Co., the secretaries, Gresham House, Cairo, for the purpose of (a) the sale of the uncompleted construction and loose building materials of the company and the consideration of the offers; (b) liquidation of the company.

The Chairman, Mr. Shumaker, stated that it would be in the interests of the company that any shareholder present who was interested in the purchase should retire from the meeting, as it would be necessary to discuss freely the estimations of the building, loose materials, etc., in accordance with the experts' report, and divulge the figures at which they were valued.

Mr. Salvago agreed to this statement in principle, but proposed that the estimations should not be submitted to the assembly at all, but should be left to the board of directors to deal with, thus guarding against any intending purchaser, present in the meeting, taking advantage of this information and modifying his tender accordingly. The motion was carried.

Mr. Salvago then explained to the meeting that in his opinion there were three questions to be considered. First: Is it possible to find a group to take over the building in its present condition and complete it? Second: Is it possible to utilise the building as it now stands? Third: Owing to the current high prices of materials, would it pay the company to demolish the building and sell the materials?

He explained that it would be practically impossible to find a company or a group at the present time to take over the building and complete it; and that further, owing to the nature and special construction it cannot be utilised in any way. The only practical question to be considered therefore is whether if the building is demolished and the materials sold, the sum to be realised would cover the amounts already expended. This question, he added, must be considered in conjunction with the offers, and if it transpires that those made or to be made were good offers, the directors could then carry out the sale. On the other hand, if the offers proved to be commercial offers, he did not think it would pay to agree to them, and suggested that, in this latter case, the question may be left in abeyance until the situation cleared up, especially as the sum for which the company was indebted was not large. Mr. Salvago did not favour any tender being made for the sale, and proposed that the board of directors be given full liberty to deal with the matter as best they thought. This was agreed to by the meeting.

It was resolved that, owing to the fact that there were only two members of the board of directors in Egypt at present, a consultative committee composed of Mr. Carver, Mr. Salvago, and Mr. Lacaris, who are the biggest shareholders, should be appointed, and that the directors should consult them on all important matters connected with the sale.

BRITISH-ROUMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce (says its *Monthly Magazine*) has received an invitation to nominate a representative to serve on the Council of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce. The headquarters of the British-Roumanian Chamber will probably be in London.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.

According to the report of the Credit Foncier Egyptien, owing to the high prices of cotton and other crops, the payments made out of the bank during the month of October, 1916, the last month of its financial year, amounted to £E550,000, and those made during the first and second months of the present financial year, namely, November and December, 1916, amounted to £E650,000 and £E640,000 respectively. The amounts paid into the bank during the year ending October 31, 1916, were £E2,600,000 against £E1,650,000 made during the preceding financial year. According to the report of the directors the net profits of the bank for the year in question amounted to £E432,547 as compared with £E373,347 in 1915, and £E414,335 in 1914. Considering the fact that only three months of war were included in 1914 the results of 1916 appear most gratifying.

It is understood, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that it is proposed to allot the dividend of 6 per cent. prescribed in Art. 77 of the statutes of the bank, amounting to £E231,450 plus 70 per cent. of the balance and £E2,182 carried forward from last year, making in all a total of £E374,397 in respect of 400,000 shares of P.T. 92 per share. The remaining 30 per cent. will be distributed as follows: £E30,163 or 15 per cent. to the founders' shares; £E20,109 or 10 per cent. to the reserve fund, and £E10,054 or 5 per cent. to the board of directors.

The dividend paid last year was only P.T.77.15, whereas that paid before the war attained P.T.100 and more. The dividend on the founders' shares will in all probability attain P.T.1.505 per share against P.T.1.065 in 1915. Owing to these excellent results the management of the bank, which has withheld the increases of its officials' pay in 1915 and adopted other measures of economy, has now given increases of pay and gratuities to those officials who are deserving of consideration and has relaxed the stringent measures of economy adopted hitherto.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons give notice, in regard to the 3 per cent. bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway, that the coupons due January 15 last are now being paid at their office, Austin Friars House, E.C.

Oil Outputs.

Baku Russian.—76,000 poods.
Anglo-Egyptian—Gemsah, 23 tons; Hurgada, 1,341 tons.
Spies Petroleum.—181,475 poods.
Cheleken Oilfields.—491 tons.
Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—48,761 poods.
North Caucasian Oilfields.—664,100 poods.
North Caucasian, 10,711 tons.
Black Sea Amalgamated Oilfields, 20,204 poods.
Maikop Combine, 15,159 poods.
Ural Caspian, 2,507 tons.
European Oilfields Corporation, 88,200 poods.
Bibi Eibat, 780 tons.
Baku Russian Petroleum (1909), 75,000 poods.
Spies Petroleum, 2,969 tons.

THE WAR LOAN.

We publish further Greek and Near Eastern names which appear in the list of subscribers to the new great War Loan. These include.—

Anglo-Egyptian Bank (for self and clients)	£835,000
Anglo-Greek Magnesite Co.	45,000
Armenian Educational Trusts	23,000
European Oilfields Corporation	15,000
Gellatly, Hankey, and Co. (London staff)	5,650
Clients of the National Bank of Egypt	1,243,000
Clan Line Steamers	500,000
Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields	10,000
National Bank of Egypt and Clients	325,000

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Thursday.

Although business this week has again been on a somewhat restricted scale, there has been a firmer tone in the market, and changes are mostly in the upward direction.

Egyptian Government stocks have continued in good demand, but, owing to the lack of sellers, very little business has been done.

National Banks have changed hands to some extent at 13½, but are finishing firmer at 13½.

In Agriculturals a small amount of business was done round 5, but here also some business was done at the close at 5½, with further buyers.

In Aboukirs, about 1,000 shares were done round 13-16, and a few hundred Alexandria Waters changed hands at 11½, with buyers still unsatisfied, but no further sellers.

Khedivial Mails have improved rather sharply to 27s. 6d.

In Greek bonds there has been a fair amount of transactions, and the market is generally higher and sellers scarce at the close: 1881's and 1884's have been done at 51, Monopolies at 46½, Rente at 40½, Funding in a small way at 49, 1902's at 61½, and Current Bonds at 86½. At the close there were a good many unsatisfied buyers.

Oil Shares.

On the whole, the week has been devoid of interest, business has been done only on a restricted scale, and there are few movements to record.

Some business has been done in North Caucasians which, at the close, were a shade easier at 28s. 6d. Ural Caspians receded to 29s. 9d., while Spies remained steady at the old price, 14s. 9d. Russian Petroleums were very dull in the vicinity of 1s. 10½d., and Roumanian Consolidateds maintained their price of 9s. Anglo-Egyptians remain dull at about 11½, a few hundred shares being for sale.

A rise occurred in Anglo-Persian Preferences, the price of which advanced 6d. to 20s. 9d.

The Paris Bourse.

Advices from Paris, dated yesterday, state that on the Parquet, Suez Canal shares rose 20 francs to 4,445; Russian Industrials were slow to inactive; while Russian Oil scrip weakened—Baku to 1,739 and Lianosoff to 390.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Thursday.

After a pretty uneventful week, a good deal of money came into the market yesterday through a Colonial bank from the Government, it is thought on account of wheat purchases, with the result that money became plentiful. At the beginning 4½ per cent. was asked and conceded, but as the day wore on there were free offers at 4 per cent.

Regarding discounts, some uneasiness has been caused in some quarters owing to the impending transfer of War Loan money to the Bank of England; but it is believed that measures will be devised to keep dislocations at a minimum.

In exchange, Alexandria stands at its usual figure of 97½ piastres to the pound sterling. Italian has made another advance, this time to 35 lire.

MOROCCO.

There is no need to emphasise the growing importance which the development of our economic relations with Morocco presents for Bordeaux and its neighbourhood, says a Paris contemporary. The office of the Sherifian Government, which is directed from Paris under the able guidance of M. A. Terrier, already constitutes a very useful organisation to facilitate our penetration into the Protectorate, but in order to consolidate local efforts and to give them greater effect, it appears necessary to establish at Bordeaux a committee analogous to that which functions at Marseilles. With this object in view, the President of the Bordeaux Chamber, M. D. Guesier, recently convoked a meeting of the principal houses of the port engaged in trade with Morocco, and, in the course of this gathering, it was decided to form the Comité Bordeaux-Moroc.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price.	Price Feb. 16.	Present Price.
	July 27, 1915.		
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	65½	68
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	47½	47½
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	48½	48½
City of Alexandria 4½ % 1909	99	48	75
City of Constantinople 5 % Bonds	96	75	67½
Egypt Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	83½	67½	67½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Bd. 5 % 1890	88	66½	66½
Do. Ins. Bd., 1890	82½	62	60½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	80½	68½	68½
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1896 (24½ %)	57	50½	51
Greek 5 % 1881	56	50½	51
Do. 5 % 1884	45	46½	46½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	45	40½	40½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	46	49	50
Do. 5 % 1890	64	48½	49
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	77	61	62
Do. 5 % Rente, Loan, 1902	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	87½	87½	87½
Do. 5 % Current	91	74½	74½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	74½	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 80, 1890	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds	87	75	72
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	75	72
Do. 4 % 1891	94½	70½	70½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	65½	66
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	50½	51½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	37	37
Do. 4 % 1909	69	38½	38½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Prof. (Br. war.)	7½	6½	6½
Do. 3 % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3 % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	22	7½	22
Bank of Athens	82	22	22
Bank of Roumania	82	82	82
Eastern Bank	78	79½	81½
Imperial Bank of Persia	11	69	69
Imperial Ottoman Bank	33	31	31
Ionian Bank, Limited	65	5	5
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	132	132	132
National Bank of Egypt	132	132	132
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	5½	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	82	78	78
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	—
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	172	9½	9½
Do. do. 8 % Cum. Prof.	22	13	13
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	27	54	54
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	57	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ert. Ry. 4 %	80	54½	54½
Piramus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	63	63
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	18	18
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	90½	90½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	2½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	6½	6½
Do. do. Def.	4½	3½	3½
Bahera Co.	8½	3½	3½
Do. Pref.	4½	—	—
Delta Sanieh	2½	2½	2½
Do. Def.	—	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9½	8½	8½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	83½	83½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Trst.	5½	6½	6½
Do. and Foreign Trust	1½	18	18
Gharbiyah Land Co.	—	—	—
Do. Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	97	95
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum.	98	62	62
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	71	71½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	8½
Sidi Saleh Co.	1½	25½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	—
United Egyptian Lands	1½	—	—
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12½	100	102½
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	1½	24½	24½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	93	92½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	20½	20½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	98	95	91
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	98	24½	27½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	32	32
Do. do. Pref.	80	94	94½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	117½	144	155
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (7½ 500)	22	12	12
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	—	—
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/3	10/6	10/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21/-	20/6	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6	3/6
Roumanian Consolidated	9/3	9/-	9/-
PARIS BOURSE.			
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	Feb. 15. 424	Feb. 22. 425	
Canal de Suez	4450	4445	
Credit Foncier Egyptian	676	675	
Turkish Unified 4%	—	60.50	
Egyptian Unified 4%	89.65	91.50	
Serbian, 1896	—	55.50	

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 30.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	141	to	—
Tram, d'Alexandrie	Frs.	86½	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	6½	—	—
priv.	L.E.	3½	—	—
Lots Turos, oblig.	Frs.	126	—	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	69½	—	—
Privilegié	Frs.	97	—	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	73½	—	—
Urbanes et Rurales	L.E.	2½	—	2½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	Frs.	—	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	L.E.	—	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—	—	—
Unifié	L.E.	—	—	—
Privilegié	Frs.	81	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt	Frs.	4½	—	—
Fondateur	Frs.	—	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	Frs.	34	—	—
Nungovich Hotels	Frs.	2½	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	Frs.	5½	—	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	Frs.	27½	—	—
Ord.	Frs.	—	—	—
Alex. and Banihah Railway	Frs.	—	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	—	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Cairo	Frs.	104	—	—
Jouissance	Frs.	155	—	—
Egyptian Markets	Frs.	260	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie	Frs.	204	—	—
Div.	Frs.	—	—	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	—	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	Frs.	21½	—	—
Credit Foncier Egyptian	Frs.	634	—	—
1886 Oblig.	Frs.	33½	—	—
1903	Frs.	263½	—	—
1911	Frs.	264½	—	—
Delta Lands	Frs.	—	—	—
Port Said Salt	Frs.	37½	—	—
Cotton Ginners	Frs.	—	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	Frs.	8½	—	—
United Lands	P.T.	—	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	Frs.	297½	—	—
Fond	Frs.	132½	—	—

"A GOOD TURKISH LOAN."

We take the following from the *Financial News*:—"Give a dog a bad name —." The Turkish Four per Cent. Loan, 1891, is apparently suffering from its unfortunate title. As a matter of fact, it is an Egyptian stock, and is now quoted under 'Egyptian' in the Stock Exchange Official List. It is secured on the Egyptian Tribute, an annual sum of £230,622 being payable to Messrs. Rothschilds by the Khedive of Egypt for the service of the loan. Interest is paid half-yearly, in April and October, and a cumulative sinking fund to redeem the entire loan in sixty years from date of issue is operative by annual drawings at par each September. The loan is now quoted at 71-73. On the other hand, Egyptian Unified, bearing 4 per cent., but not enjoying the benefit of drawings, stands at 77½-78½. If there is anything to choose between the two loans as regards security it is, perhaps, in favour of the Turkish Four per Cent., 1891, and it appears, therefore, that an exchange from Egyptian Unified into Turkish, 1891, would be profitable."

SUZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
February 10	380,000	270,000
February 14	390,000	390,000
February 17 and 18	550,000	540,000
February 19	220,000	150,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916.	1917.
	Week ended Feb. 10.	Week ended Feb. 1.
Cattle markets	1,112	1,385
General markets	346	433
Cattle markets closed	2	11
Receipts (£)	1,458	1,817
Total from commencement of year (£)	8,276	9,513

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Truck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.
ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Pans, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoth, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc. Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes. Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 304.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	409	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	416	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	425
Cairo	411	Fleet Street and Kasr-el-Nil..	415	The Wealthy Middle-East ..	426
Khartoum	412	International Information ..	415	Furniture in Egypt	427
Cyprus	412	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	418	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	427
Salonika	413	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	422	Produce Report	428
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	423	The Forests of Bulgaria ..	429
London School of Orienta		LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Tobacco in Cyprus	429
Studies	414	"The Future of Palestine"		Engineering Notes	430
Albania Past and Present		(Miss Estelle Blyth).. ..	417	Crops in Egypt	431
II.—The Race Instinct (M.		The Sorrows of Christendom		Company Notes	431
Edith Durham)	421	(Mr. A. Séfi)	417	On 'Change	432
LEADING ARTICLE—		"A New Translation of the		Stock and Share List ..	432
The New Near East	420	Koran (Mr. Q. Abdullah) ..	417		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Kut is once more in British hands, and the capitulation of General Townshend has, from a military point of view, been avenged. Organization and generalship have again won the day, and Mesopotamia has no longer to be classed among the graves of Army reputations. General Sir Stanley Maude has been more fortunate than his various predecessors in the measure of interest and support at headquarters, whether in India or England, that he has been able to rely upon in his part of the long campaign. But he must be credited with having realized the nature of the preparations required for success and with the resolve not to undertake an advance until he was ready. Here, indeed, is an important element of generalship. It is true that the necessity which prompted the hurried launching of the Relief Expedition under General Aylmer existed no longer; but the whole conception of the undertaking was in those days radically at fault. Enlightenment and determination have succeeded to a regrettable display of ignorance and indifference, and the new regime was fortunately placed in competent hands.

General Maude's success can perhaps best be gauged by recalling the powers of resistance which the enemy has shown for more than two months and comparing with them the suddenness and the rapidity of his present retreat. Ever since the offensive was resumed last December the Turks have stubbornly contested every inch of ground. Even when the British troops had worked all round the Kut bend of the river the enemy clung to each successive line of trenches until the last moment. The process of ejecting him was continued the whole length of this section of the right bank of the Tigris, and only when this part had been cleared was an attempt made to deal with the Sanna-i-Yat position fifteen miles lower down the river. As we know, the first attack failed; but General Maude was too sure of himself to accept an adverse verdict. By this time the Turks had evidently learned to appreciate his bull-dog tactics. They appear to have devoted all their attention for the moment to the designs upon Sanna-i-Yat. General Maude did attack again, and in force; but in the meantime plans were being made for crossing the river above Kut. The strategy was completely successful. Covering parties were ferried across the Tigris before daybreak on February 23 and established a hold on the left bank. They were able to effect a sufficient clearance of the enemy in this quarter to allow a bridge to be built behind them in nine hours, and by the fol-

lowing morning the whole of the Turkish position had been turned.

From this point the rout of the Turks has been complete. Their advanced base for the operations round Kut was at Baghela, lying twenty-four miles west of the town. It has been hurriedly abandoned, stores and guns being thrown into the river, and the Turks are falling back towards Baghdad. Sir Stanley Maude reports that when the pursuit became general on February 25, strong Turkish rearguards, supported by artillery, were found to be occupying a position fifteen miles from Kut, but they were quickly dislodged. In this pursuit of a flying enemy the Mesopotamia Expedition will have found some compensation for the hardships it has been called upon to undergo in the past. Whatever the future may have in store, the tables have been handsomely turned. Over this same ground the Turks pressed General Townshend's small force, handicapped with its wounded from the Ctesiphon battlefield. They are now themselves being driven in far larger numbers after a trial of strength in which they had every advantage on their side.

The question that naturally follows the capture of Kut is: Will General Maude advance on Baghdad? There can be not the least doubt that the general wish of all Britons interested in the Middle East is that he should. At this stage of the war, however, many considerations have to be taken into account. Let it be said at once that British interests will be better served by the military occupation of Baghdad than if the Expedition has to rest content with its present victory. On the other hand, the advance can only be undertaken with the certainty that it will be successful and that the whole region can be held indefinitely against the enemy. What the additional length of communications will entail on British resources, especially in the matter of shipping, must be determined by the responsible authorities, and they will have to reckon with the indeterminate factor of the submarine menace. Much, too, depends on the capacity of the Turks for further formidable resistance in the event of reinforcements reaching them.

Such indications as are available to the public point to a previous intention to re-establish by arms what Lord Crewe has rightly termed the necessary predominance in the whole region of Mesopotamia. Whether shipping difficulties may affect that resolve remains to be seen. We hope that they will not. The nation, however, would be satisfied with the knowledge

that the abandonment of the scheme, if it should be abandoned, was prompted solely by military considerations which could not be overcome. In a telegram to General Maude, the King expressed the confidence that all ranks of the Expedition would spare no effort to achieve further success. The message was sent before the fall of Kut, but his Majesty's confidence can hardly have been limited to an event which was then expected at any moment. Lord Curzon, in reply to a question in the House of Lords, could naturally not commit himself to a discussion of future operations. But it is known that the preparations made for General Maude's offensive have been systematic and thorough. His troops must necessarily remain in touch with the enemy in the retreat, and the more thoroughly he follows up his advantage, the easier the subsequent task of rehabilitating British prestige from the Sinai Peninsula to the Indian frontier.

That the news from Greece should continue to be meagre may be regarded as a sound development of the situation. The Military Control established by the Allies is officiating at points where a check can be exercised upon the troops and munitions transferred from northern Greece to the Peloponnese. Superficially the work is being carried out according to the letter of the agreement; but it is evident that the Entente Powers are not yet wholly reassured. They are taking steps to relieve the shortage of foodstuffs in Athens, and are prepared to raise the blockade as soon as Greece has complied with the terms of the various Notes. But the attitude of the authorities, the demeanour of the Royalist Press, and reports of the maintenance of communication with Germany by wireless and aeroplane necessarily create misgivings and delay a return to normal conditions. In any case it is difficult to see how any really satisfactory relations can be re-established between the Entente and the Athens Government while M. Venizelos remains an excommunicated outlaw. A further indication of the Greek Government's disposition will be provided by the conduct of its representatives on the Joint Commission which is to fix the amount of the indemnity due to the maltreated Venizelists.

The only operations of any significance on the Eastern front during the last two weeks have taken place in Bukovina, where the enemy in the neighbourhood of Jakobeny claims to have recovered in two engagements practically the whole of the ground previously won by the Russians. The opposing forces are in touch in Roumania, and the skirmishing in the Carpathians has advanced the Russian line a short distance at various points. But the greater part of this extended theatre from Riga southwards appears still to be snow-bound. According to the German Press, Bulgaria has enjoyed an unusually mild winter, and rosy accounts are given of the forwardness of some crops. If there be any truth in the statement it may point to an early breaking-up of the weather in the north—a factor which ought to suit the Allies, as it may enable the offensives in the East and West to be more closely synchronized. If the winter should have enabled Russia to put her house in order and make the resources which are hers available for the fighting line, there can be little doubt that the effect would be as startling as recent events in the West. Reference has recently been allowed to the exploits of British armoured cars, which played no insignificant part during the Roumanian retreat and subsequently on the Sereth line. What cars these were is not stated, but we are reminded of a dozen such cars which were simply lost for an incredible time in Russia in their transit from north to south. If the last few months have served to remove the congestion of the railways and to promote efficiency in the matter of transport of all kinds, it is certain that Russia will find herself in a very strong position for the offensive when the weather conditions allow.

The opening of the School of Oriental Studies by the King on February 23 was an earnest of the important

part which it is hoped the new institution will play among the forces that make for the consolidation of the British Empire. It coincides with the awakening of the British people to the fact that both the art of government and the struggle for existence have been rendered more difficult of recent years, and that happy-go-lucky methods must give place to scientific principles. In all personal relationships with the East, whether in an administrative capacity in India, Egypt, or the Middle East, or in the pursuit of commerce and industry, within the Empire or beyond, it has become essential for the Briton to know the language and something of the mode of life and thought of the people among whom his lot is cast, if he aspires to make his full quota to the Empire's well-being. By many, no doubt, the advantages of the School will be reckoned in terms of money; but even these, if they imbibe its spirit only in part, will instinctively offer their contribution to the Imperial cause. Knowledge brings understanding, and the two together make any man, in spite of himself, a better administrator and a better merchant. "The greatness and solidity of the Empire in its internal and external relations," said Sir John Hewett, chairman of the Governing Body, "rest on the comprehension of and the just and sympathetic dealing with men infinitely varied in race, religion, speech, and character." The King in his admirable address emphasized the same point when he expressed the wish that the labours of the School might be blessed in the advancement of learning, unity, and good government among his people of every race and language. Individual students may use it to enhance the monetary value of their services, but in the long run, as the Patron and the founders of the School realize, its influence will be wider and greater.

This higher purpose lying behind the School of Oriental Studies stands revealed without any conscious striving after effect on the part of those who think Imperially. Instinctively, British administration, when it has to deal with people of another race, aims at improving the condition of the governed. (Its efforts may not always be to the liking of the latter; but the aim is there.) Whatever the explanation, the fact remains, and it goes far to account for the fundamental differences between the British and German characters. We have found it difficult to understand German and Austro-Hungarian policy, because the idea of a State altogether without conscience, without soul, and without morality, stopping at no action in the pursuit of its goal, is too foreign to our natures to be easily comprehended. Thus in dealing with the settlement of Eastern Europe the British public is in danger of failing to appreciate its problems from inability to conceive how a Government can be so blind to its own interests as to imagine that a regime of oppression can serve its purpose. In the same way there is a disposition among Britons to doubt the accuracy of the accounts of what is happening in the countries and districts occupied by our enemies. Perhaps if we recall the treatment by the Governments concerned of some of their own subjects, it will be less difficult to realize their possible attitude towards those whom they regard as their enemies.

The day set apart for public contributions in aid of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund—April 13—is still some way off; but amid the multiplicity of appeals it is necessary that some time should be devoted to working up a suitable "atmosphere." Donations and offers of assistance are already invited. The committee has started under excellent auspices with a telegram wishing it success from General Maude. Probably no body of troops wherever the British are fighting in this war has had a harder time than the Mesopotamia Force. Officers and men have deserved well of their country, and the least that those at home can do is to ensure that some tangible expression of their gratitude is sent out to them. It can bear no relation to the measure of their services or their sufferings, but will at least assure them that they have not been forgotten.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, FEB. 7.

The Health of the Sultan.

The bulletins published at Abdin Palace continue good. The slight operation performed on the Sultan appears to have given him complete relief, and his condition of health has altogether much improved. His Highness is still abstaining from receiving any visitors, and is only signing the most urgent and important papers.

The Late Lord Cromer.

The death of Lord Cromer came somewhat as a surprise to most people out here, as it had not been generally known that he was ill. The news was certainly received with marked regret everywhere; for although it is nearly ten years since he was last in Egypt, he still had many personal friends and acquaintances here, with whom he maintained relations, and who made it a point of visiting him whenever they went to England. The Press, vernacular and European, has been full of eulogistic articles, some of them several columns in length, dealing with his career and the work he had done for Egypt. On all hands I have heard nothing but generous recognition of the benefits which this country derived under his administration. One old Egyptian remarked to me: "To few men in her long history can Egypt have been so indebted as to Lord Cromer, under whose régime she and her sons made more progress than at any other period of her existence." And others who remember the condition of things thirty years ago say quite freely that the Egyptians will never be able adequately to express their gratitude to the great Pro-Consul for the changed circumstances, due to his sagacious and statesmanlike direction of affairs, amid which they live to-day.

Services in memory of Lord Cromer took place in Cairo and Alexandria at the same hour as that fixed for the funeral at home. The service at Cairo was held at All Saints' Church, where he had been a regular worshipper during his residence in Egypt, and was conducted by the Right Rev. the Bishop in Jerusalem, assisted by the Chaplain, the Rev. T. C. Horan. The gathering in the church was fully representative of the cosmopolitan population of the country. The High Commissioner was present. H.H. the Sultan was represented by his brother, Prince Ahmed Fuad, who was accompanied by other members of the Sultania household. Both General Sir Archibald Murray and Vice-Admiral Sir R. Wemyss were also represented. The Prime Minister, the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, and all the older residents and high Government officials were there; whilst a sign of recognition of the extreme solicitude which Lord Cromer had always shown for the interests and religious feelings of the Moslem community was afforded by the presence of a remarkable number of Moslem dignitaries, headed by the Grand Mufti. The ceremony, which was a very impressive one, ended with the sounding of the "Last Post" by the Welsh Fusiliers' buglers, assembled in the churchyard outside, and with the playing of the National Anthem.

The service in Alexandria, which was held at St. Mark's Church, was equally well attended, those present including Mr. D. Cameron, the Consul-General; Ziwar Pasha, the Governor; Hopkinson Pasha, the Commandant of Police; and all the older residents.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The *Official Journal* of Tuesday last contained the decree extending the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals for another year as from the 1st inst. This is the thirteenth renewal that has taken place since the creation of this jurisdiction in 1876. It was established in the first instance for five years, and was extended for annual periods until 1884, when quinquennial periods were resumed and continued—with the exception of the year 1899, when the consideration of certain reforms rendered it advisable to renew for one year—until the first year of the war, since when recourse has again been had to annual periods. As mentioned in previous

letters, no unification of the jurisdictions existing in Egypt is possible so long as the war lasts, or will, indeed, be possible for some little time after the conclusion of peace; and until that reorganisation takes place the Mixed Courts will have to continue in their present form. When the unification is carried into effect and the new codes necessitated thereby are enacted, it is to be hoped that, among other improvements, they will provide some less cumbersome procedure than at present exists for the collection and recovery of debts.

The Census.

Preparations for the coming Census are proceeding apace, and the Controller has recently applied for the services of all Government officials aged under forty years and drawing less than £E360 per annum. These officials will be required to act as enumerators, and will have to give up an hour every day for about a month, their work being in connection with the enumeration of the inhabitants of the district in which they live. For these services they will receive no remuneration, in virtue of the law passed in August last, which empowered the Census Controller to requisition the services of all Government officials and provincial agents, who are liable to a maximum fine of £E1, or imprisonment not exceeding one week, for any failure to comply with the orders given them. This system of obtaining labour for the Census means, of course, a considerable economy in the cost of taking it—the economy runs into six figures, I understand—and very satisfactory results were obtained from it in 1907, when the last "numbering of the people" took place.

The National Mission.

The National Mission which, as I reported last week, is being led in this country by the Dean of Rochester and the Rev. E. A. Burroughs, who have been sent out by the Archbishop of Canterbury, started work in Cairo on Thursday last with an "At Home" held by Bishop and Mrs. MacInnes at Bishop's House, followed by short explanatory addresses from each of the Messengers in St. Mary's Church. There was a very large attendance, Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate being amongst those present. On Saturday evening another meeting was held at the Anzac Hostel. The Bishop in Jerusalem took the chair, and opened the proceedings by reading a stirring letter of welcome to the Messengers from Sir R. Wingate. The speakers were Brigadier-General Paul, C.B., Mr. H. Farnall, C.B., C.M.G., and the Rev. E. A. Burroughs, M.A. Special services are being held throughout this week at All Saints' and St. Mary's Churches, and, judging from the attendance at the preparatory meetings and at those since the arrival in Egypt of the Archbishop's Messengers, it is evident that the movement is appealing very much to the Anglican community of this country.

An interesting result of the transfer of the Greek Army to the Peloponnese has been a recrudescence of departures for Salonika, says the Syria correspondent of the *Times*, in a message dated February 22. Officers and men who wish to join the Venizelist forces are slipping away with a new regularity, 180 having left on Tuesday.

**MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF
HIDES AND SKINS,
TANNING MATERIALS,
DYEWOODS.**

**KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.**

Established
over 50 Years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, February 4.

Khartoum Racing Club.

The third winter meeting took place on February 2. There were six races, of which two were for horses sired and bred in the Sudan, a polo scurry, and two other races for Arabs. But the most important event of the day was the race for the Governor-General's Cup. Except for the last-named, the racing was of little interest, as the winners in each case came in first without difficulty. One noticeable feature, however, was that in the first three races the winning horse was ridden by Major Fail; in the last three races by Major Middleton; so these officers divided the honours of the day equally. In the Southey Plate, a race of a distance of one mile for country-breds, the chief point of interest was the running of Colonel Carr's pony K1. This horse completely outclassed anything in the race, and won handsomely. He was sired by an English horse, presented to the Sudan Government by Lord Kitchener; and if he is to be taken as a sample of what can be bred in the Sudan, there should be a fine future in the country for horse-breeding. In the race for the Governor-General's Cup, which covers a distance of about one and a-quarter miles, popular opinion seems to be chiefly in favour of Mr. More's Monitor, which did, in fact, lead over a considerable part of the course. Coming up the straight, he was challenged by Beyrout, and Haramis, which had been completely behind, came up with a tremendous rush, and all three horses finished within the limits of a neck. Haramis, however, just managed to get his head in front of Beyrout at the post. After the races were over, Mrs. Stack presented the cups to the winners of the Southey Plate and the Governor-General's Cup, and the meeting came to a successful close.

Movements of Officials.

Mr. C. E. Lyall, Governor of Halfa, has visited Khartoum for a few days before leaving for Kassala, to take over that province, on the retirement of Mr. C. H. Townsend.

Mr. Sagar arrived in Khartoum from Wad Medani, and left for El Obeid, where he will be acting Governor until Colonel Kelly's retirement from the Sudan Government makes a vacancy for his final appointment.

Mr. Young, who has for several years been in Dongola Province, reached Khartoum on February 3, on his way to take up his new duties in the Bara District, Kordofan Province.

Visitors to Khartoum.

Mr. Goschen, of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has visited Khartoum for a few days.

Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, K.C.M.G., arrived in Khartoum on January 26, with his staff, accompanied by Sir M. MacDonald, K.C.M.G. They left Khartoum on January 29 to inspect the irrigation works and the farms at Tayiba, Barakat, and Makwar, and then crossed to the White Nile, where they are visiting Jebelain and Jebelauli, returning thence to Khartoum on February 4. They will visit the new basin at Wad Hamid in the course of the week, and will then return to Cairo. They will then have covered most of the points of interest to irrigation experts at present in existence in the Sudan, and will doubtless from the data collected formulate the future policy which will guide the irrigation of the Sudan.

FUEL IN TURKEY.

El Kiblah, the Mecca official paper, says that wood, which before the winter was obtained with great difficulty in Syria at £T2 a cantar (about 280 lb.), is now as scarce as gold. The women, children, and old men left in the homes are in consequence suffering intensely from the cold, while the Turks have denuded Syria, the Lebanon, and Anatolia of all traces of wood, and the town of Killis, near Aleppo, which used to be celebrated for its forests of olive trees, is now as bare as a desert—all because of the Government's requirements for the railways, which are deprived of European coal! Even fruit trees are paying this toll to the extent of 10 per cent., so that animate and inanimate things are made to bleed for the Turk!

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, February 6.

The Bread Supply.

The new bread, of mixed wheat and barley meal, has now been on the market at Nicosia for a sufficient time to enable the public to pronounce upon its merits; and it is admitted that it is wholesome and palatable. Complaints, however, are made that, either from want of skill in making or some other reason, the quality of the loaves sold by some bakers is not what it should be, and that both the Government and the municipality should intervene, in order that at all stages bakers should be made to carry out their work in an honest and competent manner. The Government, from February 1, has allowed bakers to take supplies of wheat and barley from their tithe stores; and the bread referred to is sold at 2½ piastres (about 3½d.) the oke. The facility given by Government is regarded as a great boon by the public.

The Use of the Greek Flag.

On the occasion of a recent visit by the Greek Archbishop to Famagusta, the pupils of the town schools were warned that they could not carry the Hellenic flags, which the Greeks are so fond of displaying in processions, at meetings, on the numerous anniversaries, fête days, etc. The Archbishop despatched a telegram to the High Commissioner, expressing the deep regret of the town and neighbouring villages that the pupils were not allowed to bear these flags "in orderly and decorous manner according to the liberal custom hitherto established, which does honour to British Government," and expressing his conviction that this action of the local police was not taken with his Excellency's approval. A reply has been received from the acting Chief Secretary, informing the Archbishop that the matter was receiving attention, and that a further communication would be sent to him. This custom of carrying the Hellenic flag has been allowed to grow up, until it has been, for many years past, carried to an absurd extreme, and in fact abused in a manner which naturally calls for comment from all writers and travellers, and would certainly not be tolerated in any other country. That a Greek banner should be displayed at some particular festival, by permission of the proper Government authority, might indeed occasion no surprise or objection. But as a matter of fact the Greek communities have been allowed to hoist and carry Hellenic colours on frequent occasions during the year in such profusion that any traveller might well imagine that he was visiting a Greek island. The flag for general use is, of course, the British, and if any other were to be flown, it should have been that of the Ottoman Sultan, for whom the island was until 1914 administered. There has never been more than a very small handful of Hellenic subjects in Cyprus, either before or after the occupation. At present, of course, the people, excepting a very small number of foreign nationalities, are British subjects. It is high time that the use of the Greek flag should be made the subject of proper regulations, to be observed in all parts of the island.

General News.

There have been some heavy rain and hail storms. In the Nicosia and Morphou districts hailstones fell, in some places, larger than walnuts, or, as some assert, "larger than eggs." The rising cereals have escaped damage, but beans have suffered in parts.

The Greek members of the Legislative Council have held a meeting at Nicosia, to discuss various matters which they regard as of primary importance.

Two of the Greek native judges are shortly to be retired on pensions, owing to age.

There is a fair abundance of game in the markets, especially of partridges (red-legs) and hares. Woodcock are not so plentiful as during more severe winters. Fair bags of snipe are made by British sportsmen. The price of all game is more than double what it was a year or two ago.

SALONIKA LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SALONIKA, February 9.

An Interrupted Correspondence.

I do not know if the absence from your columns for so long a time of my usual weekly budget has been the cause of any disappointment to your readers, but, as Salonika continues to be one of the great centres of interest in the present war, it may not be unreasonable to hope that the resumption of these communications may be of interest. It is unnecessary to explain the various causes of the interruption, but one of these, I may remark, has been the treacherous climate of this town, which does not spare even special correspondents.

No one would dream of selecting Salonika as a health resort. A large portion of the town lies on low, marshy ground, the chief products of which are flies and mosquitos in summer and oceans of mud in winter. In England the flies only give rise to momentary inconvenience, but here they attack in massed formations like the Germans at Verdun, but with more reserves to take the place of the slain than ever the Huns could muster. Even now, in the middle of winter, many mosquitos still linger near in the hope of getting a bite, and the protective nets continue in use.

Soldiers in Shirt Sleeves.

We complain in England if the thermometer dares to rise over 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, but in this neighbourhood the temperature has been as high as 114 degrees during the summer. This was terribly trying to the sentries and other troops exposed to such a fierce heat, and the military authorities did a very wise and humane thing when they authorised our Tommies to discard their tunics. It then became a common sight to see the men with their shirt sleeves rolled up and their manly breasts laid bare, and when they also wore "shorts" there was very little of their persons hidden from view. Even the officers sometimes appeared in this light and airy costume.

We have in reality only two seasons at Salonika—summer and winter—the brief intervening periods being undeserving of the names of spring and autumn. Up to the end of January the winter has been quite mild, with occasional sunny spells, but now the worst part of the year has come, snow is falling thick, even in Salonika, and the roads have become quagmires. Of course the mountains to the north have been covered with snow for months past, and when I visited Monastir a short time ago the Moglena and Kaimakalan mountain ranges strongly reminded one of the snow-clad peaks of Switzerland.

Christmas and New Year.

We have three Christmases and an equal number of New Year's days at Salonika, besides numerous other festivals which convert the closing days of the old year and a large portion of the opening month of the new year into a continuous series of holidays. The British and French observe their Christmas on the same date, but there is no "Boxing Day" at Salonika; then the Russians and Greeks hold their festivals, thirteen days later; and the Armenians also have special days of their own. The Jews, of course, have no Christmas, and their New Year differs from that of all other people.

On the whole the troops spent an enjoyable time, as leave had been freely given, and the weather was warm and pleasant after a long spell of heavy rain. The only disagreeable thing was the mud, and some of the Army transport mules seemed to have been rolling in it. They had quite lost their pristine colour, and mostly assumed a slatey-grey appearance. On this occasion the Allied troops fraternised together with great heartiness, and you could often see parties of British, French, Russian, Italian, and even Greek soldiers marching arm-in-arm in happy mood. The difference of speech seemed to create little difficulty. It is really surprising how these brothers in arms seem to

understand one another without knowing a word of each other's languages.

Lord Granville and the Venizelists.

The Provisional Government, and indeed all Venizelists, are proud of the honour done them by the British Government in sending so distinguished a representative to Salonika, and they were also particularly delighted to learn that our Government had refused to recognise the nominee of King Constantine, whom he sent to replace the previous Greek Minister, who preferred to represent Venizelos. There is only one point on which even the highest Greek officials here express great disappointment, and that is the apparent reluctance of the Allies to deal firmly with the King and remove him from a position in which he has shown himself to be a traitor to the Allies as well as to his own people.

ROUMANIA'S ENTRANCE INTO THE WAR.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The negotiations between the Central Powers at the time of Roumania's entrance into the war form the subject of a very interesting report in the Russian paper *Vecernnee Vremya*. We know already that on August 27 Roumania declared war on Austria-Hungary, that on the 28th Germany declared war on Roumania, that on September 1 Bulgaria took the same step, and that shortly afterwards her example was followed by Turkey. But we did not know that on September 7 Germany, Turkey, and Bulgaria signed a formal military Convention against Roumania. Neither, of course, were we aware of the cause of this Convention, nor of its terms. The Russian paper above-mentioned contains important information about the matter.

"When Roumania declared war," we read, "Kaiser Wilhelm was burning with impatience personally to take vengeance upon King Ferdinand of Roumania. He proposed—and did his best to get adopted by the German War Council—the following suggestion, viz., to ask the Turkish Government to send a great army for the Balkan and the Galician fronts.

"The necessary negotiations were energetically and swiftly proceeded with, and the Germans had the support of the Bulgars. All the items were agreed upon by the beginning of September, and on September 7 the Convention between Germany, Turkey, and Bulgaria was signed. The contents of the Convention are as follows:—1. The Turks pledge themselves to send ten new divisions to Europe, from three to four to Galicia and the Bukovina, and from six to seven to the Balkans. 2. In return, Bulgaria is to cede to Turkey all the territory won in Thrace during the autumn of 1915, and the port of Dedegatch. 3. Bulgaria is to receive the whole of the Dobruja and part of Bessarabia."

The signing of this Convention, adds the paper, caused great delight in the official circles of the Bulgarians and Young Turks.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the Anglo-Hellenic League learns from Lausanne that the 8,000 Greek troops who were surrendered to the Germans and Bulgarians at Kavalla, and are now interned at Görlitz, are infuriated with their commanding officer, Hatzopoulos, who has had to leave the neighbourhood. His troops accuse him of having taken them into Germany by false pretences, giving them to understand that they were to be sent back to Greece by way of Monastir. Their present condition is pitiable, as, owing to internal conditions in Germany, they are almost deprived of bread, which forms a large part of the Greek soldier's diet. Hunger and discontent have led to frequent mutinies, although the officers attempt to pacify them with promises of repatriation. A few are able to earn a little money, by practising their trade or profession; others are compelled to beg in the streets, while there have been numerous deaths from disease and improper nourishment. One of the officers has committed suicide.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

OPENING BY THE KING.

It was of the happiest augury for the future of the enterprise, so pregnant with importance for the welfare of the Empire, that the weather should have been on its best behaviour on the occasion of the Royal opening of the School of Oriental Studies on Friday. The day was one of the rare products of February, bright and warm, and the sun gleamed on the carriages in the Royal procession on the way to the school.

The King, who was accompanied by the Queen and Princess Mary, left Buckingham Palace soon after eleven o'clock, and drove by way of The Mall, Horse Guards' Avenue, and the Embankment to Finsbury Circus. On arriving at the school, their Majesties were received by Lord and Lady Curzon and Sir John Hewett, chairman of the governing body. The Royal party were then conducted to the Continuing Members' Room, where the following members of the governing body were presented to his Majesty:—Lieut.-Colonel Sir A. P. Gould, Sir C. Lyall, Sir Montagu Turner, Mr. P. J. Hartog, Dr. Denison Ross, and Professor F. M. Simpson, the architect of the new buildings.

A procession was then formed to the library, where the ceremony was to take place, and where a distinguished company was awaiting their Majesties. The audience included representatives of many universities and all manner of degrees, and the various academic colours made a most picturesque spectacle. Red and blue and white were the predominant colours, while here and there was to be seen the khaki of the military uniforms.

The ceremony began with the reading by Sir John Hewett of an address to his Majesty. The King replied to the address in most sympathetic terms. His brief and dignified utterances deeply impressed the audience, and his remarks were not infrequently punctuated by applause. Lord Curzon brought the ceremony to a close with an admirable speech, in the course of which he threw out a very timely hint to the City for further financial support. Notable in his speech was the moving tribute he paid to the late Lord Cromer, and the truly splendid compliment he paid the King in describing him as "the most travelled Sovereign since the days of the Roman Emperor Hadrian."

At the conclusion of the ceremony a number of presentations were made to his Majesty, and subsequently the Royal party inspected the buildings before leaving for the Palace.

Among those who attended the ceremony were Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Marquess and Marchioness of Crewe, the Persian Minister, Viscount and Viscountess Bryce, the Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, Lord and Lady Inchoape, General Sir E. G. Barrow, Sir Charles and Lady Lyall, Professor Paul Bayer (Director of the Paris School of Oriental Languages), Sir Hugh Barnes, Sir John McLeavy Brown, Baron and Baroness D'Erlanger, Sir Walter Lawrence, Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., Sir James Wolfe Murray, Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., and Sir Francis Younghusband.

The Address to His Majesty.

The address to the King read by Sir John Hewett thanked their Majesties for their presence there to sanction and encourage the undertaking, and set forth the aims of the institution. The main objects of the school, the address stated, might be expressed as follows:—First, to provide a place where our young men who will presently be engaged in governing or garrisoning the Oriental and African parts of the Empire may learn the languages and study the literature, the religions, and the customs of the peoples with whom they will so soon be brought into contact, and their influences over whom will largely depend upon their familiarity with indigenous character, ideas, and institutions. Secondly, to offer a training to those about to proceed to the same countries to take part in commercial enterprise or other avocations, or for purposes of study and research. Thirdly, to furnish to the capital of the Empire a meeting place and focus for scholars from the East of various nationalities, where, on their visits to this country, they may be assured of a sympathetic welcome, and find at hand, if they desire them, opportunities for study among those engaged in kindred pursuits.

They took the King's presence as a sign that his Majesty was fully cognisant of and impressed with the importance to the Empire of the study of Oriental and African languages and civilisations on a scale which Great Britain, alone among great countries of the world interested in the East, had not hitherto regarded as necessary; and they had planned that their school

should be at least equal to the Oriental schools in foreign capitals, and adequate to Imperial needs. Their teaching was only a means to an end. The greatness and solidity of this vast Empire in its internal and its external relations rested in the comprehension of, and the just and sympathetic dealing with, men infinitely varied in race, religion, speech, character, and upbringing. They believed that the training given in the school would materially contribute to the fuller realisation of the nation's ideals in the distant parts of his Majesty's dominions and to the prosperity and the efficient working of the whole.

The King's Speech.

The King replied as follows:—I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address.

I am glad to be the patron of the School of Oriental Studies, and it gives me particular gratification to take part to-day in the ceremony of opening this fine building in which the school is henceforth to carry on its work. I cannot sufficiently emphasise the wide scope and vast importance of that work. The school will afford fresh opportunities of study to those services which have been the pioneers of progress and the instruments of good government in India and Egypt. It will furnish with a fuller technical equipment the pioneers of commerce and industry who in each successive generation undertake the duty of upholding the honoured fame of British trade in the East. Its work will serve to develop the sympathy which already so happily exists between my subjects and those of my Far Eastern Ally, Japan. But more than this is to be looked for from the school.

If it happily succeeds in imparting to the pupils sent out as teachers of unselfish government and civilised commerce a clearer comprehension of the thoughts and lives of the diverse races of the East, the good effects of that success will extend far beyond the immediate and tangible results. The ancient literature and the art of India are of unique interest in the history of human endeavour. I look to the school to quicken public interest in the intellectual tradition of that great continent and to promote and assist the labours of students in these departments of knowledge, to the mutual advantage of both countries.

The school is about to open its doors in the midst of an unparalleled crisis in the world's history. For more than two years the peoples of my Dominions with loyalty and devotion have vied with each other in offering their blood and treasure for the prosecution of a righteous war. The sense of common sacrifice and common endeavour has drawn us all nearer to one another in feeling and sympathy. Meanwhile, we believe that the peaceful labours of this institution in spreading accurate and scientific knowledge of Eastern life and thought will foster the spirit of loyalty and patriotism and knit together still closer the many nations of my Empire.

I am very conscious of how much we owe to those distinguished scholars and statesmen whose undaunted efforts have largely aided in establishing this school. I deeply regret that one of the most illustrious, Lord Cromer, has not been permitted to see the completion of his share in the work. Had he lived, his wise judgment and unrivalled experience would have been of priceless value in council. I recognise and appreciate the debt of gratitude which this school owes to the public-spirited benefactors who have contributed so liberally to its endowment fund. In so doing they have rendered a service to the Empire, and I trust that the beneficence of the community will endow the school with funds adequate to all the demands which may be made upon its teaching capacity.

I now declare the School of Oriental Studies open. May God bless its labours in the advancement of learning, unity, and good government among my people of every race and language.

"A Memorable Ceremony."

Lord Curzon, speaking as chairman of the General Committee, said that his Majesty had taken part in a memorable ceremony. It marked the end of one period and the beginning of another. For years there had existed means of following Oriental studies both in King's College and in the University College of London quite apart from the larger efforts that had been made by the old academic institutions of Oxford and Cambridge. But now, for the first time, those efforts were to be co-ordinated, unified, and centralised in the metropolis of the Empire. Henceforward they would feel that they were not behind similar institutions which existed at Paris, at Petrograd, and, if he might say it with bated breath, at Berlin. Henceforward they hoped they would not be behind those rivals, or that enemy, in their equipment for that which was essentially part of the duty of the Empire.

It was nearly ten years since a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Lord Reay—whose absence owing to illness was regretted by nobody more than by himself—which laid down the plan of that School of Oriental Studies. A good deal of hard work had been done since then. He was in a position to speak of it because, first under Lord Cromer and afterwards under his successor in the chair, he was familiar with every stage of the development of the scheme. He could not exaggerate the debt which that institution no less than the Empire at large owed to that eminent man Lord Cromer. He devoted to that purpose an enthusiasm, an assiduity, and organising capacity which characterised everything he did. Nothing was too small for him to deal with, nothing too big for him to grasp. Indeed, it was a sad thing, as his Majesty had said, that only a few weeks before they opened the school his body should have been carried to its grave. But his friends and the public would always regard that institution as one of the lesser monuments to his memory; it would serve, though no such service was needed, to keep alive the memory of a great man who was a true friend of all Eastern people and a great servant of the State.

He (Lord Curzon) did not regard that place merely as an

educational institution, where the administrator and the soldier, the merchant and the missionary would learn languages and study the history and the absorbing customs of the institutions of the East. He hoped that, as time passed, the school would become a sort of clearing house of ideas between the East and the West—a bridge between the mind and character of Great Britain and those Oriental peoples with whom she was brought into such close contact. The gap that existed between the psychology of East and West was often spoken of as though it were unplumbable and impassable, but his belief was that with every year that passed it became less wide and less deep. Great indeed would be the disappointment of many of them if that place did not bring into closer union what he might describe as the soul of the Eastern and Western world.

There could be no happier augury for the success of such a scheme than that his Majesty should have graced the opening ceremony. There were many scholars and students present, but none of them would deny him when he said that his Majesty was the most travelled Sovereign since the days of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. There was hardly one of the countries—the languages of which were going to be taught in that school—which the King had not visited, and of which he could not speak with personal knowledge. Circumstances had thrown a good deal of his life into contact with the East, and the intimate acquaintance which his Majesty had acquired with those parts of the world had been of immense and incalculable value to the Empire of which he was the head. He hoped that all future Sovereigns of the British Empire would follow his Majesty's example in that respect, and that they would remember that, though the central tabernacle of the Empire was set up in this country, its outer courts were thronged with countless hosts who would continue to look to us in the future as in the past for administrative guidance, for inspiration, and for example. As to the future of those countries and those peoples, and what degree of autonomy or self-government would be conceded to them, or what would be the link that would unite them to us in the future, he hoped it would never be said that the country which started them forward on a career of constitutional development, of industrial and commercial expansion, and of moral advance would shrink from the task because it became more difficult, or because the end was lost in a cloud of mist. Rather might institutions like that be a wayside inn on the road which East and West would travel together, hand in hand, in an ever-closer and fraternal union.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FLEET STREET AND KASR-EL-NIL.*

"Some publications are born to notoriety, some achieve it, and others have it thrust upon them. Mine comes under the last category."

Thus neatly does Mr. Sydney A. Moseley disarm criticism in introducing to the public his interesting little book of essays upon modern Egypt, the publication of which was, for some inexplicable reason, prevented in 1914—after the author had left Egypt. Mr. Moseley repeats—quoting Sirry Pasha as his authority—the story prevalent in Egypt at the time that Lord Kitchener confused the writer of this book with the late Mr. B. L. Mosely—"that new Wilfrid Blunt"—and forbade the publication on that ground. Unfortunately, the late Mr. B. L. Mosely, who was probably better fitted than any other man of our time to write about Egypt from the unofficial point of view, could never be persuaded to do so—to the great loss of the world.

What emerges out of all this pother about the Mr. Moseley who does write is a bright, gossipy and apparently harmless little book, recounting various episodes in the author's career in Egypt. He was not there very long—people who write about Egypt never are—but long enough to see things that made "the blood of the free English Press" congeal in his veins. Much of what he says about Anglo-Egyptian journalism is painfully true. Of the British official class, who, it must be remembered, form the bulk of English newspaper readers out there, he observes: "They refuse to help the journalist, and then are contemptuous of him because of his helplessness"—an exceedingly shrewd remark.

The fact is, of course, that Anglo-Egyptian newspapers cater for a public which *en masse* is better educated than the readers of any English daily. It is a public at once intelligent and unsympathetic, a fact which explains the ill success of so many young writers, who, like Mr. Moseley, have been tempted to transfer the scene of their activities from Fleet Street to Cairo. But, from the literary point of view, at all events, it is hardly fair to say, as Mr. Moseley does, that "in no other country in the world has the Fourth Estate descended to so low a level."

Mr. Moseley gives us an entertaining account of the Assuan Dam controversy, and another of the somewhat obscure "Adamovitch affair," in which he appears to have played a prominent part. There is also a deft comparison between Lord Kitchener and Mr. Lloyd George, to which the author might, perhaps, have added that both these courageous legislators have usually found themselves under the necessity of introducing Amending Acts before their very salutary reforms could be made workable. And there

is a good deal of criticism of the Anglo-Egyptian, some of it deserved.

Mr. Moseley does not appear to have been entirely happy in Egypt, and doubtless it was mostly Egypt's fault. But we venture to suggest that things might have gone a little better if Mr. Moseley, on his part, had realised that the conditions in the two countries are entirely different—that there is no Egyptian "man in the street"; that the Shareh Kasr-el-Nil is not another Fleet Street. For all that, we shall be surprised if there is not a considerable sale for this book in Egypt.

"INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION."

A body known as the International Information Committee has been formed for the purpose of preparing and publishing a systematic series of literature dealing with and explaining the British Empire, its origin, constitution, resources, and general conditions. The first volume of the series, entitled "The Resources of the Empire," has now been published. It has been written by Dr. J. Watson Grice, who is well qualified for his task. In a handy form a brief account is given of the food supplies, raw materials, minerals, mineral oils, and metals of the British Empire, and the rest of the pamphlet is devoted to an analysis of capital available for Empire development and of the labour supply, and to a consideration of the growth of an Imperial economic policy. From this bald synopsis of its contents it must not be inferred that the volume is merely a dry compilation of indigestible facts. On the contrary, Dr. Grice has contrived to make his narrative eminently interesting, in spite of the small compass within which it is enclosed, and the romance of the Empire's resources takes the reader from the little-known oil fields of Scotland to the wonderful development of the rubber industry in its plantation form, which is now "primarily British," and to gold, of which two-thirds of the world's total production originated within the British Empire.

There is scope enough among Britons for a fuller knowledge of all that concerns the Empire; but the intention of the committee wisely includes the distribution of the information it has set itself to provide among foreign nations. When the war is over, and indeed before then, the promotion of better knowledge of one another among the peoples now leagued in the defence of civilisation and justice must prove a valuable contribution to the world's progress. It would be well if many of the volumes contemplated by the International Information series could be translated into foreign languages. Certainly a start ought to be made with Dr. Grice's pamphlet. For Near Eastern purposes it might suffice at first to have a French translation, which would find a large circle of readers in the Balkans when normal conditions are restored.

The pamphlet is published at 1s. net. Without doubt it makes its appearance at a time when the cost of printing is heavy, and the price cannot be considered excessive. But we shall hope to see the price ultimately reduced to 6d., in order that there may be practically no restriction of the circles which it may be expected to reach. The general editor of the series is Mr. René Francis, and the committee as originally constituted included the Duke of Newcastle, the late Earl of Cromer, Lord Muir Mackenzie, Sir William Plender, Mr. Edmund Gosse, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Mr. F. Heath Jackson, and Mr. C. J. Stewart.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hunter and Longhurst have published "Serbia to Kut," by Canon Parfit, of Jerusalem. The price is 1s.

A new weekly, entitled *L'Orient Arabe*, made its appearance in Paris on January 20. It is devoted chiefly to commercial interests, is edited by a former member of the staff of *Al Moustakbal*, and is published at 93, Rue du Bac.

The Daylight Saving Act comes into operation in Malta at midnight on March 10, and will remain in force until October 31. This arrangement will continue every year while the Act remains on the Statute Book.

The Russian Embassy state that correspondence concerning the Russian Red Cross Society must be addressed to Mr. Mouravieff Apostol, delegate of the above society in London, 8, South Audley Street, W. (Russian Hospital).

With the object of obtaining recruits for the Central Empires, the Bulgarian Government is releasing Russian prisoners of war of Polish nationality and sending them back to Poland.

* "The Resources of the Empire." By J. Watson Grice, D.Sc. Vol. I. of the International Information Series. (Published for the International Information Committee by the Athenæum Press. 1s. net.)

Part 1 Now Ready.

4/-, Post Free.

A NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY QUR-ĀN,

With Arabic Text, Phonetic Transliteration and Explanatory Notes.

AHMADIA MOVEMENT, 41, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.

* "With Kitchener in Cairo." By Sydney A. Moseley. (London: Cassell and Co. 5s. net.)

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It is not often that I regret missing any "amateur theatricals." In fact, I share the view of such things expressed by Ian Hay in "A Man's Man"; though, I fear, I could not write of them with such good-nature as does that sunny author. For once in a way, however, I do find myself regretting that I have missed one of these weird affairs. This was nothing less than an Arabic rendering of Shakespeare's masterpiece, presented at the Batn el Hagar Theatre, Halfa, by the Halfa Musical and Dramatic Society, on January 26 and 28. The rendering into Arabic of "Tipperary," lately referred to in these columns, must have been mere child's play compared with the translation of "Hamlet" and its adaptation for native consumption, so to say; and I am not surprised that the *Sudan Times*, to which I am indebted for an account of the entertainment, should refer to it as "ambitious."

Of course, we have all heard of "Hamlet, with Hamlet left out." The Halfa M. and D. S. would have nothing of that kind. Hamlet, I gather, was very much there; and though he "often looked too cheerful," and after the first act forsook "his suit of mourning . . . for a decidedly gay costume in pale blue and white," I read that he "took the chief rôle very well. His enunciation was clear and his action restrained." It was not, however, only in regard to the gloomy Dane's Alexander-Walleresque "gay costume" that novelty was introduced. "The translator (Tanius Effendi Abdu) has," says the *Sudan Times*, "altered the construction of the original so that the action falls into five acts, each of one scene; and he makes the very important change of leaving Hamlet alive and uninjured at the end of the play, while the ghost consigns the dying Queen, King and Laertes to final abodes suitable to their characters and circumstances. The Prince is no longer a Debating Society in himself, but a simple character; and the others also are simplified until their dramatic character comes within the range and powers of the intelligent amateur actor." After that, I was not surprised to be informed: "Few subtleties are left . . . the play is melodramatic, full of movement," etc., etc. I am, by the way, sorry to note that Polonius is not reserved for final consignment by the ghost to an "abode suitable to" his character. He was a tedious old gentleman, but in the new version he might surely have been kept going to the last act. Perhaps, however, so few of his subtleties were left that it was not thought worth while!

In one respect the Halfa "Hamlet" resembled the productions of Shakespeare's own day: the feminine parts were all taken by mere males. Wadia Effendi Michail played the Queen, and Shafik Effendi Shoucair was Ophelia. The latter's rendering of the part was, says the *Sudan Times*, "perhaps too tearful"; but "possessed with the necessary light voice" the artist "gave conviction of an unhappy maiden who is driven to madness. The difficult mad scene seems to be left in its entirety in the translation, and the actor rendered the pathetic lines extraordinarily well." I am afraid my Arabic never would have allowed me to follow the words of this new version. But as it is so "full of movement," that would not have mattered much, perhaps; and I must admit that I should dearly have liked to be present in the Batn el Hagar Theatre on one (or both) of the great nights. Had I been anywhere within range, the Syrian Relief Fund, in aid of which the performance was given, would certainly have been the richer by the price of at least one seat.

A friend who remembers my confession regarding my weakness for eggs has this week made my mouth water afresh. He has, it seems, been reading the article on "Egyptian Oversea Trade in 1916," which appeared in THE NEAR EAST of February 16, and has found therein a statement that 235,370,000 tons of eggs were sent out of the country, and that they fetched ££653,230. Being himself a poultry-keeper—a fact easily deducible from his scathing remarks about the iniquities of foxes—he was interested in these figures; and, being also a bit of a mathematician, he proceeded to analyse them. The result is that he works it out that one ought to be able to purchase 32,112 eggs, or thereabouts, for one penny—a price at which, he suggests, even such an egg glutton as myself might be able to satisfy my taste for these delicacies. I do not know whether his figures are accurate. They look conscientious enough on paper, but I have not the energy to check them. But I am tolerably sure there is a mistake somewhere. At any rate, I have not yet been able to get anything like this number of eggs for my penny. But I live in hopes.

My attention has been called to an account of the reception accorded by certain citizens of Baghdad to some of the British prisoners from Kut. The account is given by Private H. Filce, who has lately arrived in Croydon, after being exchanged; and it makes distinctly unpleasant reading. "That was a rough stunt for us," says Private Filce, referring to the transfer of himself and other prisoners from one building to another, "for the people treated us to a nice display of peace and goodwill. They jibed, jeered, and jabbered. Having learned two words, 'Engleesh fineesh,' they hissed them out with every contemptuous grimace possible. They threw mud and spat upon us." Now, if that had happened in Mosul it would not have surprised me at all, for the people of that town are an unpleasant and ill-bred crew. But the Baghdadi has some reputation for manners, and it is rather a shock to find him behaving in such an offensive way.

Doubtless it was only the riff-raff of the city that so far forgot itself, and acted in the way described with such artless alliteration by Private Filce. And I recognise that in every big city there is always a proportion of hooligans. But even so, I am disappointed to think that such a demonstration was tolerated in Baghdad. For the fact is that the Baghdad Arab is of a good type, with a sense of his own dignity, and I should have thought the force of public opinion would have prevented any manifestation of the kind described. Moreover, it is an undoubted fact that opinion in Baghdad has long been favourable to the British, and there is good reason to suppose that it still remains so to a large extent. The whole business looks to me as if it must have been engineered by the Huns' agents in Baghdad. Nevertheless, it is something for us to remember when the day comes for settling up accounts.

CORSAIR.

"MESOPOTAMIA DAY."

The Mesopotamia Comforts Fund Committee on Monday received the following telegram from General Sir Stanley Maude:—

"My heartfelt wishes are with you for complete success of your undertaking. Only those who have been here can realise fully the superb gallantry and self-sacrificing spirit of British and Indian troops and how well they have deserved of their country. After two and a-half months of strenuous fighting, it has culminated to-day in the complete rout of the enemy."

The undertaking referred to is the Mesopotamia Day (April 13), when emblems will be sold in aid of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund. Donations and offers of assistance will be welcomed by the Hon. Organiser, Miss Stella Maude, 26, Regent Street.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galissani, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepheard's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacalli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calabotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Francoise, Rue Sabri Pasha.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vassides.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

"THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—I have read with much interest Lieut.-Commander Trumper's kindly criticism of my views on the future of Palestine; but I find it rather difficult to follow the concluding arguments.

Might not a "convulsion of nature" so terrific as to dry up the Gulf of Suez, "divide the Mount of Olives, and cause a highway (waterway) to appear from the Mediterranean through Jerusalem to the Dead Sea," also destroy Jerusalem herself? If the level of the Dead Sea is to be "raised 1,300 ft.," so as to "cause it to overflow and join the Gulf of Akaba," would not that mighty overflowing equally submerge the whole of the Jordan valley and at least a good part of Galilee, both very rich districts of Palestine? The Sea of Galilee is 682 ft. below the level of the Mediterranean, and the Jordan valley varies from 1,200 ft. to 835 ft. below. There are no sharp mountain ranges to hem in that mighty "waterway," which would obliterate much of the richness and beauty of the land, as well as many landmarks of sacred and ordinary history.

Jerusalem is, and ever has been, the religious capital of the world to both Christian and Jew. Would anything be gained by making her a great commercial centre?

I ask these questions not as criticising my critic, but from a real wish to know. We are at least in complete agreement as to the certain and glorious future of Palestine.—I am, Sir, etc.,

ESTELLE BLYTH.

London.

THE SORROWS OF CHRISTENDOM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Is it possible, one may ask, that a Christian priesthood, Catholic and Lutheran, is still keeping open churches in Germany, and repeating the Lord's Prayer, while the hands of their congregation are steeped in innocent blood? Such is human fatuity, that a mad Kaiser is sufficient to obliterate every letter of Christ's Gospel, while relying on Him to support a filibustering, murdering, and altogether unscrupulous venture, conceived in deceit and executed in cruelty, against even a trusting, small, peaceful, and highly civilised neighbour, like Belgium! The Mohammedan butcher, while slaughtering his sheep, must by a ritual custom say "Bismillah." An Eastern story has it that a young lamb, hearing this, turned to an older one saying, "Listen how pious is our master, always repeating 'Bismillah'" (in God's name). The older one replied: "Never mind what he says. See, my boy, what his hand is doing!"

We know, of course, the Germans' talk about their need of expansion, although they were overrunning the new world and the old with their surplus population, without let or hindrance, and were amassing wealth and enjoying a prosperity in worldly goods second to none. We hear them also now ready to sacrifice all to protect their home and hearth, when their home and hearth were perfectly safe, until they opened the floodgates of war against their neighbours. England, their old friend, Italy, their old ally, and France, their old enemy, besought them to keep quiet and let arbitration settle Austria's dispute with little Serbia; but nothing availed. They had formed an unholy pact with the Bulgarian king, the Balkan traitor, and with those barbarian adventurers the Turks, to support each other in the most wicked adventure the world has ever known; and thinking they were well prepared against all obstacles, they would let nothing stay their hand.

War, a merciful war, as a last resort, is truly holy, and truly enjoined on the strong by the Books of Heaven and books of chivalry to help the oppressed weak and redress an injustice and a wrong. The unmerited misery of Belgium, the sufferings of Serbia, the crying injustice to France, the martyrdom of Armenia and Syria, cry aloud to Heaven for vengeance and redress. The dragon of lust, greed, and cruelty is abroad, but, as on England's banner, the dragon shall be slain.—I am, etc.,

London, February 20, 1917.

ALEXANDER SEFI.

A NEW TRANSLATION OF THE KORAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—I was glad to see in your issue of February 2 the review of the New Translation of the "Holy Qur-an" published by

the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi Islam, Qadian, India. No doubt the reviewer, "S. L.," has taken great pains in bringing to light the essential features of this new edition, but one familiar with the subject can easily discern that at many points he himself has viewed it in a coloured light, and has, therefore, failed to do justice to it. I may, however, clear some of the points where the reviewer seems to have stumbled; and I fervently hope that you will be kind enough to insert these lines for the benefit of your thoughtful readers.

In dealing with the claims and personality of Ahmad, the recipient of divine revelation and claimant of the Messiahship promised for the Mohammedan dispensation, "S. L." seems to have little knowledge of the Islamic theology concerning the subject. But the facts relating to the advent of the Promised Messiah were there, he had to judge them on the grounds presented. Simply to jeer at them and appeal to the sentiments of the mass is in no way creditable to him. If the Azharites resent the claims, as the reviewer supposes, of a Divine Messenger, it does not prove that his mission is not divine: no Divine Teacher has ever been given a warm reception at the hands of his people. The proud ones in particular side against him. So it matters little if the proud Azharites, and others of the same category, feel deep indignation at the second advent of the Promised Messiah, who has pointed out their errors, and revived the true faith, which had become like a skeleton in their hands. It only definitely proves the fact as indicated in the 7th verse of "Alfatiha." How truly the resemblance has been established may be judged from the well-known fact of the open rejection of the First Messiah by the learned Pharisees, Rabbis, etc., although they were anxiously waiting for his coming. Again, if the authors have noted on p. 55 "the alleged degradation of the Moslems is by way of punishment," there is no cause for indignation. It is merely in accordance with the Divine law established elsewhere. "This is due to the fact that God changeth not the favour which He bestows upon any people, until they change what is in them" (ch. viii. 55). In another verse we read to the same effect: "God never changeth the condition of a people until they change what is in their souls" (by disobedience) (ch. xiii. 12). So it must be noted that all the comments in this edition have been made with due deliberation and after careful research work. Of course, some of the important subjects which seem to have been taken for granted will be fully dealt with in the introduction.

"S. L." says that the identity of the author is not revealed. Probably the assumption that it is a work of a single person has led him to other serious mistakes. The announcement made on the specimen pages discloses the fact as to its authorship in these words, which perhaps have been overlooked by the reviewer: "The translation which we have undertaken is not the work of a single person, but of a board of translators composed of enlightened scholars with sound knowledge of the 'Holy Qur-an' and its existing commentaries, and Moslem graduates who are conversant with Arabic and have made the 'Holy Qur-an' the subject of their study for many years." The first part produced is, indeed, a far more reliable translation than those formerly existing. The authenticity lies in the fact that it is wholly and solely consistent with, and at the same time well expressive of, the Word of God. I do not deny the service that has been done to the Arabic language by European scholars. But in the case of the translation of the Qur-an, I may say without fear of contradiction that at some points serious blunders have been made that run counter to the spirit of the Holy Book.

Your reviewer has taken upon himself the trouble of pointing out several departures from the English translators. But I am afraid that in most cases he has not judged the position fairly. He is rather more inclined to defend the English translators, in spite of the blunders well exposed, in their versions. So I must point out that in rendering the translation of the Qur-an there are certain principles of supreme importance which should be carefully followed. Wherever they have been ignored, contradictory statements and objectionable interpretations have followed, and consequently a true picture of Islam has not been presented. This is why the Moslem authors have the right to say that the English translators of the Qur-an have failed to manifest the truth. One of the most important principles is that in the attempt to render any verse into a foreign language other verses interpreting it should be minutely observed. It would be a fatal mistake to translate it in contradiction to other explanatory verse or verses in the Qur-an (*vide* verse 7 of ch. ii. referred to by your reviewer, and the verse following). The interpretations clearly signify in what case the admonition to the disbelievers does no good to them, and how God seals up their hearts. It would be the most unwarrantable meaning to say that they do not believe because God has sealed up their hearts, etc. Similarly, no word ought to be so translated as to stand in opposition to any of the attributes of the Deity, who, according to Islamic theology, is absolutely holy and absolutely good. Ignoring this principle, the English translators have represented to us, in verse 10 of ch. ii., that God is deceived by the people, and in verse 15, that God mocks at the people—surely quite untenable and inconsistent with the spirit of the Qur-an. There are several other rules which have been closely and thoroughly observed by the authors of this new version, but I must not trespass on your space to enumerate them with illustrations. Finally, I may say that the Moslem translators of the "Holy Qur-an" have really succeeded so far as they have gone in presenting a real insight into the excellences of Islam. The notes and comments are so elaborate and argumentative that no serious objection to the teachings of Islam has been left unanswered.—I am, etc.,

Q. ABDULLAH.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. March. 2 3	1917. Feb. 17 18		1335. Jumada I. 8 9	5677. Adar. 8 9
4 5 6 7 8	19 20 21 22 23	Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday .. Thursday	10 11 12 13 14	10 11 12 13 14

Reuter's Paris correspondent telegraphs (March 1):—A despatch from Jassy states that the Queen of Roumania has been injured in a motor accident. The motor-car was crossing one of the most frequented quarters of Jassy when a little girl, who was playing in the street, ran in front of it. The chauffeur pulled up the car with a jerk, and it was thrown against a shop front. The Queen, who is suffering from shock, was cut about the face by splinters of glass, and the chauffeur was badly injured.

General Georgesco, of the Roumanian Army, arrived in London from France on Sunday.

The Bishop of Buckingham is at present in Cairo. He went out to Egypt to assist the Bishop in Jerusalem in taking Confirmations, and will later proceed for the same purpose to Salonika and Malta.

A Reuter's message announces that the Maharajah of Bikanir, who is on his way to England to attend the special War Conference, arrived at Cairo on Sunday. He was met by representatives of the Sultan and the High Commissioner, and afterwards left for Assuan, the Sultan placing at his disposal two of his luxurious Nile steamers.

The Maharajah, it will be remembered, was the first of the Ruling Princes of India to offer the services of himself and his troops to the King-Emperor. He served in France with the Meerut Division of the Indian Expeditionary Force, and was made Aide-de-Camp on Sir John French's Staff, and was officially commended by the Commander-in-Chief for gallant conduct in the field. The Maharajah returned to India in February, 1915, owing to the fatal illness of his daughter, and reached Egypt on his way home just in time to place himself at the head of his famous regiment, the Bikanir Camel Corps, which was stationed there, and help to repel the Turkish invasion. Again he was mentioned for gallantry in despatches from the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John Maxwell.

Many people will have read with pleasure the announcement (made in last Friday's *Gazette*) that the King had been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Rear-Admiral Henry Russell Robinson (retired), Director-General of the Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration, to be a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, in recognition of his services during the war.

Admiral Robinson has been Director-General of the Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses since 1907, and is extremely popular in Alexandria and in Cairo. He entered the Navy in 1870 at the age of 14, became a commander in 1895, a captain in 1900, and retired in 1909 with the rank of rear-admiral. He is a son of the late Rev. G. W. Robinson, of Walmley, Warwickshire, and he married a daughter of the Hon. W. Eccles, of Trinidad.

A feeling has been expressed in Egypt among the friends of the late Miss Etta Hughes that those who knew her might like to associate in some memorial to her of a useful nature. It is thought that a drinking fountain might be erected in one of the

thoroughfares of Cairo. Lady Willcocks, Gezira, Cairo; or Mrs. Elgood, Heliopolis, Cairo, will be glad to hear from friends wishing to subscribe.

Sir Bamfylde Fuller, who has been appointed head of the Timber Department in the War Office, was for some months in Egypt, his services having been lent by the Indian Government.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (February 6):—Great sympathy is felt for Mr. A. L. Stuart, President of the District Court of Limassol, and Mrs. Stuart, on account of the loss of the son of the latter, Mr. Mackay, news of whose death, through an accident, has been received. This officer has done gallant service at the front, and received the Military Cross.

One of the Egyptian princes, Mustafa Kamel, has been staying at Limassol. He is one of the many sons of Mustafa Fázyl Pasha (brother of the Khedive Ismail, and son of Ibrahim Pasha), who died in the seventies, at Constantinople.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Rome, between Major Cyril Roche, Irish Guards, and Betty, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Iddings. Mr. Lewis Iddings was formerly Diplomatic Agent for the United States in Cairo and Counsellor of the United States Embassy in Rome, where he has resided for many years.

The marriage arranged between Major T. B. Pritchett, R.F.A., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Pritchett, King's Norton, Warwickshire, and Irène, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, Alexandria, and Hotel Rubens, London, will take place (leave permitting) at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on March 7 at 2.30 p.m. Owing to mourning, no invitations are being sent, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

The engagement is announced of Clothilde Séjalon, younger daughter of the late M. A. Séjalon, of 2, Rue du Plat, Lyon, and of Les Verchères, Genay (Ain), and Geoffrey Barrow, lieutenant, R.F.A., younger son of General Sir Edmund Barrow, G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

The engagement is announced of Harry Surtees Altham, M.C., captain, 60th Rifles, of the College, Winchester, younger son of Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Altham, K.C.B., C.M.G., and Lady Altham, of Rotherwood, Salisbury, and Alison, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Livingstone-Learmonth, of Catherington House, Horn-dean, Hants.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Samuel Simpson, who was from 1903 to 1905 Senior Lecturer in Agriculture at the Ghizeh Agricultural College, and is now the Director of Agriculture, Uganda Protectorate, and Katherine Nathalie, second daughter of the Hon. Mr. Justice Broome, Supreme Court, Nata! The wedding is expected to take place shortly at Kampala.

Mr. Sydney Maltass, son of Mr. Neville Maltass, has been granted a commission in the Army.

Mr. A. van Millingen has arrived in Alexandria on his return from London.

In a letter to the Press Lord Curzon writes (February 24):—"My remarks as Chairman of the Committee at the opening of the new School of Oriental Studies in Finsbury Circus by his Majesty the King yesterday suffered from a very regrettable omission, due, not to inadvertence, but to forgetfulness—which I should like, with your permission, to rectify. After mentioning the services of Lord Cromer, as first Chairman of the Committee, I had meant to say how great is the debt that the new institution owes to our Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. J. Hartog, C.I.E., Registrar of the London University, without whose indefatigable and tactful labours during the past seven years the scheme could not have reached fruition. And further, I had intended to mention the contribution to the same result of our architect, Professor

J. W. Simpson, F.R.I.B.A., who adapted and added to the fine Classical structure of the London Institution with equal regard to utility and taste."

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Mr. Gilbert Harvey, its sub-editor, has resigned his position to rejoin the Royal Navy, which he entered on the outbreak of war but subsequently left owing to his health. "This," adds the *Gazette*, "is the fifth sub-editor whose services this newspaper has lost owing to the war. Mr. C. A. Wilkinson, who was wounded during the Somme advance, is now employed at the War Office, London; Mr. Sutton-Page is a captain, and is serving in German East Africa; Mr. Hart Edwards is in the Egyptian Labour Corps; and the late Mr. René Matté, French sub-editor, was killed at the French front in the early days of the war."

Twenty-two large cases of drugs and other hospital requisites have been sent out for the relief of the Roumanian Army by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W. The contents of ten of these cases came from the Wounded Allies Relief Branch of the Kensington War Hospital Supply Depot, 176, Cromwell Road, S.W., and included among other things 10,590 assorted swabs, 6,369 bandages of various kinds, and considerably over 200 splints.

The military degradation of the Roumanian General Sococ and his sentence to five years' hard labour seem to have produced an excellent effect in Roumania, writes the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*. It must be remembered that on several occasions before the battle of Argesh his attitude was called in question. Sococ is the son of a Saxon who established himself at Bucharest about the year 1860, and on several occasions his loyalty was questioned. It seems that he suggested that the bridge over the Danube at Cernavoda should be blown up at least ten days before it was necessary, whereupon a distinguished officer remarked that Sococ's destruction was more to be desired than that of the bridge.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

A Cairo message announces that Sir Murdoch Macdonald has been appointed Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, Egypt, and that he will retain the Under-Secretaryship in the same department.

Major G. S. Symes, D.S.O., private secretary to the Governor-General of the Sudan, has been appointed for special service, and granted the temporary rank of Lieut.-Colonel while so employed.

Mr. A. W. Keown-Boyd, private secretary and assistant private secretary to the Governor-General, has also been appointed for special service.

Mr. A. B. B. Howell, Inspector Sudan Finance Department, has been appointed as assistant private secretary, with effect from January, 1917.

The following appointments, etc., are announced in the *Egyptian Gazette*:—
Kaimakam G. F. Hudson-Kinahan Bey has been appointed officer commanding 3rd Battalion, vice Miralai Joyce Bey, struck off.
Captain H. S. Smith, Royal Fusiliers, has ceased to be attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officer, with effect from February 11.

Bimbashi J. N. F. C. Alexander, aide-de-camp to the Sirdar, has been transferred to Cairo district, and Bimbashi E. Chester-Master, 9th Sudanese, has been appointed acting aide-de-camp to the Sirdar in his place.

Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) G. F. Hudson-Kinahan, 3rd Battalion; Hon. B. A. Forbes, general staff; J. H. Pattison, deputy assistant adjutant-general and aide-de-camp to the Sirdar; and A. G. Rainsford-Hannay, acting director military works department, have been granted the rank of Kaimakam.

Miralai M. J. Wheatley Bey, Assistant Civil Secretary, Sudan Government, has been appointed private secretary to his Excellency the Governor-General, acting as Civil Secretary in addition.

OBITUARY.

Mlle. MISU.

We regret to announce that Mlle. Marie Marguerite Misu, eldest daughter of H. E. the Roumanian Minister, died early on Sunday morning, at the Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, S.W. The funeral took place yesterday, the first part of the service being held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, and the interment taking place at Brompton Cemetery.

By command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called on the Roumanian Minister at the Legation on Tuesday to express the condolences of his Majesty and the Queen on the Minister's loss. King Manoel also sent a message of condolence, and numerous other messages of condolence have been received by M. and Madame Misu. Among the callers who left cards were the French Ambassador, the Italian Ambassador and the Marchesa Imperiali, the Spanish Ambassador and Madame Merry del Val, the United States Ambassador and Mrs. Hines Page, the Japanese Ambassador, the Swiss Minister, the Swedish Minister and Countess Wrangel, the Norwegian Minister, M. and Madame Gennadius, the Portuguese Minister, the Netherlands Minister and Madame de Marees van Swinderen, the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch, the Belgian Minister and Madame Hymans, and other representatives of the Diplomatic Corps.

MR. JOHN RICHARD PREECE, C.M.G.

Mr. John Richard Preece, C.M.G., formerly H.M. Consul-General at Ispahan, died on Sunday, at his residence, 46, Bullingham Mansions, Kensington.

Born in 1843, he was the youngest son of the late Richard Matthias Preece, of Carnarvon, and was educated at a private school in this country and at the Imperial College, France. He first went out to Persia in 1868, as Assistant Traffic Manager, Indo-European Telegraph Department. He travelled much in those early days, and amongst other valuable work he accomplished was the survey of the road between Bunder Abbas and Jask. Then, as later, he always got on well with the Persians, who admired his straight dealing and his sound common-sense, and who used to say of him: "If Preece says it is so, it is so."

In 1891 he was appointed Consul at Ispahan, and in 1892 Consul for the Governorships of Ispahan, Yezd, Gulpaigan, and Komsar, the Province of Irak, and the districts of Cheharmahal, and Feridan, in the residence at Ispahan. In 1898 his district was extended to include the Bakhtiari territory; in 1899 he was made a C.M.G.; and in 1900 he was promoted to the rank of Consul-General. He retired in March, 1906.

As indicated above, his influence with the Persians was considerable. He was highly esteemed by H.H. the Zil-es-Sultan, and he possessed to a marked degree the confidence of the leading Bakhtiari chiefs and princes, who placed great reliance on his advice and frequently sought his assistance in the settlement of delicate questions. It was undoubtedly due to his personal influence with the Bakhtiari chiefs that the concession for the working of the oilfields was obtained, in 1905, as early as it was and upon conditions so favourable. The oilfields were, of course, in his district, and he was well acquainted with their possibilities. He had travelled extensively in the Bakhtiari country and in the Turco-Persian frontier region, and his knowledge of this country frequently stood him in good stead. He knew and thoroughly understood the Persian character, Persian policy, and Persian diplomacy; and there was perhaps no man better acquainted with the Persian question than he. His views on these subjects were particularly sound.

He was not a keen sportsman, in the ordinary acceptance of that term, but in his younger days he was a great player of games. Up to twelve years ago he thought nothing of walking out to Julfa, a distance of about three miles, playing half-a-dozen, or more, sets of tennis, and walking back. He was also a very good billiard player. A member of the Electrical Engineers Society, he occasionally read papers on telegraphic subjects and on Persian trade before this and

other societies to which he belonged. He married, last year, Mary Isobel, daughter of Mr. D. Graham Allardice and widow of Mr. J. Duncan.

Major-General Sir Cromer Ashburnham, K.C.B., Colonel-Commandant of the 3rd King's Royal Rifle Corps, died on Sunday at Coleherne Court, S.W. He entered the Army in 1855, and served through the Indian Mutiny Campaign and the Afghan War of 1878-80, and the Boer War of 1880. In 1882 he went with his battalion to Egypt, and there took part in Lord Wolseley's campaign against Arabi. He was present at the reconnaissance in force from Alexandria, the actions of Tel-el-Mahuta and Kassassin, and at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir he commanded the Fourth Infantry Brigade. He was twice mentioned in despatches and received the K.C.B. and the Mejidieh, and was also appointed Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria, a reward which carried with it promotion to the rank of colonel. Two years later he took part in the operations in the Sudan conducted by Sir Gerald Graham, and was present at the battles of El Teb and Tamai, thus earning the unusual distinction of having commanded a battalion in four separate campaigns, and having been mentioned in despatches in the five in which he had during his career taken part. In 1884 he was placed on half-pay, but given employment on the Staff, and in 1886 he retired with the rank of major-general, receiving in the same year a Distinguished Service reward.

Lieutenant Thomas Frederick Preston, Yeomanry, attached R.F.C., third son of the late Sir Henry Jacob Preston, Bart., of Beeston Hall, Norfolk, and of Lady Preston, Barton Hall, Norwich, was last week reported killed in action. He was born in 1889, and educated at Charterhouse, and in 1911 he went to Egypt, where he worked first in the National Bank of Egypt, and then in the Financial Department of the Egyptian Civil Service at Cairo. In 1913 he returned to England to take up an appointment. Lieutenant Preston went with the Yeomanry to Suvla Bay, where, after a few months, he contracted enteric, and was invalided home. In 1916 he joined the Royal Flying Corps, and proceeded to the front on January 2 last. He was reported missing on January 24. His machine appears to have been brought down by German anti-aircraft guns while he was taking observations over the enemy's lines. Later he was reported killed with his observer.

Dr. Laura Forster, daughter of the late Right Hon. William Forster, M.P., Agent-General for New South Wales, died on February 11, while in charge of a field hospital at Zaleschiki, Galicia.

Major Dashwood William Harrington Humphreys, D.S.O., Indian Infantry, who is reported killed in action, was, from April, 1910, to January, 1912, A.D.C. to the Political Agent at Aden. Before the present war he saw service in the Tibet campaign of 1903-4. He was slightly wounded, but took part in the march to Lhasa. In addition to mention in despatches, he was made a Companion of the D.S.O., and was decorated with the Tibet Medal with clasp.

We regret to announce the death, after two days' illness, from pneumonia and heart failure, of Mr. Jefferys Phillip Thomas Allen, of Lyngford, Taunton, only son of the late Colonel Allen, Scots Greys, and Mrs. Charles Allen. Born in 1867, he was educated at Eton and Cambridge, and served for ten years in the West Somerset Yeomanry. He was a fine rider, and in his early days did a good deal of racing at Cairo, where he was well known and had many friends. He married in 1896 the eldest daughter of the late General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., who survives him, and leaves a son and three daughters.

Among those who perished when the Italian transport Minas was torpedoed and sunk on February 15 were General Goikovich and Colonels Dragouvin, Doultich, and Milin Ristitch, of the Serbian Army.

Owing to the sudden illness of Mr. Wickham Steed there was no discourse at the Royal Institution last Friday evening.

Next Tuesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, at a meeting of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society, at the Imperial Institute, Miss M. Edith Durham will read a paper entitled "Serbia, as Seen in its Ballads."

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS,

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

HELP to meet the needs of the

SERBIAN ARMY.

and send your Donation for the

SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the

SERBIAN LEGATION, 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1917.

THE NEW NEAR EAST.

We have already urged in these columns the necessity of closer attention being given by the thinking section of the British public to the affairs of the Near East and the Middle East, pointing out the importance of these regions in their relation to the British Empire. The plea may not improperly be followed by a more detailed consideration of the settlement which in the interest of the future of these territories and of Great Britain it is desirable should be reached. As the Balkans have been the storm centre of Europe in the past, the aim of the Quadruple Entente must be permanently to eliminate this menace to the world's peace by restoring settled conditions and harmony where before the situation seethed with animosities and intrigues. A settlement on these lines must embrace two main principles: there should be no national grievances arising from the presence of large numbers of kinsmen under foreign rule, and the element or elements that made for intrigue in the past, whether in palace, barracks, or cottage, must either consent to turn over a new leaf or be eradicated. In this connection it will not be forgotten that the mere fact that in the general settlement of which we are thinking the Entente Powers will have established their superiority over the Central Powers will of itself curtail the capacity of the latter for mischief and the temptation for intrigue in the Balkan States. By the time, too, that stage is reached the Bulgarians, who must necessarily be regarded as the potential disturbers of the peace, will have learned, it is to be hoped, something of the canker which has led to their undoing, and will have taken steps to remove it, however drastic the surgical operation. The Balkan situation is too complicated ethnographically to admit of an ideal settlement. Room for criticism there must always be, but a great point will have been gained, if the criticism does not arise from an irredentist grievance. The claims of history need not be altogether ignored, but they must not be over-emphasised. Boundaries must be fixed on scientific as well as on political lines; but where they have to be drawn so as to cut off a community from the jurisdiction of its own nationality, an opportunity for a transfer of domicile, under the supervision of the Entente, ought to be granted. Such a system will have to be applied practically to every State in the Balkans. There is good reason to suppose that after the Treaty of Bucharest the countries concerned recognized the advantage of having only a homogeneous population to deal with; but they set about carrying the principle into effect in a way that could not be endorsed by the Entente Powers. Those evil practices have to be stopped once and for all.

It is impossible to examine at all closely into any proposal for the settlement of the Balkan question without realising that an indispensable preliminary to any satisfactory arrangement is a thoroughly candid exchange of views between all the Powers concerned—that is to say, in the Allied group. Nothing can be more derogatory to the good sense and the solidarity of the Grand Alliance than the toleration in its midst of a number of political cross-currents, of which every member is conscious, but to which none dares to call attention, as a definite factor in the situation. The course that finds favour at the present time seems to be for the Entente Powers to shake their heads gravely at any symptom of trouble in this direction and to postpone consideration of it until what is vaguely termed the Peace Conference, in the fond hope, apparently, that when a hundred and

one other matters are violently agitating the Allied Governments an easy and smooth solution of earlier difficulties will be found. In the first place, no reason has ever been adduced for the holding of a Peace Conference in the sense implied. That terms of peace will have to be formulated for the Central Powers to be accepted by them, if they want the war to end, is obvious; but no protest can be too strong against the idea of a conference at which the Central Powers will be allowed to haggle over terms and to whittle down the conditions which the Allies may be minded to impose. Still less ought it to be conceivable that representatives of the Central Powers should be present when the details of the settlement of the Near East are arranged. On these grounds an early conference of the Allied Powers seems essential, and it should be characterised by the utmost candour. The main factors to be recognised are the uneasiness in regard to Russia's ultimate intentions in the Balkans, the claims of Italy which tend to encroach unduly upon the Southern Slavs, and the pretensions of the latter, who would like to see the Italians virtually excluded from the Eastern side of the Adriatic, and would have, if they could, all their other neighbours, Roumanians and Greeks included, surrender territory for the benefit of the new State. Until these causes of dissension are fairly faced by the Allies, there seems to be no chance of a satisfactory situation being evolved in the Near East. With Russia's aims in regard to Constantinople and the Straits realised, there ought to be little difficulty in reassuring the Balkan peoples that they have no more to fear from her than from the United States of America. The rival claims of Italy and the Southern Slavs can be settled by a round-table conference at which the Powers of the Triple Entente make it clear that they are resolved upon finding an equitable solution which has a reasonable chance of being permanent. No time should be lost in holding such a conference, in order that an agreement may be reached before there is any question of the opening of negotiations with the Central Powers. When the details of the settlement have been fixed they can be incorporated, so far as may be necessary, in the terms of peace to be presented for the unconditional acceptance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

A useful introduction to the larger conference would be a complete understanding between Russia and Great Britain on all points which provide a meeting ground for their respective interests. Probably no one is better suited to carry out such negotiations than Lord Milner, and we can but hope that his mission to Petrograd has had reference not only to matters immediately affecting the conduct of the war, but is also concerned with the wider problem of the adjustment of Anglo-Russian interests throughout the Near and Middle East. It may be that the Russian Government has first to accustom itself to the new order in Great Britain, which, instead of playing shadow to the Tsar's officials in the Middle East, as it has been doing for the last dozen years or more, is prepared to put forward a definite policy of its own. With the fate of Constantinople settled in her favour, Russia can offer no objection to an equitable delimitation of Anglo-Russian spheres of interest in Persia; she will recognize, too, that the British claim to Mesopotamia does not necessarily determine the nature of Russia's future relations to Armenia, where the population, though counting on Russian help, has a distinct national entity of its own. An agreement between the two Powers, based on the recognition of the fact that Great Britain intends to shoulder her responsibilities in these parts more vigorously than she has hitherto done, will enable Russia to give the necessary assurances to the Balkan States that her aspirations in that quarter are entirely satisfied with the acquisition of Constantinople. Starting from this point, the Entente Powers can approach the adjustment of the Serbo-Italian question with a clean slate. Confiscations of territory will not be necessary to ensure Bulgaria's good behaviour, and there are other ways of mulcting her for the treacherous part she has played in the war. The great ideal to strive for in the Balkans is peace and co-operation in the paths of progress. Legitimate interests must be safeguarded; but militarist tendencies, whether from Italian or Jugoslav quarters, must be sternly repressed.

ALBANIA PAST AND PRESENT.

II.—THE RACE INSTINCT.

By M. Edith Durham.

Let us now consider the Albanian's centuries of struggle for existence. Save the Balkans themselves, Albania is about the oldest thing in the Balkan peninsula. We first hear of the land as Illyria, a very strong kingdom, which fought with the Romans as early as 230 B.C., so strong, indeed, that the Romans did not succeed in subduing and conquering it till A.D. 169. Scodra, now called Scutari by us, was then already its capital. And the Albanians call it by its old name very slightly modified—Shkodra—to this day. It is one of Europe's oldest capitals. Berlin, Petrograd, Sofia, and Belgrade are but modern in comparison.

The native population seems to have flourished under Rome. Many even rose to be Emperors, among them Diocletian and Constantine the Great, and others of less note. Christianity was early introduced. Scutari became a bishopric as early as 307 A.D. Judging by the things found in the numerous ancient graves there was a considerable native civilization before the advent of the Romans. Illyria manufactured and probably exported iron at a very early date.

Roman-Illyrian civilization was overwhelmed and largely destroyed by the inrush of great numbers of savage Slavonic tribes from across the Danube. They were pagan, and drove the Latins to the coast, where Roman influence has never yet quite died out, and settled on the plains of the interior. They were the ancestors of the modern Serbs, Bosniaks, and Montenegrins. Though they spread over wide land, they were a tribal people, and therefore weak. They were, therefore, in their turn speedily overwhelmed by the Bulgars who founded the first Bulgar Empire, which flourished in the Tenth Century and included the greater part of the Balkan peninsula. The Illyrian population, it would appear, had taken to the mountains of the West, just as did the Welsh in England. Here they maintained their language, traditions, and customs, and a certain amount of independence.

Two Bulgar Empires successively rose and fell. Finally the Serbs united under the Kings of the Nemanya line, and for about two hundred years were the dominant race in the Balkans. During the twenty years, indeed, of Tsar Stefan Dushan's reign the Serbian Empire included almost all the peninsula. But all Balkan Empires have been one-man empires: have gone up like rockets and down like sticks. Ambitious Serb nobles tore up Dushan's empire shortly after his death. Albania was one of the first to break loose, and we hear of local native chieftains.

It is highly probable that the inclusion in these fleeting mediæval Empires of a large and vigorous Albanian population was one of the sources of their weakness.

The Slav invaders, who did not become Christian till the Ninth Century—that is some five centuries after the Albanians—threw in their lot with Byzantium. Illyria, on the other hand, formed part of the Patriarchate of Rome. The efforts of the Serbs, however, to Slavize the Albanians failed completely. The Serb occupation was but brief, and ran off the Albanian as does water from a duck's back. All that remains is the hatred of the invaded for the invader. The Albanian has never forgotten that he is the aboriginal and the Slav a comparative newcomer.

The next great Balkan catastrophe—for we must be brief—was the advent of the Turk. The peninsula was at

this time in a wholly incoherent state, and no one race was supreme. The Balkan peoples have in fact owed all their troubles to the fact that they hate each other more than they hate any outsider, and so fail to combine. Even when faced with the Turkish danger this rule held good. The son-in-law of the Serb Tsar deserted to the Turks with all his men. Christian, not for the first nor the last time, betrayed Christian.

The Albanians were the last of all the Balkan peoples to succumb. Under the leadership of their celebrated champion, Skenderbeg, they successfully resisted one Turkish invasion after another. But he died in 1467, leaving no one capable of replacing him. Venice had for some time been creeping down the coast, occupying several towns and trading with the interior. The Albanians and Venetians united against the Turk. But Scutari fell after a long and fierce siege in 1479, and Albania was soon completely overrun. True to their traditions, the mountain tribesmen managed to retain their autonomy, and for over a century sent repeated appeals to Venice for help. But none came. The Albanians then, in the Seventeenth Century, began to go over to Islam. The Slavs had already done so in numbers, especially in Bosnia.

Gaining power as Moslems, the Albanians rapidly spread down on to the plains from which their ancestors had been evicted by the Serbs. The mountain tribes founded villages as far north as Mitrovitza, and spread towards Monastir. They reconquered, in fact, a large portion of their ancient Illyria. The Serbs of Kossovo vilayet accepted Austria's invitation, and migrated in a body into Austria.

The Albanians now began to struggle for independence. The Pashas of Scutari and the celebrated Ali Pasha, whose capital was Janina, were indeed for a time almost wholly independent. Crushed by the Turks at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, they have never wholly yielded nor given up their national aspirations. They have survived Rome and Byzantium, two Bulgar Empires, one Serb Empire, and the Turkish Empire without losing their identity or their strong race instinct. To-day they look forward eagerly to the fulfilment of the promise that this war is one for the rights of small nationalities.

They look forward to the fulfilment of the promise made by Europe in 1913. Their hopes were cruelly disappointed when, in response to their appeal, Europe sent them a wholly incompetent and incapable German Prince—the Prince von Wied. They expected him as a Messiah. He did not even deign to visit his lands and people, but sat in a very comfortable palace, pastured off diet provided by a very excellent chef, and played at trying to form a little German Court, leaving the unfortunate Albanians to be made at once the prey of numerous and most unscrupulous European intriguers.

That story is too recent to tell.

Let us hope, though, that Albania's day is about to dawn, and that the oldest and in many ways the most capable of the Balkan peoples will soon have their "place in the sun." Given a fair chance, no one who knows the Albanian doubts that he will ultimately succeed. But in order that the chance should be fair it would be advisable that some one strong protector should guard Albania's interests. And that she should not a second time be left to the "too many cooks" of many Powers.

History and racial sympathies seem to indicate Italy as the most suitable protector. But in this, as on other national questions, let us hope the people themselves will be consulted. Above all, if even partially permanent peace is to be made, let us hope that no Albanian territory will be included in any other State. History shows that this results always in the break up of the State that is so constituted.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Mesopotamia Campaign.

February 27.

The Marquess of CREWE asked whether the Leader of the House could give any further information regarding the taking of Kut-el-Amarah. It was clear that General Maude had displayed those combined qualities of prudence and vigour which stamped him as a thoroughly capable commander. He hoped that it had been found possible to supply him with everything he required, and that he had in that respect been more fortunate than some of his predecessors. General Maude's feat of arms must be regarded with general satisfaction. Perhaps Lord Curzon would be able to tell the House at what point the considerable number of prisoners who were stated to have been taken were secured. Did they form part of the garrison of Kut itself, or were they taken at some point lower down the river?

EARL CURZON: I think your lordships will entirely agree with the noble Marquess in the encomium he passed on what has undoubtedly been a brilliant and successful feat of arms by General Maude. A very full account appeared in the newspapers this morning of the series of engagements that culminated in this success. It will be obvious that the scene of operations has been shifted from Kut-el-Amarah itself to a point considerably further up the river, and, therefore, the initial success announced in the telegrams yesterday and this morning has been continued and pursued. With regard to the question put to me concerning the localities in which prisoners were captured, I may say that the captures have been at each stage of the operations, first in the operations for securing the southern or right bank of the river; secondly, and more particularly, in the bend of the river called the Dahra bend to a point immediately below Shumran; and, thirdly, in the operations which consisted of a direct and most gallant frontal attack on the Sanna-i-Yat trenches. I have not the figures, but the total number of prisoners is, I think, several thousands. As to the degree of confidence these events may inspire in future operations, I should like to wait a little before answering that question; but it is quite obvious that the slur on our arms, if that be the phrase which is properly applicable, which was caused by the events of last year, has been entirely wiped out. The whole of the position at that time unsuccessfully held by our troops, and subsequently occupied by the Turks, has been wrested from the enemy. The series of engagements which have taken place, and which have carried the fighting to an area from ten to fifteen miles west of Kut-el-Amarah, must have much more than a merely local effect, and must alter, if they do not entirely transform, the Turkish position in Mesopotamia.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"Hard-lying" in Mesopotamia.

Feb. 21.

Colonel YATE asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Admiralty had cancelled its decision to grant hard-lying money to the officers and men in the river gunboats in Mesopotamia, and further had ordered that all such hard-lying money already paid to the said officers and men should be refunded by them from their pay by monthly instalments; and, if so, whether in view of the hardships undergone by the said officers and men, he would take steps to make the grant of the hard-lying money effective.

DR. MACNAMARA: Hard-lying money in the gunboats was authorised locally without the necessary prior sanction of the Admiralty, and as it appeared that the discomforts experienced in the vessels were mainly due to the climatic conditions and were met by the payment of the usual climate allowance, directions were given for the recovery of the over-payments involved. Upon further representations being made, however, it was decided to allow full rates of hard-lying money (instead of half rates as paid in the first instance) in the small craft employed in the Mesopotamian rivers, and the orders that had been given for the recovery of past payments were cancelled.

The Dardanelles Report.

Feb. 26.

The Chancellor of the EXCHEQUER, replying to Commander BELLAIRS, stated that he could not promise to give a day for the discussion of the report on the Dardanelles Expedition until it had been circulated, and until he knew whether there was any general desire for such a discussion.

"VARDANANTZ."

Mr. Balfour states that of the 1,800,000 Armenians who were in the Ottoman Empire two years ago 1,200,000 have been either massacred or deported. In view of this statement the Armenian celebration of "Vardanantz," which took place last Sunday in London, had a pathetic aspect. Vardanantz is commemoration of a war in defence of Christianity which took place in 451, and is classed next to Christmas celebration, and has been celebrated annually for the last 1,466 years. In London the celebration was under the auspices of the Armenian Literary Society, and the many patriotic speeches delivered aroused great enthusiasm. It took place at the International Club, Regent Street. The chair was taken by Mr. Aivazian, of America. Messrs. Ardontz, Safrastian, Aghabegian, and Prof. Hagopian addressed the meeting. Mr. Aram Raffi explained some limelight views of Armenia, and Mr. Tiratzian recited. Altogether it was a successful gathering.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

The United States Universities have been, either by defraying the cost of excavations in Mesopotamia, or by purchasing from Arab and European dealers, obtaining many thousands of cuneiform clay tablets and cylinders from the buried cities of Assyria and Babylonia. One of their best collections is at Yale, and the first volume containing a selection from among 8,000 pieces of the Babylonian series has just been edited by Professor Clay.

Among them is a short piece from the celebrated Code of Laws of King Hammurapi. This fragment is a duplicate of part of the long text found at Susa, and so not so valuable as the four or five paragraphs now in the custody of Pennsylvania University, which present articles of the Code erased on the Susa monument. Cuneiform scholars have for some time known that there were Sumerian dialect laws in Babylonia that were recognised as binding upon the community, and so directive of judicial decisions, earlier than the era of Hammurapi, although they may not have been codified as the laws held binding in Hammurapi's time, were by that enlightened monarch. Now, at Yale, Prof. Clay has found a legal tablet containing some nine sections of these primitive laws. One of these is of much interest for jurists and students of the customs of mankind, because it clearly sets forth the Babylonian view as to the terms upon which an eldest son might anticipate his rights as first-born to his inheritance. In those early times in Western Asia we may suppose, from what we know, that even pastoral people, and town-dwellers, were still semi-nomadic. So many of the fair places of the earth were as yet unoccupied, and so innate was the sense of adventure, the wish to travel into unknown lands, among peoples who, born amidst the flux of the final settling down of races, were eager to search for new homes, that the eldest sons, seeing a numerous progeny of brothers arising to share the family fortunes, decided upon seeking out fresh fields and pastures new for themselves. This necessitated a rule for allowing such to anticipate their inheritance, and this clearly and wisely defined clause from this relic of ancient legislation, which is quoted from Prof. Clay's translation, shows these old peoples' attempt at meeting the emergency.

"If (a son) say unto his father and to his mother, 'Thou art not my father, thou art not my mother,' from the house, field, plantation, servants, property, animals, he shall go forth, and his portion to its full amount he (the father) shall give him. His father and his mother shall say to him (he is): 'Not now our son;' from the neighbourhood of the house he shall go."

An interesting discovery may be noted relating to the historical records of the old Mesopotamian monarchies which has come to light in connection with the work of the same scholar, Prof. Clay. He has recently published an old Babylonian chronology, or annals, of the Kings of Larsa, a dynasty ruling from the city of that name, which was overthrown by the rising power of Babylon under its famous monarch, Hammurapi. The new list gives fourteen Larsa monarchs reigning for 263 years, and then mentions Hammurapi, and his successor, Samsu-iluna, as reigning over Larsa for twenty-four years; so, for that period, some kind of autonomy appears to have been granted to the conquered.

This chronology is probably merely a summary made by an elder schoolboy, or student of his country's history; for he has, for practice, repeated it on both sides of his tablet. The cuneiform annalist took great precautions to keep a clearly understandable and accurate chronology because of the importance of verifying dates in all legal documents, and adopted two plans for the purpose. One was to fix every year of each reign by specifying some remarkable event occurring within it; the other was to have an annual official, or Eponym, whose name was associated with his special year of service—a plan afterwards adopted in Greece.

The special events of each year are quoted upon all the chief contract and business tablets, leases, deeds, and mortgages, so that, although the official list of these may not have come down to us, it can be made up for each reign from the common people's records of transactions. It was thought that the special event selected to identify the year would be invariably the same, for each year; but we now find that this is not so, for Dr. T. G. Pinches has, in the "Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology," for January, 1917, edited a list of the annual event dockets for Kings Hammurapi and Samsu-iluna, and some of these are not identical with those selected as given from copies of the State archives. Thus one tablet signals the tenth year of the second king named as "the year the king overthrew the original king of the disobedient land"; whilst another for the same date gives "the year when the Throne of the Deep was made the second time." It would seem that in different parts of the country the State scribes chose dissimilar events to be those marking the year; or there may have been some other cause for the discrepancy we cannot at present detect.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

A Link of Empire.

In a note on the opening of the School of Oriental Studies by the King, the *Daily Graphic* remarks that this was "an event which in time of peace would have dominated every other event of the day; but in the midst of a great war incident clashes upon incident, and there is little time to measure the relative importance of passing events." From the permanent point of view the ceremony was, the writer says very truly, an event of the highest importance.

It creates a new and a very necessary link between England and the East. The problem of governing Eastern nations by a Western democracy is one of the most difficult problems that faces the British Empire. We can neither abandon the task our forefathers have bequeathed to us, nor can we carry it on by the methods which they found adequate. Our continued rule over India and our other Asiatic possessions can only succeed if the men sent forth to represent England have knowledge of and sympathy with the Oriental point of view. It is to effect this object that the School of Oriental Studies has been established. Mutual understanding is the necessary basis of loyalty to a common flag and of harmonious effort towards common ideals.

"A Montenegrin Intrigue."

Under the above heading, the *New Europe* (February 22) publishes a note which is certainly not lacking in interest. It begins:—

An impenetrable veil of mystery still shrouds the conquest of Montenegro in the autumn of 1915, and her rulers are the last who would desire to see it torn asunder. Though the full facts have never been published, it is well known to many outside official circles that for many months before the final surrender secret negotiations had taken place between Cetinje and Vienna. The Montenegrin dynasty has followed the example of certain Jacobite families in Scotland, who invested one son in the cause of King James and another in the cause of King George. While King Nicholas withdrew to Italy and eventually to France, his second son and eventual successor, Prince Mirko (the Crown Prince has a German wife and no children) remained behind, by arrangement with the Austrians. . . . Latterly the air has been full of rumours of a Southern Slav vassal State to be formed for the benefit of Mirko as an annexe to the Habsburg dominions.

Reference is then made to M. Radovitch, the well-known Montenegrin Liberal leader; and we are reminded that he was during his first premiership, some ten years ago, "the innocent victim of the Cetinje treason trial—a judicial farce which was inaugurated by Prince (now King) Nicholas to check the growth of the democratic tendency to control the finances of Montenegro, and which rested on the evidence of the Austrian police spy, George Nastic, whose sordid rôle was exposed at the subsequent treason trial at Agram (1909)." M. Radovitch, the articles goes on to say—

Like the overwhelming majority of Montenegrins, is not merely pledged to democratic principles, but is profoundly convinced that Montenegro's sole hope for the future lies in the achievement of Serbo-Croat national unity, which incidentally involves the union of Serbia and Montenegro. Last summer concrete proposals in this sense were laid before King Nicholas, who could not oppose this ideal without renouncing the great tradition of his uncle and great-uncle, the Vladikas Danilo and Peter, and the whole trend of his own poetical writings. But a visit to Rome last autumn cured him of his ideals, and last December occult influences led him to dismiss M. Radovitch from the office of Premier, to reject emphatically the proposals of union laid before him by the latter and by other prominent Montenegrin statesmen, and to appoint as Premier a man without political experience, who is hardly known even in his own country.

The writer considers, however, that the bestowal of the Order of the White Eagle upon M. Radovitch is the best possible proof that Russia "sternly discourages all petty intrigues directed towards the prevention of Southern Slav unity," and that this "broad hint" was doubtless responsible for the *communiqué* published by the new Montenegrin Government, officially denying the existence of secret negotiations at Zürich.

The "Clean-fighting Turk."

Last week we published several lengthy extracts from an article with the above title which appeared in *The Times*. On Friday *The Times* printed a letter from a correspondent who differs entirely from the view taken by the writer of the article. The letter, which is dated February 21, begins: "In your article yesterday on 'The Clean-Fighting Turk' you claim that the writer has had exceptional experience of the ways of the Turk. I think you will admit that my opportunities of knowing the Turk before and during the war give me a better

claim to be heard." He goes on to say that the author of the article is right when he complains that there has been nothing more horrible in the war than the treatment of Armenia and Syria. But—

When it comes to a question of honest fighting there are not, I think, two opinions about the Turk. The men in the first landing on the Peninsula, north or south, the soldiers of Suvla, the heroic forces that attempted to relieve Kut as well as those men who held it, the men who fought against overwhelming odds at Katia, whose experience entitles them to speak, do not share your correspondent's opinion. They know that, on the whole, the Turk has fought like a white man. He has never used poisoned gas or liquid fire, and he has invariably respected the white flag. He has not fired upon hospitals, and he has generally done the best that he could for our prisoners and wounded, sometimes at great personal risk.

This war has destroyed many things, and amongst them, not infrequently, sanity and chivalry, and consequently when we have met an enemy who has preserved those traditions that some of us still hold dear we think that even the purposes of propaganda are poorly served by suggestions which we know facts do not bear witness to. Let me add that the hope and the heart of all of us who have taken part in the Eastern campaigns are with our troops who are bringing us victory in Mesopotamia and Sinai. So are our memories with our friends who have given their lives in the Dardanelles, in Mesopotamia, and in Sinai to bring about that victory. But it does not help either the living or the dead to represent a good fighter as a poor fighter and a clean soldier as a coward. British soldiers know that the Turks have behaved with consideration when they were successful and with dignity in defeat.

The following day the writer of the article replied to his critic. He suggested that had "X." read his article he would not have inferred that he (the writer) accused the Turks of cowardice. As to the last sentence of "X.'s" letter, he remarks: "If your correspondent will trouble to read my article, he will observe that I have gone to some pains to explain why some Turks behave in this manner." Then he proceeds to state that replies to questions in the House of Commons do not bear out "X.'s" contention as to the alleged kind treatment of our prisoners in Turkey. And—after reference to a point in "X.'s" letter which need not be gone into, as it was subsequently explained that it was due to a typist's error—he concludes thus:—

However, I have no doubt that the Press agents of Potsdam and Constantinople will welcome your correspondent's letter as a valuable asset in their Press campaign in neutral countries, by which they are endeavouring to make the verdict of history as favourable as possible. In my article I pointed out the charm of the Turk; it is as alluring and illusive as that of Dulcinea, in whose name the greatest gentleman in the world rescued a gang of felons and massacred a flock of harmless sheep.

To this epistle "X." replied in due course, and his letter appeared in Wednesday's *Times*. As to the fear expressed that his former letter "would encourage the Press agents in Berlin and Constantinople, and consequently affect the conduct of the war and subsequent history," he observes:—

I think that this is an exaggeration of the importance of the criticism of his article, which was a comment by an unknown correspondent on the work of an anonymous writer, and as such is mainly of value to the two people concerned.

The remainder of the letter is as follows:—

His reference to the unsatisfactory nature of the replies in Parliament with regard to the treatment of our prisoners is very serious. For these answers have produced anxiety with regard to our men in this country, and pain that an enemy who dissociated himself from German methods on our battlefield should adopt them in the prisoners' camp.

I can only speak of what I know. Englishmen have always admired courage in friend or enemy, and have not been afraid to say so. That habit remains as much a part of our character as the wish to fight to a finish. If it is *travailler pour le Roi de Prusse* to tell the truth, that monarch, though he may find death at the hands of Englishmen, will always have that service. For the next thing to denying truth is voluntarily to believe falsehood, and the people that treads that path lays up disillusionment for itself.

It would be interesting to take a canvass of the views held by those of our soldiers who have met the Turk on the battlefield, and to learn whether the majority would support "X." or the writer of the original article.

Our Policy in Asiatic Turkey.

In a leading article, "The Capture of Kut," the *Manchester Guardian* on Tuesday remarked:—

Lord Curzon, in his recent speech in the House of Lords, fitted the development of the Turkish campaigns into the general scheme of German ambitions in the East. These ambitions were undoubtedly the chief political motive in Germany's decision to risk a European war. Whatever, therefore, tends to defeat them tends to political victory over the Germans. We confess that the campaign in Mesopotamia, compared with that in Gallipoli,

seems to us a singularly indirect way of achieving these ends. The German ambitions in the East begin on the Danube opposite Belgrade, and this slow mortification of the extremities is a much less expeditious despatch than the cutting of the jugular vein.

Even from the military point of view, however, the *Manchester Guardian* holds, this Mesopotamia campaign will help. But far more important than the military results are the political results which we hope to achieve. The article continues:—

We are as a nation committed to the abolition of Turkish rule in Europe and to the abolition of Turkey as an Imperial Power in Asia. That is to say, while Turkey may survive as a political unit in Asia it must cease to rule over subject nations. Amongst these subject races are the Armenians, whose old country is now to a great extent in Russian military occupation, the Jews in Palestine, and the Arabs. It would be helpful if some idea could be given of the kind of settlement to which the Government were looking forward in Asia of questions that have such a profound importance for this country as an Eastern Power. Our whole foreign policy in Asiatic Turkey will have to be reconstructed. Before the war the official policy of the country was to support the independence of Turkey as a great buffer State, to reform her methods of government, and perhaps because it was thought they might help to reform, to place no obstacles in the way of German economic ambitions. Every plank in this policy has been broken. No one will ever again think of Turkey as a friendly buffer State. No one hopes that she will reform. Nor can the Baghdad Railway project of Germany expect even the degree of support that it had from the British Foreign Office before the war. Clearly, the time has come when we must begin to reconstruct a positive policy out of this ruin, and though the Foreign Office is doubtless working hard at the problems, it would be greatly helped in its work and in any negotiations that were forward if it were to enlighten the public further on the general principles which it hoped to apply.

The Recapture of Kut.

The following are extracts from articles in various papers upon the recapture of Kut:—

Since the first battle of Kut, and until the present advance began, the news from Mesopotamia has been uniformly unfavourable. The tide of misfortune has now been turned, the beleaguered garrison of Kut has been avenged, and British arms are once more in the ascendancy in the Middle East. We have long ceased to regard the operations in Mesopotamia with enthusiasm, because we hold that the earlier phases were misguided, and also because the demand they make upon our shipping and other resources is probably disproportionate to their value. There never was a time when it was more important for the Allies to concentrate their energies upon the main fighting fronts. But we recognise and appreciate the reasons which have doubtless led the Government to persist in their resolute determination to turn the Turks out of Kut. British prestige was involved, and it was probably imperative not to leave the enemy in undisturbed possession of a strategic position which our own forces had held so long and so valiantly. In the face of many difficulties, Sir Stanley Maude and his indomitable troops have steadily and methodically fought their way along the right bank of the Tigris. . . . We rejoice that the Mesopotamian Field Force, which has undergone so much suffering and privation, has at last been heartened by a shining success. Yet though former reverses have been patiently wiped out, extravagant hopes must not be based upon these welcome local triumphs.—*The Times*.

In the word "Kut" was crystallised our lack of success in Mesopotamia. As to the causes that led to it is too early as yet to speak. The inquiry which is still going on will soon give us better means of judging the matter than we possess at present. At least it is clear that every consideration that last year lent importance to our loss of Kut adds now to the prestige of its recapture. . . . It is not a matter of immediate concern whether this present success is or is not the beginning of a more extended campaign. But it is as well to remember that, so far as the opinion of Arabia is concerned, the recapture of Kut is of an importance that the attention of Englishmen, riveted in other quarters, may well fail to grasp in its entirety. . . . It is possible that the preoccupations of to-day make it difficult for Englishmen fully to realise as yet the great issues that are bound up with the recapture of Kut. But we may rest assured that what we shall understand to-morrow, Egypt, India, and Arabia have recognised to-day.—*Daily Telegraph*.

The complete recovery of the Kut position will have a valuable effect in restoring our military prestige throughout that part of Asia. It also places in our hands a first-rate defensive position at the head of the Hai and the Lower Tigris, giving us a secure hold on the course of both rivers, and thoroughly consolidating our occupation of Lower Mesopotamia. Whether it will be used for a further advance it is not for us to say. But we hope that great caution will be exercised in the matter, having regard to the coming river floods and hot weather, and also to the fact that operations in Mesopotamia require a greater tonnage of shipping to support them than those in any other theatre where we are fighting on a large scale.—*Daily Chronicle*.

The importance of the fall of Kut can be best estimated by the anxieties of the enemy. The German Press is full of gloom over the position of the Sixth Turkish Army and the "very nightmare" of Bagdad, which cannot be reinforced for several months. Kut is indeed a bad omen for Germany. It signifies the dwindling of German prestige throughout the Middle East and the restoration of confidence in British arms. It indicates the rapid progress of Turkish decay. The Ottoman Empire is

no longer a German asset; every day tends to make it a grave German liability. The fall of Bagdad, reverberating throughout the Mohammedan world, would be pretty well fatal to the Young Turks; on the other hand, a serious attempt to save Bagdad must expose them to great danger from other quarters.

We hope there will be no halt in the victorious advance until the city of the Caliphs is firmly in British hands, thus giving a definite denial to the German scheme of lordship over Asia Minor. It is true that the war will not be decided by the forces operating in Mesopotamia. But the final settlement will be profoundly affected by the completeness or otherwise of our success. For Britain at least full victory in Mesopotamia is of the very highest importance.—*Evening Standard*.

Life at Salonika.

"An Englishwoman in Salonika, 1916," is the title of an article in the February *Contemporary*, which gives an entertaining and graphic account of some of the author's experiences in that port—to say nothing of her trials in getting there. Here is a paragraph describing the city and some of its features:—

The town of Salonika climbs steeply up a big bluff, its ancient walls culminating in the citadel. The latter is used as a prison, and the prisoners occupy their time and add a few luxuries to their existence by making crosses and snakes of minute and many-coloured beads. Beneath the citadel is the Turkish quarter, by far the most picturesque part of the town. It is intersected by narrow roughly cobbled streets, mostly running from north to south, and crossed by wider ones from east to west. Houses of stucco washed in varying tints of pink, mauve, blue, and ochre, with projecting harem windows and deep eaves, cast their grateful shadows over one side or other. Common to all streets alike, but multiplied in infinite variety and entirely beyond the power of pen to describe, are the odours that urge their subtle influences from all directions. They are not of the West, and can only be met appropriately in an Oriental setting. An officer, writing to his small nephew, spoke of them as "important and various, but indescribable," and suggested that if he tried chewing a lump of aniseed outside a fried-fish shop, he might get a faint idea of them.

The two main streets, we are told, are—

the Rue Venizelos, running north and south, and the Rue Vardar, which crosses it, and is the ancient Via Egnatia over which the Romans built an arch, richly carved in deep relief, and under which St. Paul must have walked. This Rue Vardar is lined with the small shops of greengrocers, blacksmiths, and saddlers, and leads to a space where several streets meet, and which Tommy has christened "Piccadilly Circus." Here transport lorries assemble and start on their way up to the camps, and close by is the Expeditionary Force canteen. Venizelos Street provides the most considerable shops and restaurants of the town, including, among the latter, the celebrated "Flocca's." In its last fifty yards before reaching the quay, the street widens and admits of rows of tables and chairs being set out. They are crowded with officers and men of all the Allied Armies, seeking whichever side is in the shade.

The surrounding country is mostly bare of trees or scrub, but it is not without its appeal, even in times of war.

Here and there, and generally near a spring, you will come to a magnificent plane tree, under which goat-herds foregather for their noonday sleep. Flowers in infinite variety grow riotously over the hills, in designs more rich and wonderful than any Persian carpet. They are only interrupted by the camps that dot their ugly scars over the hillsides, making bare patches for horse lines and provision dumps, and all the unsightly paraphernalia of war. Many of the tents are surrounded with little gardens neatly edged with broken fragments of marble and gay with flowers. From the edge of an escarpment overlooking the lakes of Longada and Beshik a beautiful panorama spreads before one's eyes. Beneath, as I looked down, one cloud-shadowed day in June, the waters reflected, in deepened tones, the hills on their further banks and caught the light of the great cumulus clouds massing on their summits. It is a land of legend, and romance lingers in every fold of the hills, only to withdraw to some further point of mystery as you approach.

Articles to Note

"Recapture of Kut: A Year's Campaign," by Perceval Landon, in the *Daily Telegraph* (February 27).

"Foreign Affairs," by S. Verdad, in the *New Age* (February 22).

"Why Bulgaria joined the Central Powers," by Count Chedo Miyatovitch, in the *People* (February 25).

"Serbia or Bulgaria," by V. R. Savitch, in the *Asiatic Review* (February 15).

"Main to Danube: Central Europe's Waterway," in *The Times* (March 1).

"Lord Cromer Behind the Scenes," by T. H. S. Escott, in the *Contemporary Review* (March).

"Austria's Doom," by Lady Paget, in the *Nineteenth Century* (March).

"Lord Cromer as a Man of Letters," by Edmund Gosse, and "Bukovina—the Land of the Beeches," by Right Hon. W. F. Bailey and J. V. Bates, in the *Fortnightly Review* (March).

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The much-advertised British Industries Fair has been opened in London, and, when all the circumstances of the time are taken in consideration, the show must be classed as very good. It is true that most of the goods belong to what is called the "fancy" trade, but there is this to be remembered: that they also represent industries which, before the war, were German and Austrian monopolies. I need not emphasise the importance of this fact. I am aware that there has been some criticism of the arrangements, and, for all I know, some of the criticisms may have been justified; but there is no doubt that serious difficulties have been encountered in arranging the exhibition at all, and, on the whole, a very creditable show has been got together. Traders in the Near East who are interested in fancy goods, ladies' leather bags, and glassware of sorts, will do well to get in touch with the organisers through the Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, because, after the war, it will be possible to buy and sell British goods in these lines.

Nothing further has been heard about the taking over of Greek ships, and a good deal of speculation has been rife in some quarters regarding what is likely to happen. I hear from India that as soon as the news of the Allies became known out there a considerable rise in prices took place in certain produce markets. The jute-fabrics market, for example, had been very stagnant for a long time, but the news that more ships were to be taken over by the Entente Powers sent prices up more than a rupee all round. Other produce markets were also affected to a slighter extent, but I shall not be surprised to learn that a reaction set in pretty promptly.

I am glad to learn that the Government of India are taking steps to prepare for a trade campaign in the Persian Gulf after the war. Two special Commissioners have, as stated in our news columns to-day, proceeded to Busreh to conduct an inquiry into trade possibilities, and it is satisfactory to learn that men who possess a sound knowledge of the area have been selected for this very important work. When I was in Busreh a few years ago I saw enough to tell me that the corruption and ineptitude of the Turk stood in the way of development, and that, great as was the quantity of produce handled at the port—the natural *entrepôt* of a fine producing country—the actual possibilities had merely been tapped. British firms did their best, but I never met a commercial man of knowledge and experience who was really satisfied with the results which had been achieved.

Turkish corruption and German intrigue stood in the way of fair dealing. These have now been swept away, British institutions have been introduced, and a new and more possible régime has been established. My readers may or may not know that a British Customs House has been in working condition for some months. It is manned by officers trained

in Indian ports, and commanded by officials of the Indian service. I believe I am right in saying that the confidence of local traders has already been won, and that the men who might have been expected to oppose most strenuously the establishment of a new order of things are among its most enthusiastic admirers. Which is a good enough augury for the future.

Distressing news continues to reach this country of the grave conditions which prevail in Serbia, where the Huns and their satellites continue the campaign of oppression and brutality. The latest letters from friends of the Serbs speak of the burden of taxation. The sum raised last year in the Morava region alone by direct taxation was 5,572,344 leis; in December 2,592,944 leis were extracted. There is no doubt about this, for the figures were extracted from the Sofia paper, *Zarja*, of January 12. The only consolation that can be offered is that the day of reckoning must come. A very grim comment on this is a statement that appeared in the Basle paper, *Nachrichten*, on February 8:—"The Austro-Hungarian War Correspondence Bureau reports from Vienna that the inhabitants of Serbia and Montenegro have subscribed to the fifth war loan, and that the result of the subscription is very satisfactory, 6,000,000 kronen having been subscribed in Serbia and 750,000 kronen in Montenegro." I wonder what species of torture the oppressors used to crush this blood out of stones. We shall know some day.

We have become so accustomed to the record of improvement in the finances of the Sudan that I approach mention of the annual report for 1915 of the Financial Secretary with some difficulty. The receipts and expenditure for the year show a surplus of £E31,293. Considering how difficult it was at the end of 1914, when the Budget estimates for 1915 were framed, to foretell the probable course of events and the extent to which trade would be affected by the war, the result obtained must be looked upon as satisfactory. The actual revenue is £E5,773 less than the estimates and the expenditure £E27,056 less.

Bernard Pasha states, in his report, that the situation during the year was governed by two main factors—the war, and the incomplete recovery of the people from the hardship and privations due to the scanty rains and low Nile flood of 1912 and 1913. The rains of 1914 were fortunately abundant and well distributed and the flood good. The country was thus well filled with food and agricultural produce, except in the north. Prices, however, in the early part of 1915 ruled very low. Owing to war conditions, there was at first little demand for export, and the cultivators, who form the bulk of the population, while they had enough to eat, were short of ready money. Consequently the liquidation of indebtedness resulting from the bad days and the payment of taxes and arrears of taxes constituted a heavy strain upon their capacity. I hope to deal further with the report in a future issue of THE NEAR EAST.

I have pointed out previously in these columns the direction in which the war has benefited Egyptian industries. Flax cultivation is another case in point. Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, in an interesting pamphlet in which he deals with the subject at length, points out that the chief sources of the supply of flax to England and France having been cut off by the European War, the price of this product has been so enhanced that, in the opinion of the Ministry of Agriculture, it is worthy of consideration whether in some parts of Egypt it might not prove a profitable venture to plant the crop on a more extensive scale than has been adopted since the establishment of a specialised cotton taught the cultivator to consider the last-named fibre crop the main source of wealth.

Previous to the cultivation of cotton on a commercial scale, proceeds Mr. Dudgeon, flax was an important crop, and many looms were found in different parts of Egypt entirely devoted to the weaving of it. The cultivation of the plant has now almost completely died out, as the figures of the last few years' areas show: 1912-1913, 1,592 fed.; 1913-1914, 906 fed.; 1914-1915, 866 fed.; 1915-1916, 1,418 fed. There has been in the past a lively controversy regarding the effect of flax-growing on the soil; but habitual flax-growers in Egypt maintain that there is no deterioration, "and," says Mr. Dudgeon, "it may well be that, upon the rich soils of Egypt, a crop of flax does not exert such a severe influence as would be experienced in other localities." A new plant—the seed of which has been brought from Ireland—has been introduced with good results. It would be interesting to learn more of this industry, and all will hope that the revival of 1915-1916 will be developed into permanency.

The agricultural and educational authorities in Cyprus are, a correspondent on the island writes, giving every encouragement to the school garden movement. There are now more than sixty of these in full swing, and since a good beginning has been made there is no reason why the gardens should not become most useful institutions, as adjuncts to schools, if interest can be kept alive by the village committees and people. In these days, too, a good start could be made in the cultivation of the vegetables most useful as food, including potatoes. The hours to be given would not interfere with the regular course of teaching.

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

The Wealthy Middle-East.

Trade in Somaliland Gums and Spices.

Gums and resins, drugs, dyestuffs, essential, non-essential vegetable oils, oil seeds of both classes, and spices have averaged about 5 per cent. of the total exports from Aden for the last five years. Of these the gums and resins lead in value and importance. Olibanum (frankincense) is the largest item. This fragrant, aromatic gum resin comes into Aden principally from British Somaliland, the independent Somali ports, and the Arabian province of the Yemen, but the Somali product is considered the best. Local dealers say that the supplies of this gum in the Aden market have steadily decreased on account of the unsettled conditions in British Somaliland and the increasing practice of selling and exporting the gum direct from the Somali ports. Prices have advanced with the decreased supply, but it is said that the increased demand from India and the opening of a market in America have also been important factors.

The Americans are out to capture this trade. We have the authority of the United States Consul in the port for the statement that a local American firm has announced its intention to enter the market as soon as he can perfect his connections in the United States for the disposition of the product. Prices at the present writing for the various grades are 14s. 7d. to 29s. 2d. per cwt., with buyers for all that is offered. There is a speculative tendency, chiefly on account of an anticipation of an even greater demand from India. The best customers for olibanum are India, Egypt, and Abyssinia, where it is used in religious ceremonies and for disinfection purposes. In normal times Austria, Germany, and France buy considerable quantities.

Aden's exports of olibanum in the fiscal year 1914-15—the latest year for which returns are available—were valued at £12,120, as compared with £35,426 in 1913-14.

Trade in Gum Arabic.

About two-thirds of Aden's supply of gum arabic comes from the Somali ports (principally the independent ones) and about one-third from the Arabian hinterland. The highest grades of this gum are used in the manufacture of candy, while the lower grades are converted into mucilage. The trade is inactive on account of a decrease in the supply and higher prices that have caused a falling demand. Supplies from Somaliland have been affected by unsettled conditions and the direct marketing of the product at the places of origin. The market for gum arabic in Aden has also had the handicap of the preference of large purchasers for the Sudan gum. American importers are said to draw large supplies from the Sudan. Local dealers assert, however, that the Somali gum in the Aden market is equal in quality to the Sudan gum.

The principal exports of gum arabic from Aden have been to Great Britain, India, and France. There is said to be little or no demand here from American buyers. Prices in November, 1916, were 14s. 7d. to 27s. 1d., with an upward tendency, caused by the active buying by a local exporter for shipments to France. Exports of gum arabic were valued at £13,073 in 1913-14, and at £9,465 in 1914-15.

Myrrh in Great Demand.

Of all the gums and resins sold in the Aden market, myrrh is in greatest demand at present; it is well known for its use as a base for perfumery and for its medicinal properties. Myrrh is brought to Aden from Abyssinia and the Arabian hinterland, that from the former country being considered the best. The four winter months are considered the most active in the trade, for it is during these months that the largest supplies arrive.

There is always a steady demand from Bombay for myrrh, and this, with the increased demand in America, has advanced the local price for a good grade of the gum from 45s. 10d. to 75s. per hundredweight. There has been a tendency on the part of Indian buyers to speculate, and prices may go still higher. The supplies of myrrh from Abyssinia have not been normal, having been

affected by unsettled conditions in that country and the Somali hinterland.

The publications of the Aden Port Trust do not give separate statistics for myrrh, but it is the opinion of local dealers that it will be one of the most important items in the Aden gum and resin trade this year (1916).

Trade in Spices.

Aden's importance in the spice trade is that it is a distributing point for the requirements of Red Sea ports, Somali coast ports, and the Arabian hinterland. Betelnuts, cardamoms, chillies, cinnamon, ginger, and pepper come mainly from India. Zanzibar supplies some of the chillies and pepper and practically all of the cloves. The Straits Settlements contribute to the imports of pepper and cinnamon, and supply practically all the nutmegs.

The trade returns for 1915-16 showed a falling off in spices on account of the disturbed conditions in some parts of Somaliland and in Arabia. No other important change in spices or sources of supply is anticipated. The following table shows quantity and value of the exports of spices in 1913-14 and 1914-15:—

Spices.	1913-14.		1914-15.
	Lbs.		Lbs.
Cardamoms	7,182		9,798
Chillies	190,428		97,314
Cinnamon	130,536		96,106
Cloves	115,920		92,064
Ginger	929,113		941,635
Pepper	268,285		175,220

Sesame Oil and Seeds.

Sesame oil, an old and important article of commerce in both the Far and the Near East, is expressed from the seed of an annual herbaceous plant native to India, although now cultivated extensively in Egypt, Syria, and East Africa. The crops in India are immense, and it is from there that Aden markets principally are supplied, although some comes from Zanzibar, German East Africa, and Arabian Gulf ports. The principal exports from Aden of both oil and seed are to Hodeidal, Massaua, Jibuti, and Arabian Gulf ports.

Sesame oil and seeds are largely used as articles of food. The Mohammedan finds in it a cheap and palatable substitute for animal greases and fats. It is used to enrich various dishes and as a salad oil. The Arabs use it also as a hair oil. It is of fine quality usually, and is said to keep for years without becoming rancid. It is also known as *bonne oil* and as *gingelly oil*. The natives use the seed in making broths and cakes.

Indigo.

Aden's trade in dyeing and tanning substances is concerned principally with the import and export of indigo dyes. Other less important items in this branch of the trade are myrobalans, safflower, and turmeric.

The Arabs of the Yemen and of the Aden hinterland have a great liking for blue clothing. When possible they have all articles of clothing, including turbans, dyed an indigo blue. Such a custom creates a large and steady market for indigo dyes, and, while the Arabs in some places in the Yemen grow considerable quantities of the vegetable indigo, there is said to be no likelihood of the home industry even nearly supplying the demand.

In recent years the chemical dyes of Germany and Austria dominated the market. The large and insistent demand for indigo dye has been forced to seek other sources of supply since the war, and the vegetable indigo industry in India, the Straits Settlements, and the Dutch Indies has been stimulated to such an extent that Aden is getting large supplies from those sources, principally India. Aden's position as a good and steady market for indigo dyes is likely to be permanent.

Safflower and Turmeric.

The safflower is a large thistlelike plant, with orange-coloured flowers. The dried flower is the safflower of commerce. It affords both a yellow and a red colouring matter, and is used largely in silk dyeing, giving various shades of pink rose, crimson, and scarlet.

Turmeric is the dried tuber of an East Indian plant. It has varied uses—such as a dye, a medicine, a condiment, and a chemical test. The principal use in this part of the world is as a condiment and as a medicine. As a condiment it forms an ingredient of curry, for which purpose it is produced, and largely consumed in India. Principal exports from Aden are to Red Sea ports and the Arabian hinterland.

ENEMY DEBTORS.

Manchester and Accounts in Turkey and Bulgaria.

We take the following from the current issue of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce *Monthly Record*:—

"This subject [accounts owing from the Balkan Peninsula and Turkey] was considered in conjunction with the Middle East and North Africa Section, and representations were addressed to the Board of Trade on the serious effect to Lancashire of the cessation of remittances from Turkey and Bulgaria for shipments made antecedent to the war, which prejudiced manufacturing and exporting interests alike.

"Under the supposition that amounts owing from this country were largely in excess of the contra accounts, it was suggested that, with the aid of the Government, the accounts could be so adjusted that the sums due to merchants might be paid off and a great amount of Lancashire indebtedness cleared off.

"Mention was also made of the attitude of the Treasury towards remittances from enemy countries in discharge of indebtedness incurred prior to the war. British banks were not permitted to credit their English customers' accounts with the amount of any cheque from an enemy country, or of any cheques which bore an endorsement, the endorser being resident in an enemy country. Although such endorser might be one of a series of endorsements it was held to vitiate the cheque as a negotiable instrument here. Direct remittances from enemy countries were also forbidden, and remittances were even forbidden when made by cheques upon neutral countries. In the case of Asia Minor many of the Manchester debtors were only technically enemies, as, for example, in the case of Armenians and other subjects of Turkey, and the debtors had been quite willing to pay the moneys owing, but could not do so.

"Mr. Runciman was informed that most of the Turkish and Bulgarian firms were connected by ties of kinship with the firms here, and would be only too glad to have the opportunity of safely lodging sums of money on this side, to be out of the way of their own Government's exactions if sent here. These representations were only formally acknowledged."

THE BOOMING OF THE SPADE.

Makers of agricultural machinery and implements are reported by the British Empire Producers' Organisation to be working at their maximum rate of output, writes *Empire Trade Notes*, and the intensified demand is all connected with the development of farming in the United Kingdom. Such a position has never been reached before in the history of the industry. Before the war the manufacturers of agricultural machinery were obliged to seek markets abroad in order to fill their works, and their travellers and catalogues were to be met in Russia, Turkey, the Balkans, and other foreign territory, besides the British Dominions and Colonies. Now, under the general control of the Agricultural Machinery Branch domiciled at the Victoria Hotel and directed by Mr. S. F. Edge, they are devoted to the creation of machinery and tools for greatly increasing the productivity of our own soil, and the effects will persist long after the period of war crisis.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.

22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

FURNITURE IN EGYPT.

A Call to the British Manufacturer.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, February 16.

For no apparent reason British furniture manufacturers seem to have practically ignored the Egyptian market for years past, with the result that, when establishing a home in this country, Anglo-Egyptians either bring their furniture out with them or discontent themselves with a nucleus of foreign-made goods while waiting until some fellow countryman auctions his lares and penates in the hope of finding what they require at second-hand. The ideal method of furnishing is doubtless to begin with an irreducible minimum, adding thereto according to the promptings of fancy as the outcome of attendance at sales, and those whose method this is generally fight shy of "suites" of furniture. But this is not always convenient or practicable; nevertheless, it is noteworthy that the European population evinces marked interest in such sales, and it is not unusual to hear of second-hand English goods realising their original price.

Austrian Stocks.

On the outbreak of war, and for some time afterwards, the furniture showrooms in Alexandria were full of Viennese goods, a costly and unpleasing alternative to the British article. Whatever furniture is being imported at the present time—and the quantity is negligible—comes from Italy and Spain. A quarter of a century ago or thereabouts, an Anglo-Egyptian firm retired from the trade after having made a respectable fortune by the sale of English furniture, linoleum, and cutlery, and the profits in this trade must still be considerable, judging from the large areas occupied by furniture salesmen in the principal thoroughfares of Alexandria and the huge sheets of plate glass through which the public views their wares.

I have often admired the artistic productions in fumed oak of some London houses, although, strange to say, this type of furniture never figures in the showrooms in Egypt, inexpensive as it is, and admirably adapted to the Egyptian climate.

Imitation Sheraton, modern Chippendale and walnut furniture should find a sale here, and such articles in mahogany as come into the market are eagerly sought after, and command high prices at second-hand.

All furniture imported should be made of thoroughly-seasoned wood, as, if otherwise, it will warp and crack when the wind blows hot and dry off the desert. It should also be stout enough to withstand the brusque handling of native servants, the primitive methods of those who undertake the removal of household furniture in these parts, and possible transport over long distances by rail.

What to Avoid.

Heavily upholstered furniture is undesirable, in view of climatic conditions, and bearing in mind the fact that, as R. L. S. wrote of a certain brand of cigarettes, the "pulex irritans" has "insinuated itself into our very lives" in this country, while the "Norfolk Howard" is for ever knocking at the gate. It would be unnecessary for a British firm which contemplates the opening of a sales room in Alexandria to occupy premises at a high rental.

There is plenty of accommodation to be had in the less frequented quarters at terms relatively moderate, and a little preliminary advertising in the local Press would be all that is necessary. It should not be forgotten that, whereas fumed oak, mahogany, or walnut bedsteads are just as suitable for the climate, and much more pleasing than the iron or brass lacquered articles, they would require some attachment wherefrom to depend a mosquito net.

The writer hopes that it will no longer be necessary to reproach home manufacturers with the absence of British furniture in the showrooms in Egypt, for there are no better goods in the world. It should be remembered that Austrian and Italian furniture is usually shipped on mail steamers at corresponding high freight, whereas, in normal times, British manufacturers have a choice of two or three lines of cargo steamers trading regularly with Alexandria.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

Increased Difficulties of Producers and Merchants.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The difficulties of producers and merchants in our market are increasing, and, owing to various hindrances to progress, a limited amount of fresh business continues to be done. The prospects in most of our outlets abroad are not unfavourable, but facilities for getting goods out of this country are being reduced, and it is useless for transactions to be arranged when it is very uncertain as to whether it will be possible in a few weeks' time to export the articles to customers abroad.

Many manufacturers have been disturbed by the report that henceforward flour cannot be used for sizing purposes, and it is hoped that the representations now being made to the Government will be successful.

News of any importance relating to Egyptian cotton has been scarce.

The statistical position with regard to American qualities in Liverpool remains strong, and everything points to dearer prices.

A fair inquiry has been reported in piece goods for Egypt, and we are now approaching the season of the year when buying is generally expected for that outlet. Clearances abroad are fairly satisfactory.

Moderate sales have been reported in fancy goods and specialties, but offers, as a rule, in shirtings have been low.

A few more attempts have been made at operations for India, with occasional transactions in light fabrics, such as dhooties.

Buying for China has continued irregular, and business for Singapore has not been quite at a standstill. Rather more inquiry has come through in printing cloths.

Although the turnover in home American yarns has been rather better, the market, as a whole, remains weak when tested.

Some wretched prices have been taken for stock lots. Egyptian yarns have not attracted much attention, and prices are getting more irregular. Only small lines have been sold in export bundles.

THE COTTON SUPPLY.

Why special attention should be paid to the immediate development of Colonial cotton has been commented upon again and again in these columns (writes the *Textile Mercury*), and it cannot be impressed upon the nation too often. The Government have not yet realised that the matter has become urgent. Consumption of raw cotton increases in all parts of the world from year to year. The greater increase is in coarse counts, which planters will endeavour to supply, perhaps at the cost of the production of finer qualities of cotton, more and more used by Lancashire.

As Mr. J. A. Hutton pointed out in a lecture in Manchester, over 5½ million bales of cotton are now grown in the British Empire; but as 4 million bales of this come from India, the bulk of it is of the short-staple type, and of no use to Lancashire spinners. It is not impossible, however, to secure an improved growth from India, but the effort would have to be maintained for many years by financial help from the Government or other public sources. This is where the Imperial Treasury could be of assistance, as it could be in increasing the supply from the Sudan, from Uganda, and Nigeria. It should be stated that of the 5,595,000 bales of cotton produced in the British Empire we get 5,500,000 from India and Egypt—Egypt providing 1,500,000. Hence, from other portions of the Empire we derive only 95,000 bales.

To quote the memorandum referred to:—"In these days, when so much is wisely and nobly said about organising the resources of the Empire, this is surely a matter that should be taken in hand at once. The British Cotton Growing Association has done the pioneer work. It has now reached the limit of its resources. Some new departure is urgently needed." Why should there not be a bureau in the Imperial Government to advise and assist the various Colonies? We have an example of what can be done by the scientific study of cotton-growing in the national institutions set up for this purpose in America.

TRADE NOTES.

Licence Withdrawn.

The licence to trade issued to Messrs. Max Steinauer and Co. has been cancelled, the firm having been dissolved.

Accepted Tenders.

The supply of general stores, clothing, etc., to the Egyptian Administration has been adjudicated to the following contractors for one year from January 1 to December 31, 1917:—

	£E.
Messrs. Thomas Hinshelwood and Co. Ltd.	4,514
Sayed Eff. Ahmed Kawa	4,427
Messrs. Th. W. Petersen and Co. Ltd.	3,297
The Commercial and Agency Co. of Egypt, Ltd.	2,350
Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, Ltd.	1,454
Mr. Walter W. Davis	1,415
The Red Hand Compositions, Ltd.	824
Mr. Frederick Cree	619
Mr. A. Vidou	362
Hassan Eff. Gabel El Azhari	170
The Alexandria Engineering Works	121
The Vulcanite, Ltd.	86
Ibrahim Eff. Fawzi	59
Saad Eff. Amin el Battikhi	31

The Sultania Steam Yacht Service have accepted the following tenders for the supply of articles of clothing required for the sailors of their Nile steamboats.

	£E.
Messrs. J. Compton, Ltd., Cairo	295
Mr. Jacob Faydon, Cairo	189
Messrs. Orusdi Back, Cairo	71

Liquidated Firm.

Mr. F. H. Russell, Receiver of Oreinstein and Koppel (Arthur Koppel, Egypt, Limited), in liquidation, has received tenders for the sale of designs for light railway construction belonging to this concern, consisting principally of wagons, railway points, turning tables, locomotives, etc., etc., according to a list which may be inspected by the public. These designs, says the announcement, represent various types of wagons, etc., employed in Egypt and the colonies, and are the result of years of study and experience. This firm had practically the monopoly of this kind of business in Egypt prior to the war. The last date for the receipt of offers was February 21, 1917.

INDIAN OPIUM IN EUROPEAN MEDICINE.

Morphine and codeine, the two principal alkaloids of opium, are largely used in medicine, and are specially valuable in war-time. The opium used for their preparation came to this country before the war from Turkey and Persia, one of which sources is now shut off, while the other is difficult of access. Recourse was, therefore, had for supplies to India (which country formerly exported its opium to China), and the Indian Government gave special permission for the shipment of Indian opium to the United Kingdom. As at present produced, Indian opium is not so consistently rich in morphine as Turkish and Persian, but the unfortunate impression (which has recently received considerable publicity) that it is not suitable for European medicinal purposes requires immediate correction. As a matter of fact, Indian opium is already being freely utilised by morphine manufacturers in the United Kingdom.

An exhaustive investigation of the qualities of Indian opium has been in progress for some years at the Imperial Institute, and in an article published in the *Bulletin* of the Institute in 1915 it was shown that out of 102 samples of Indian opium collected in 1909 only thirty were unsuitable for medicinal use in the United Kingdom owing to a deficiency in morphine. At the suggestion of the Imperial Institute experiments are now being conducted in India as to the comparative merits of different varieties of poppy for opium production, and there seems no reason why in course of time an Indian product equal to the Turkish should not be forthcoming. The quality of Indian opium can, however, be considerably enhanced at once by improving the present methods employed for its collection and preparation.

The United States Census Bureau estimates the cotton seed crushed from the present crop at 2,930,000 tons and the number of linters obtained from same at 818,000 bales.

PRODUCE REPORT.**Currants.**

LONDON, March 1.

The market has been very active this week, with a continuous demand for all qualities. Provincials, as well as all out-of-condition currants, are now practically cleared, and prices for all other qualities have again advanced. Shortage of stocks and the continuation of the blockade in Greece are the principal reasons, because there are no prospects at present of arrivals, and no idea can be formed, under the present circumstances, as to when the blockade will be raised. Amalias are quoted 83s. to 88s., Patras 86s. to 89s., Gulf 88s. to 94s., Vostizza 88s. to 94s., Zante 84s. to 88s., and Smalls 78s. to 88s.

Sultanas.

The demand during the week has been good, with business done mostly in Afghanistan fruit, which is 1s. to 2s. 6d. dearer. Very little has been done in other growths, which are firmly held at higher prices.

Figs and Dates.

Both kinds are still in good demand, with considerable business passing at late rates.

Seeds.

The appointment of Mr. Alfred Bigland, M.P., as Oilseeds Controller, with "extreme powers," has not yet had any noticeable effect in the market. Linseed is firm,

London-Calcutta for shipment being quoted at 113s., and Bombay ordinary at 114s. Rape seed remains also firm, with only few buyers; brown Cawnpore is offered at 97s. Cottonseed is steady, London-Egyptian, f.a.q., offering at £20, and Sakelarides quality £19 per ton. There has been no change in Canary seed; and Rangoon Beans are fairly steady at the recent advance. Mustard seed is in fair demand at 23s. to 32s. cwt. Lentils are quoted 40s. to 42s. per 100 lb.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been rather quiet. Spot pipes, landed, were offered at £52 10s.; barrels, ditto, £53 10s. Rape oil is firm, but more or less nominal; ordinary brown, naked, spot, offered at £58; while English refined, barrels, sell at £61 to £62. Cottonseed is steady, with crude spot pipes at £49 10s.; refined, pale, £52 to £52 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £58 to £60, as to make. Olive oil continues scarce and without offering.

Oilcakes.

It is understood that the Oilseeds Controller will also control all feeding stuffs for cattle and the oilseed cake trade. This will, undoubtedly, effect an essential change in the regulation of the latter, in which speculation has often embarrassed genuine buyers for cattle-feeding purposes. Linseed cake is quoted at present—English made, £19 17s. 6d. to £20; and cottonseed cake, also English made, £15 7s. 6d. to £15 10s. per ton.

OLIVE CROPS IN WESTERN GREECE.

The principal olive and olive-producing regions in Western Greece, so far as foreign trade is concerned, are the islands of Corfu and Paxos, the region around the city of Agrinion in the Province of Acarnania, and the region around Amphissa (Salona) on the Gulf of Corinth.

The olive crop of Corfu and Paxos is reported to be a failure for the year 1916-1917. These two islands usually export in full-crop years some 3,000,000 gallons of olive oil, chiefly to Italy. The present crop is estimated at only some 130,000 gallons. The Agrinion olive crop is also reported to be practically a failure. While no official estimates are available, interested dealers state that the crop will be from 20 to 40 per cent. of last year's yield, and of medium quality. The Amphissa crop is large, according to official forecasts. The quality is reported good.

TRADE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

Two Trade Commissioners have been appointed to inquire into the trade of the Persian Gulf. They are Mr. John Wilson, formerly of Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie and Co., of Busreh, and Mr. R. E. Holland, I.C.S., of the Indian Political Department. The inquiry will be wide in its scope, and will deal with the general question of openings for British trade after the war.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal

Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

THE FORESTS OF BULGARIA.

State Protection of a Great Industry.

Turkey had played havoc with the forests of Bulgaria, and when the latter was separated from the Ottoman Empire in 1878 the dense forests which formerly had covered the country had almost entirely disappeared.

Soon after the Bulgars had established themselves as a separate principality the new Government issued conservation regulations and the appointment of overseers and keepers charged with the duty of protecting the forests. Other regulations followed, prohibiting the export of wood, declaring all forest lands taxable, and providing for reforestation. Still later the sections to be felled were prescribed, monopolies and destructive exploitation were forbidden, and instructions published as to the best methods of preventing and combating forest fires.

Forestry Laws.

In 1884 the Bulgarian National Assembly enacted the first law for the protection of the forests. It provided for the division of the country's forests into classes—i.e., State, parish, and private, general control being placed in the hands of the Minister of Finance, and made provision for the appointment of inspectors, foresters, and keepers, who were charged to preserve the woods from injury and to divide them into districts, so that felling and thinning could be done rationally and in such manner as to provide sufficient wood for building, fuel, and charcoal.

Another law was passed in 1889, which, among other things, contained provisions for much-needed reforestation. Nurseries were established, which in a short time had millions of young trees ready for planting, and special courses of study were arranged for foresters and keepers to equip them better for the work of conservation. The latest forest legislation was enacted in 1904.

Extensive Forest Areas.

In the year 1908, the latest year for which statistics are available, the United States Consul-General at Sofia writes in an interesting despatch, the forest area of Bulgaria comprised 7,086,232 acres, of which 3,333,596 belonged to the various parishes, 1,611,423 to the State, 1,096,785 to private owners, and the remainder, 1,044,428 acres, to churches, monasteries, mosques, schools, the Bulgarian National Bank, and the Bulgarian Agricultural Bank. The forests then comprised about 50 per cent. of the total area of the country, were valued at \$25,000,000, and it was claimed that Bulgaria had two and a half acres of forest to every inhabitant. Bulgaria, therefore, was at that time richer in forests than Germany, Italy, Roumania, Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal, or Greece, and vastly better off than Hungary, while it had but 3 per cent. less forests than Austria, Sweden, or Norway. During the Balkan wars in 1912 and 1913 whole sections of forests were destroyed.

The State forests, numbering about 440, all now well cared for and in excellent condition, are located in the districts of Varna, Provadia, Aitos, and Burgas, in the eastern section of Bulgaria; at Samokov, and in the Stara Planina, Rhodope, and Rilo Mountain districts. The parish forests, mainly in the south and west, number about 2,970. Private forests, small and scattered, averaging about four and a quarter acres in size, are for the most part situated on the plains. The Government forests, as well as many of the parish forests, seem to be well cared for. The private forests, on the contrary, are being exploited for profit.

Varieties of Timber.

Deciduous trees, oak, beech, willow, and poplar largely predominate in Bulgarian forests, especially in the region of the Stara Planina (Balkan Mountains). Of the coniferous varieties, the pine and the fir flourish particularly in the Rilo and Rhodope mountain districts. In certain sections, notably in the vicinity of Varna, Burgas, Peshtera, Anhiolo, and Provadia, the forests are dense and in fine condition.

Fortunately, many of the best preserved Bulgarian forests are in such out-of-the-way places that they cannot be conveniently exploited. When the country opens after the

war, and Bulgarian railway communication is more highly developed, they will undoubtedly be most profitably utilised.

So far as climate and vegetation are concerned, Bulgaria may be divided into four zones. In the warm zone, on the plains and up to about 1,300 feet above sea level, the characteristic trees are the oak, elm, and ash. In the moderate zone, higher than and parallel to the warm zone, up to a height of about 2,600 feet, tall and well-grown oaks predominate, and in the higher section of this zone the beech is also found. The cold zone extends from where the beeches begin to flourish to an altitude of about 4,300 feet above sea-level, and contains large and beautiful forests of beech. Because of difficulties of access, these extensive reserves have not yet been utilised. The pine zone, from 4,300 to 6,600 feet above sea-level, chiefly contains splendid forests of pine.

Of these Bulgarian forests, 43 per cent. are found in the warm zone, 32.7 per cent. in the moderate zone, and 24.3 per cent. in the upper zones.

THE BLACK SEA PORTS.

The *Financier and Bullionist*, discussing Russian ports in an article in its Russian supplement, writes:—

The Black Sea ports may almost be summed up in the word Odessa. But the coast line is too long to be served entirely by one port. Odessa is a progressive town of over 600,000 inhabitants, and communicates with the great grain-growing and the coal and metallurgical areas of South Russia. Its not very distant neighbour Nikolaieff, too, helps to drain and to supply practically the same area. Further east we have the Azoff Sea and its less pretentious, but still important, ports; then, on the north-south-east line of the Black Sea eastern shore we have Novorossisk—a good port for petroleum exploitation equipment inwards and vegetable oils and petroleum derivatives outwards. Further south, the port of Touapsé, with its recently-created rail connections inland, affords a good entry into the Caucasus; and, besides, there is Batoum for access to the Baku district, and Poti for the famous manganese deposits. There is an important progressive copper industry in the Caucasus, the agricultural and forest industries of which area in process of development afford great opportunities for an exchange of profitable commercial amenities. Perhaps it would be worth while to mention also the port of Mariupol—the port through which the coal producers hope to export Donetz coal to the Mediterranean markets.

Regarding Odessa, there was, it will be remembered, a scheme for a direct steamship service between that port and a port in England (which port was a matter for later decision, though the choice seemed to lie between Hull and London)—a scheme that had made considerable progress towards completion when the war broke out. The demand that prompted that project, though denied satisfaction, still exists, and can be reckoned on to persist and to prevail to the extent of fruition in the form of a regular and prosperous line of steamships connecting South Russia and England.

EGYPTIAN COTTON IN THE U.S.

It is reported that the cotton experts connected with the United States Department of Agriculture have recently developed a new variety of Egyptian cotton, which is stated to be superior to the variety already grown in Arizona. Further experiments are to be made with the new seed, which is to be known as the Pima type in the Salt River Valley, in Arizona, during the course of the present year. The Pima seed originates from that known as the Yuma type, but is claimed to be more uniform and truer to type than the latter.

A British survey party has been organised to carry out survey work in Mesopotamia and will be known as the Busreh Survey Party. The party, which left India in October, 1916, consists of Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Pirrie, I.A., and Major Beazeley, R.E., Deputy Superintendents, and Captain W. E. Perry, R.E., Assistant Superintendent, with Messrs. J. MacCracken, W. H. Strong, A. J. Booth and J. C. Pollett, Extra Assistant Superintendents.

TOBACCO IN CYPRUS.

Promising Outlook for a New Industry.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, February 1.

Cyprus will export within the next two months about 3,000 bales of tobacco (300,000 kilos) of a quality approaching that of Latakiah. Cyprus has not previously cultivated tobacco since 1899; but since the outbreak of hostilities with Turkey, thanks to the initiative of some wealthy Syrian merchants who have been obliged to take refuge in the island, tobacco has been planted on a large scale.

The yield has been most satisfactory and the leaf is being cured in the Latakiah way under the supervision of Latakiah experts. The quality is believed to be equal to that of Latakiah, although there are some doubts. The Cypriots themselves are now making arrangements to plant a large area of irrigated land, and it is estimated that next year more than a million kilogrammes of tobacco will be produced.

With Government aid tobacco ought to become soon one of our principal articles of export.

Situation in Alexandria.

As a result of a rumour in the Tobacco Stores at the Alexandria Customs, that the Government intended to increase the tax imposed on the stock and new tobacco imports, many merchants have withdrawn huge quantities of tobacco during the last three days from the Customs Stores, wrote the *Egyptian Gazette* on February 10. Yesterday, being the end of the month, there was a remarkable rush on the stock. An inquiry in official quarters elicited the statement that the rumour was untrue. No increase in the tax can be effected without an official decree, and no decree has been or is expected to be issued to this effect.

IMITATION WOOL.

Tootal Broadhurst Lee Company, Ltd., and Mr. J. H. Lester have patented a combination of known processes resulting in the production of a cotton yarn or fabric having the appearance and handle of yarn or fabric consisting wholly or partially of wool. Imitation wool effects have hitherto been obtained on cotton goods by shrinkage with caustic soda or sulphuric acid, or by similar processes causing the cotton fibres to curl, and by this means the characteristic handle of wool is to some extent imitated. They have also been obtained by spinning together cotton dyed with different colours, but these goods lack the characteristic handle of wool.

The improved method of imitating wool effects consists essentially of a combination of these processes, and the resulting yarn or fabric possesses handle as well as the appearance of wool. Any kind of undyed unspun cotton is mixed with dyed unspun cotton, or with different shades or colours of dyed unspun cotton, and the mixture is spun into yarn; or dyed unspun cotton of different colours is mixed. For example, black dyed unspun cotton may be mixed with blue dyed unspun cotton, or undyed cotton of different shades—for example, brown Egyptian cotton—may be mixed with white Peruvian cotton and spun into yarn, and then shrunk by means of caustic soda or sulphuric acid. Experiments have shown that the best results are obtained with Peruvian cotton alone. This yarn, treated as above, may then be manufactured by weaving or knitting to produce fabrics or goods having the appearance and handle of wool goods throughout or only in parts by using other yarns in combination. For example, threads of yarn, treated as described above, may be combined with any other kind of yarn to produce a compounded yarn suitable for use in the manufacture of fabrics of any kind.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

South Russian Railways and Canals.

It is evident that Russia, after the war, will be an important field for big industrial and commercial enterprises. Proof of this is the keenness with which the Americans are, at the present time, cultivating the Russian markets, and their efforts to secure concessions and other commercial advantages before the war ends, and while the field is apparently clear of other competitors. According to recent reports, the Russian Ministry of Ways and Communications has drawn up a scheme for railway construction on a large scale. This is to be carried into effect after the war, but it appears that the whole matter has assumed a more urgent character owing to the application of a group of American capitalists for a concession to build a railway from Moscow to an important district of the coalfields. It is well known that the idea of railway concessions to foreigners is strongly opposed by Russian economists on the ground that it might involve the raising of freights and fares, and would subject Russian railway policy to the vicissitudes of the money market, as opposed to the existing system of purely Government railways which, with its rule of low profits, provides the only sure guarantee of economic development. It is a question, however, whether, with the huge financial obligations which will face Russia after the war, such opposition, or economic policy, is maintainable. According to a recent statement of Professor Manniloff in the Committee of the Zemstvo Unions, the Russian National Debt after the war will amount to £4,000,000,000, which will involve a huge annual interest. This means in effect that the annual Russian Budget will nearly

be doubled. Of these facts American capitalists are, of course, cognisant, and their efforts and hopes for success are based on them, as well as on the unique opportunities which the present political situation and the inactivity of British enterprise afford.

The Caspian and Black Seas Link.

With the increasing production of mineral oil and coal in Southern Russia, and the great inconvenience experienced at present in the transport of produce, the question of the construction of a navigable canal to unite the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea has again been brought forward. The union of the two seas would secure great advantages not only for Russian commerce, but also for the commerce of the Near and Middle East. There is already a scheme for the construction of a canal from Astrakan, Port Serevriacoff, to the rivers Manytch and Don, with a branch to Taganrog. This scheme is considered the best; it is short and more economical in construction. Goods going from Astrakan to Warsaw will travel 1,853 versts, but by the canal and via Odessa they would travel only 1,123 versts. Other benefits offered are the irrigation of a great area of very fertile land by the canal water, and the prevention of the overflowing of the river Terek.

The Baltic to the Black Sea.

It is strange that, with the much-talked-of German scheme of a great waterway via the Rhine-Danube to the Black Sea, a description of which we have given in previous notes, nothing has yet been heard of the great project for a canal from the Baltic to the Black Sea, although, according to reliable information, the Russian authorities have not laid the matter aside. It was only a few years before the Balkan War that the Russian Minister of Finance obtained the Tsar's sanction for the appointment of a special commission to examine the question of con-

structing the canal. Among the most complete schemes ready for consideration at the time was one elaborated by a Belgian engineer, Comte Gustave Defoesse, in which Mr. Innes Baillie, of the United States, and, if the writer's memory is not mistaken, Messrs. J. King and Co., of London, were interested. Under this scheme the rivers Dvina, Beresina, and Dnieper would be utilised, and the termini of the canal would be at Riga and Kher-son. The length of such a canal would be about 1,000 miles, and it would have a breadth on the surface of about 212 ft., and at the bottom of 114 ft., with a uniform depth of 27 ft. 6 in. Its construction would probably occupy six years. At a speed of eight knots, as has been found practicable in the case of the Suez Canal, the passage of ships would occupy five days. It is a pity that such an important project was interrupted at the time, for if the canal was in existence before the war began the Germans would not boast to-day of achievements in that direction.

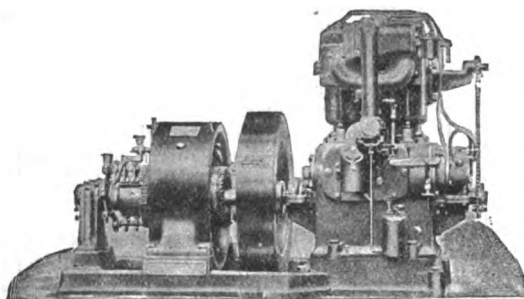
Fuel Blocks.

With the scarcity and consequent high price of coal here, as well as in the East, any suggestion which tends to relieve the situation is of present interest. According to a recent patent, a composition fuel is prepared from a mixture of small coal and soot with water. Cinders, flour, or washing-soda may be added to the mixture. As an example, 16 lbs. of fine coal are mixed with 8 lbs. of soot, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of flour, and 3 pints of water containing 1 oz. of soda in solution, and shaped under considerable pressure into spheres of from two to four inches diameter.

The total Bulgarian expenditure for 1917 is estimated at 455,606,663 leva, the revenue is estimated at 431,948,000 leva, which leaves a deficit of 23,658,663 leva. These are official figures and, therefore, not necessarily true.

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, OIL AND GAS ENGINES. ENGLAND.

Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.



Suitable for
driving:—
Dynamos, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.

Foreign Branches and
Agents:

INDIA.
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dildiz Zade Han,
Stamboul. Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.,
Cairo.



7 feet Hydraulic Buffer Stops at Waterloo Station for stopping
400 ton trains at 10 miles per hour.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

— ALSO —
HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS and other
(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers) SUCH AS RAILWAY
PLANT

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes,
Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improve-
ments. Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "SLUICE, LONDON."

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES

The Egyptian Government propose to spend £150,000 on irrigation works.

The Sudan Government has given orders to allot more lands to the cultivation of wheat and barley in the Sudan.

Restriction on the shipment of fresh fruit to Holland other than oranges, lemons, and tangerines have been removed.

Telegrams may now be forwarded to Abadan (Persia) at 2s. 7d. a word, and to Koweit (Persian Gulf) at 2s. 3d. a word.

The Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Railway Company announce the discontinuance of certain express trains on the Riviera line, commencing on March 5.

An Alexandria message of February 22 states that the cotton-seed market is irregular, with spot quoted at 121p. equivalent to £10 16s. 9½d., and April, 120.6p., equal to £10 16s. 1½d.

The Daylight Saving Act comes into operation in Malta at midnight on March 10, and will remain in force until October 31. This arrangement will continue every year while the Act remains on the Statute Book.

When the report regarding the British offer to Greek shipowners reached India, prices in the Calcutta jute cloth market which has been affected adversely by lack of tonnage, advanced a rupee (1s. 4d.) all round.

It is reported that this season's cotton crop of the Protectorate of Uganda will be over 60 per cent. greater than that for last season. During the crop year of 1915-16, 92,127 acres were devoted to cotton, and the production amounted to 99,341 cwt., valued at £238,870.

In order to relieve the more pressing necessities of the Greek population, the Allies, as an act of grace, are (Reuter's Agency learns) permitting certain cargoes of grain to enter Greek Royalist ports. Until more complete measures have been taken by the Greek Government to carry out the demands of the Allies, and so to place the flank of the Salonika Army in complete security, however, the blockade will not be raised.

The supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of March 1 contains complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported from Denmark, France (including Algeria), Italy, Japan, and the Netherlands. The supplement also contains a list of articles (complete to date) which are prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom.

The Italian Consular Court at Alexandria has sentenced Mr. Carlo Salinas, stock and share broker, of Alexandria, and formerly a member of the firm of Mortera and Salinas, to three months and ten days' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 27 fr. and the costs of the case. He was charged with the misappropriation of 350 fr. in connection with a transaction in shares of the *Société des Pressages et des Dépôts*.

It is reported (writes the *Electrical Review*) that German electrical engineering concerns are looking forward to an important trade in electrical material in Turkey and Asia Minor. One important scheme that is being developed is a plant to utilise certain waterfalls near El Scheab, in Syria. It is stated that about 9,000 h.p. will be available, and that the current generated will be utilised for the Damascus-Jerusalem Railway, and for lighting and power purposes in the villages and towns in the district.

CROPS IN EGYPT.

Official Report on Conditions in January, 1917.

We take the following from the Bulletin concerning the condition of certain crops in Egypt in January, issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, at Cairo, on February 1, 1917:—

Wheat.

The weather was favourable on the whole; the heavy rainfall early in the month had a beneficial effect on the crop in view of the closing of canals for clearance, although it caused at first some damage to the previously watered wheat. This damage, however, did not prove to be so great, as the affected plants easily recovered from the check they had suffered, thanks to the timely warm weather. Application of manure, and watering from artesian wells, where available, are proceeding. The crop is generally immune from pests, save for some slight local attacks of cut worm in Upper Egypt, with no damage worth reporting. The general condition of the crop is good and plants are healthy, except in Minia, where they look weak.

Beans.

Weather favourable on the whole; the crop, however, suffered to a slight extent from cold, rains, and strong winds. Thus, it was noticed that flowers were a little affected by winds and plants, on lands watered immediately before the rains set in, were somewhat damaged. The beans are free from pests everywhere, except in Assiut and the provinces lying south, where a broom-rape attack is reported. The crop is so far satisfactory and healthy in appearance. Formation of pods is taking place in the early crop and flowering is general in the main crop.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable. Cutting and transport to factories is general. Cane plantations have continued to suffer attacks from stalk borer in the northern part of Middle Egypt. The crop, in general, is in good condition and the yield slightly above average.

"Bersim."

Weather generally favourable. The rainfall had a distinctly beneficial effect on the growth of *bersim*, except where the rainstorm was heavy and a certain amount of damage resulted. The affected crops, however, recovered soon after. Second cutting and grazing are general, and where the crop has been sown early, the third cutting is being taken. In Daqahlia, a start has even been made in the preparation of *dries*. The condition of the crop has improved considerably on last month, and the yield is expected to be slightly above average.

GREEK SEAMEN AFRAID OF U-BOATS.

Three Greek seamen, named Nicholas Zacharion, Nicolai Valsamas, and Nicolos Mathiodis, were charged at Cupar Sheriff's Court on February 22 with having landed from a Norwegian steamer at Methil Dock on February 21 last without the permission of the Secretary of State. Zacharion was the only one who could speak English, and he tendered a plea of guilty. The prosecuting solicitor said the three accused deserted the ship. They would not go on board because of the risk they would run from attack by German U-boats. Sheriff Wark said it was a serious offence for a person who was not a native of that country to land at a prohibited port without proper permission. He passed sentence of a fine of £3 3s., or twenty-one days' imprisonment. An attempt was made to get Zacharion to act as interpreter for the other two accused, but he stated he did not know what an oath meant. The case against the other two men was adjourned.

COMPANY NOTES.

United Egyptian Lands.

Holders of shares are requested to communicate with Mr. H. W. Cable, Secretary to the Shareholders' Committee, 16, Gracechurch Street, E.C., giving name and address and number of shares held.

Oil Outputs.

Black Sea.—329 tons.

Maikop Combine.—255 tons.

Spies.—2,969 tons.

New Schibaieff.—3,879 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah, 26 tons and 20 tons; Hurgada, 1,365 tons and 1,325 tons.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

It is notified that the National Bank of Greece dividend for the second half of the year 1916, amounting to Dr.125 per share, will be paid on and after February 26, 1917, against surrender of Coupon No. 8, at the offices of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

RUSSO-PERSIAN EXCHANGE.

According to a Russian correspondent, in the *Financier and Bullionist*, who is estimating the business possibilities between Russia and Persia and the chances of extending trade relations between the two countries, the great fall in the value of the rouble discourages the Persian merchants from selling their goods at Russian exchange, while among the Russian merchants the standard Persian coin, the kran, is very scarce.

The export of Russian goods into Persia has almost entirely ceased. The cottons now available in the country do not suffice for Russia's wants. For exportation into Persia previous to the war 5,500,000 poods of sugar a year were authorised, but in the 1915-16 campaign the authorised quantity was only 2,500,000 poods, and in the current—1916-17—campaign this quantity has been further reduced to 1,500,000 poods. This is our only resource for obtaining Persian goods, and it is a valuable one, for the price of sugar has risen on the Persian bazaars to 2 roubles 50 copecks per funt—that is, 100 roubles per pood. With a modest stock, say, of 1,500,000 poods of sugar, we could obtain 150,000,000 roubles in Persia, which is quite sufficient to pay for what we want in Persian goods.

Another resource we have is silver. Out of one pood of silver 3,700 krans can be minted. A pood of silver is now worth 700 roubles. If we spent 20,000,000 roubles in buying silver of which to make krans, we should obtain 100,000,000 krans, which sum would be sufficient to make the necessary purchases in Persia and to pay the expenses of the Russian Army in that country.

ALEXANDRIA PROPERTY SALE.

At the Mixed Court at Alexandria the house and gardens belonging to Mr. Emin Karam, at the Carlton Halt, Ramleh, which at the last sitting of the Court were bought by Mr. Jacques Karam, were resold *sur enchere* for £E15,550, plus the expenses, to Messrs. Gabriel and Edward Karam. A large shoonah, on the banks of the Mahmoudieh Canal, at Alexandria, which belonged to a native lady named Om Shams Hanem bint Reda Bey and her partners, was sold to Mr. Kaniskieri for £E7,200 plus the expenses amounting to £E36,370 mills. Half a plot of land (*par indivis*), of a superficies of 6,050 square pica, situated at San Stefano, Ramleh, belonging to Zarouki, Halfaian, and Company, was purchased by the Commercial and Estates Company of Egypt, Limited, for £E300 plus the taxed costs, £E81.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.
(AN ANZO-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 25, SHARIA EL MACHARBY.
P. O. B. 1095. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 504.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan, "
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARREHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 305.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	433	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	440	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	449
Cairo	435	Turkey in Asia	441	The Sudan and its Economic	
Cyprus	436	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	442	Advance	450
Syria (via Cairo)	437	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	446	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	451
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	447	Trade Notes	451
Turk, German, and Arab ..	437	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Produce Report	452
Roumania's Peasant Soldiers	438	Conditions in Cyprus	439	The Financial Prosperity of	
Supply Work in Egypt: The		Greek "Flag-Wagging" in		Egypt	453
Camel Transport Corps ..	445	Cyprus	439	Hun Methods in Morocco ..	453
LEADING ARTICLE—		The "Gentlemanly" and		Engineering Notes	454
The Mesopotamian Advance	444	"Clean-Fighting" Turk ..	439	How to Solve the Light Rail-	
				ways Problem	455
				Company Notes	455
				On 'Change	456
				Stock and Share List ..	456

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Salonika Expedition has recently come in for a good deal of attention in Parliament. We have never sought to disguise our dissatisfaction with the Allies' policy in regard to the operations in Macedonia; but we should be sorry to associate ourselves with all that has been said on the subject in the House of Commons. Mr. Bonar Law was entirely right in maintaining that the House must feel that it was quite impossible for the Government to give any indication at all as to what their intentions are in regard to the Salonika force. On the other hand, it is obvious—and Mr. Bonar Law admitted as much—that the expedition, or rather the Macedonian problem, has been mismanaged. "Nothing has exercised us more than the whole subject of Salonika," he said. "It has been difficult because the Allies who are interested in Greece and the Balkan Peninsula have not always taken the same view as to the right policy to adopt." No more lamentable confession could be made. The interests of all the Powers concerned in the maintenance of the Grand Alliance at its maximum efficiency are so compelling that it only required statesmanship on the part of one of the Governments to bring the others into line on the Salonika question. This was not done, because no statesmanship was shown in the Allied Councils until the recent change in the British Government took place. Mr. Bonar Law now believes that some ground has been gained in the matter of a common policy in the Near East. That is all to the good. In any case, it ill becomes individual members who were so largely responsible for the perpetuation of the old régime of *laissez-faire* to throw stones at the muddle into which the Allies' Balkan policy was allowed to drift.

One thing is certain, that our strategy in this war cannot be made or unmade in Parliament. If a nation has the Government it deserves, it may be presumed that a similar measure of justice is meted out to it in regard to its military authorities. At this stage of the proceedings, however, the latter are with us for better or for worse. If it be true, as alleged, that the policy of sending an expedition to Salonika was acquiesced in and that then the force was deliberately starved, in order that it should not be able to advance, those responsible have a very serious charge to answer, and they cannot hope to avoid for all time the consequences of their action. Apart from the criminal folly of such a course, it would deliberately stultify their military repu-

tation, for some explanation will have to be given for the violation of the most elementary military rule in immobilising such a large force as that at Salonika for the greater period of the war. Unless a very cogent reason can be adduced, it must needs go hard with the authorities concerned. We prefer, therefore, to suppose that an adequate explanation will in due course be forthcoming. Meanwhile, against scaremongering regarding a withdrawal we may set Mr. Bonar Law's very clear statement: "Let me point out the obvious fact to the House. If by any chance this expedition were taken away, the first thing that would happen would be that Greece would be overrun, that the whole Balkan Peninsula without exception would be in the hands of our enemies, and that . . . those who have helped us from the beginning would be at the mercy of our enemies." Finally, so long as there are members of Parliament who consider it a patriotic course to adopt to evade the censorship in order to promote a peace-at-any-price campaign and to champion others who do the same, there ought to be no question of a "secret" session.

While our "Western" *quidnuncs* are at pains to point out that the Mesopotamia Expedition ought to follow the example of the Salonika force and remain immobilized at Kut, so as to give the enemy time to recover from his defeat, to receive reinforcements and return to the attack, General Maude is following hard on the heels of the retreating Turks, and British troops are within twenty-seven miles of Baghdad. The pursuit has already extended over eighty miles of country, which have been covered in eight days. A number of rear-guard actions have been fought; but thanks to our river craft and to the cavalry the enemy has so far been unable to make any effective stand. Not the least picturesque feature in the operations is the reappearance of the gunboats in the van of the British advance. So long as the Turks held the Sanna-i-Yat lines they were unable to co-operate with the army; but with the successful turning of this position their opportunity came. By February 26, three days after the successful crossing of the river at Shumran, three of these gunboats had caught up and passed the Turkish army in its retreat, inflicting heavy losses upon it.

According to the latest report the British troops have reached Lajj, which is nine miles in a direct line from Ctesiphon. Short of Baghdad, therefore, the only positions lending themselves to defence on which the enemy can fall back are Ctesiphon and the Diala River, which

enters the Tigris at the town of the same name, situated ten miles to the south-east of the city of the Khalifs. It will be difficult for General Maude, having come so far, to refrain from following up his success to its logical conclusion, and we may at least hope that he will be allowed to take full advantage of the military position which he has so brilliantly created. The news of his promotion to the rank of lieutenant-general "in recognition of his distinguished service in the field" will be received with much satisfaction in this country. Even still more popular would be an announcement that he had been promised all the support he requires to gain and to maintain the further success on which the King expressed the hope, when Kut was about to fall, that he would be able to congratulate the Expedition. It may be noted in passing that the pursuit of the Turks has become appreciably slower during the last week—a fact which suggests that General Maude is not being hurried out of a systematic consolidation of the ground won.

With the change in the fortunes of the Mesopotamian Force there has been a simultaneous recovery on the part of the Russians in Persia. Shortly after General Townshend's surrender at Kut last April the Turks resumed the offensive on the Persian frontier north-east of Baghdad, and drove back the Russians in successive stages, until they had penetrated nearly two hundred miles into Persia. The enemy's inroad spent itself after Hamadan was reached, but some months elapsed before our Allies could operate effectively against the invaders. Bijar, two-thirds of the distance from Tabriz to Hamadan, was reoccupied before the end of the year. On March 2 Russian troops entered Hamadan, and now something in the nature of a general advance towards the frontier is taking place. We shall do well not to be misled at present by the expression "in the direction of Baghdad." That city must be the ultimate objective for any Russian force operating in this region, but it is still some two hundred and fifty miles away. In the event of British troops occupying Baghdad, however, we may expect a complete collapse of all resistance on the enemy's part in Persia. He would at once be cut off from his immediate base, on which he is now falling back, and a hurried retreat in a north-westerly direction would be necessary if he wished to avoid the danger of being caught between two fires.

The negotiations between the Entente Powers and the Greek Government appear to the British public, and no doubt to the Greek population as well, to be unduly protracted. It may, however, be pointed out that it was originally anticipated that the transfer of war material would take two months. There are still two or three weeks of this period to run, and we have Mr. Balfour's assurance that the evacuation of troops and artillery from the north is proceeding satisfactorily. He admitted, however, that there yet remained certain demands which were unfulfilled. The reference is primarily to the surrender of rifles over and above those in the hands of uniformed troops, but would seem to include new developments in the situation. Fortunately the Entente Powers are adopting a firm attitude in their dealings with Greece, and the inconvenience of the blockade, provided it be maintained long enough, will ultimately force the Greek Government to act up to the spirit of its undertakings. It has already abandoned the pretence that it knows nothing about any rifles other than those in the hands of the mobilized troops. Urgent orders have been dispatched to the gendarmerie and the police authorities requiring them to expedite the surrender of all arms in private possession.

Almost simultaneously with the announcement that the Entente Powers have arranged for the arrival of a wheat ship to relieve the worst effects of the blockade of Greece comes the report that the Greek Government is understood to be hoarding cereals and other provisions in various parts of the country. If it be true that King Constantine is making it a basis of his policy that stores sufficient for a three months' campaign of an army of

100,000 men must be kept intact in the military store-houses, it is evident that he is far from meeting the Entente in the spirit of the undertakings extracted from him. His action points to the belief that there may yet be a swing in the pendulum which would make the co-operation of his army with the Central Powers a useful factor in the general military situation. So long as the King or his advisers entertain this idea the position in Greece is fraught with some danger, and the Allied Powers have to decide whether they are going to allow such a situation to continue indefinitely.

The revolt of the Hejaz is without doubt an event of grave importance to the Moslem world, which has to choose between its instinctive allegiance to the Khalif at Constantinople and the veneration for the Holy Places inseparable from the religion of Islam. Little wonder, therefore, that the minds of good Moslems are exercised, and that they require time to take in the full significance of recent events. The reasonableness of this attitude is recognised by the Hejaz authorities, who are well content to see their action judged on its merits. With this end in view they have adopted special measures to submit their case to their co-religionists, and one of these takes the form of a Proclamation to the Faithful issued by the Ulema of Mecca, of which a translation appeared last Wednesday in *The Times*. The document is a stinging indictment of the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress. "We have discerned the hearts of the usurpers of Osman's Empire. We have learned their evil purpose with regard to our Faith, we have beheld their crimes and wickedness in this our Holy Land." The Ulema are absolutely certain that the secret Committee of the Young Turk party has notoriously disobeyed God. There stand the facts and events which every man by inquiry can ascertain for himself, and they instance the employment by Government of Moslem women exposed in public places unveiled before men of strange nations. But this, it is pointed out, is the least of their crimes against Islam and Moslems.

An interesting passage in the Proclamation is the statement that "every Moslem heart in the Ottoman Empire, even among the Turks in Anatolia and among the members of the Turkish Royal Family in the palaces, prays God for our success." The Ulema declares that if the inhabitants of those countries which the Unionists have lost through their alliance with Germany in this war had revolted against those oppressors, they would not have been regarded (by the Entente Powers) as belligerents, and would thus have saved their countries for themselves. The Proclamation then deals with the question of the Khalifate, and makes the declaration that the revolt of the Hejaz is not a rising "against a legitimate Khalifa fulfilling all the legal, or at least some of the conditions qualifying him to be such." It asks what the Mohammedan world has to say of the Beni Osman pretending to be Khalifas of Islam when they allow themselves to be puppets in the hands of Janissaries. But "in spite of all that is known of the deplorable condition in which the Khalifate is situated at the present moment" the Ulema announce that they have not interfered with it at all, and that it will remain as it is pending the final decision of the whole Mohammedan world.

Events in Mesopotamia, and still more the successes of the British troops over the frontier of the Sinai Peninsula, where the enemy have abandoned further defences, ought to prove of considerable assistance to the King of the Hejaz in his struggle with the Turks. Time, however, must be allowed the Arab world as a whole to decide upon its attitude towards the ruler whom all Islam agreed in recognising as the Grand Shereef and the Guardian of the Holy Places. The Arabs have never been conspicuous for cohesion, and their traditional clannishness is not likely to be changed at a moment's notice, especially at a time when the whole world is in a ferment and great things are happening all around them.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 14.

The Health of the Sultan.

The news with regard to the health of the Sultan is excellent, and the latest bulletin states that his Highness is fast regaining strength, and will very soon have recovered completely. It is understood that his doctors will issue only one more bulletin.

The War Loan.

To-morrow is the last day for the acceptance in Egypt of subscriptions to the War Loan, and no little curiosity is being evinced as to the total figure, which will stand in the Imperial list against the name of this dependency. Most of the publicity given in this country to the issue of the loan has been due to the patriotic initiative of the British Chamber of Commerce, which has daily taken up prominent space on one of the pages of your Alexandria contemporary with an appeal to every British subject in Egypt to do his or her duty and subscribe. What reply has been made to that appeal will not be known for some days, but there is every reason to believe that the figure will be quite a satisfactory one. Those who may wish to compare it with the total subscriptions from other parts of the Empire must, however, bear in mind the fact that the Anglo-Egyptian community is not exactly what one would call a rich one. The incomes of most of its members are fixed, and do not permit of much saving in the course of the year—especially in present circumstances, when prices are rising all round—whilst those Anglo-Egyptians who are able to put by anything out of their unearned income, have their accounts at home, and consequently their subscriptions will not appear in the "Egypt" contingent.

As regards the purely Egyptian element, albeit "Commentator" is perfectly correct in his statement in THE NEAR EAST of the 13th ult., that there is plenty of gold still in Egypt—the other day a contractor paid up his deposit due to a Government department entirely in gold, and this in spite of the fact that gold coins have been withdrawn from circulation for over two years now—nevertheless, it must be remembered that it is exceedingly difficult to get the local population to bring out its hoards, unless hard times exist, which is certainly not the case to-day. The Egyptians are essentially a self-centred and agricultural race; they have not been touched by the war, except in so far as it has brought them unheard-of profits, and consequently they cannot realise the necessity to bring it to a speedy and successful end. They are prepared—and indeed have done so in the recent past—to show their loyalty to Great Britain and sympathy for the Allied soldiers by subscribing to the Red Cross and any other war charity calling for funds; but the War Loans, however attractive their terms may appear to us, do not in the least appeal to the Egyptians, either from the point of view of investment or of loyalty, and so we must not expect to find that the indigenous population has subscribed to them to any great extent; nor, indeed, in the circumstances ought we exactly to blame it for this attitude.

The element which certainly ought to subscribe heavily is the Levantine and neutral community. The latter has made enormous profits out of cotton, and Army and other contracts. Sad to relate its members cannot be touched by any form of direct taxation, in war-time or out of it; but since they contribute not one penny towards either the defence of this country or the maintenance of the Allied Fleets, which, by keeping the seas open, have enabled them to make their extravagant profits, the least surely that these gentry could do would be to contribute, either as a thank-offering or a good investment, some parts of those profits to the "Victory Loan." From what I hear, however, this is far from their thoughts. Certain that without any voluntary contribution, either financially or otherwise, on their part, their security in Egypt will be assured, they prefer to invest the money they have made out of the Allies in enterprises which will enable them to make still further profits out of the same clients. It is a regrettable attitude for which there is at present no remedy, but it is to

be hoped that when, after peace has been declared, steps are taken to regularise the local political situation, some means will be found whereby the element in question can be forced to pay for the benefit of living and trading under British protection.

The Siwa Victory.

The defeat inflicted on the Senussi at Siwa should materially weaken whatever influence Sayed Ahmed still has with the tribes of the Western Desert. The coup carried out by armoured cars was a brilliant one, and fully in keeping with the excellent work this new arm of the Service has done in Egypt. I understand that we have not effectively occupied Siwa, as there are certain difficulties about keeping a permanent garrison regularly and satisfactorily supplied under present conditions; but there is little fear of the Senussi returning to that oasis after the proof he has received of the mobility of our forces. By the by, I hear that on our eastern front there is a surprise in store for the Turks, who will certainly not find it to their taste. The surprise, I understand, will be sprung upon them in the course of the next forward movement.

The Pension Law.

A decree published on Monday contained alterations in the Pension Law in favour of Ministers and their families. Under the law the maximum pension, £E800, was raised to £E1,200 in the case of any official who had held the post of Minister for at least two years, but Ministers whose pay is £E3,000 per annum were only called upon to contribute to the Pension Fund an annual sum calculated on four-fifths of their pay, i.e., £E2,400. Under the new decree the condition of two years' service as a Minister in order to secure a pension between £E800 and £E1,200 per annum is abolished; Ministers will have to pay towards the Pension Fund on their full salary; and the maximum pension of £E300 payable to the widows and children of officials is declared inapplicable to the families of Ministers and ex-Ministers. It is hoped that this decree foreshadows further alterations in the pension regulations for the ordinary officials, for in some respects the Pension Law, as it stands at present, is somewhat inconsistent and also not sufficiently generous where European officials are concerned.

The National Mission.

The friends of Dean Storrs in England will, I am sure, be sorry to hear that he has been laid up with a sharp attack of influenza. After the opening of the Mission in Cairo the Dean went down to Alexandria to conduct services there, but fell ill almost immediately, and was quite unable to carry on. He is much better now, and is staying at Mena House, but it will be some days before he will be able to resume work. Fortunately for the Mission, at about the time Dean Storrs became ill the Bishop of Buckingham arrived out here in order to assist Bishop MacInnes with confirmations, and he has been able to step into the breach and hold the Mission services which the Dean should have conducted. The Rev. E. A. Burroughs is carrying on the Mission in the Sudan, and on his return it is hoped that he and Dean Storrs will continue the movement in Egypt. Meanwhile Bishop MacInnes has gone to El Arish to conduct confirmations there, and I understand that on his way back to the Canal he will visit each post and camp in the Sinai Peninsula.

The Al Azhar Ulema.

The ulema of Al Azhar University are active again, but this time it would appear that justice is on their side. They complain that the teachers are being paid derisory salaries which are far below the minimum accorded by the regulations, and that the bread rations are inadequate. A petition has been submitted to the Prime Minister, who has promised to give the matter



**THE WORLD-FAMOUS
YAGHOURT**

may be obtained in 6d. and 1s. jars, of
MANOLI-CORBETTL,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street.

Also **LEVANT PRODUCE:**
Tomato Paste, Black Olives, Locomes, Matwa,
Bamias, &c.

Recommended by Mrs. Frank Barker.

his earnest attention. From what I have been able to gather, the majority of the teachers receive £E3 *per mensem*, which is about half the minimum laid down when the University was reorganised some few years ago, and which would certainly in any case appear an inadequate remuneration. Further, the bread ration, which is distributed equally to the higher paid as well as to the small officials, is provided out of funds contributed by the Government, the Wakfs Ministry, and certain private endowments, which funds, although adequate before the war to purchase the requisite number of loaves, to-day suffice for the supply of but 75 per cent. of the required quantity. For once in a way the Al Azhar *ulema* would appear to be justified in their complaints, and it is to be hoped that speedy satisfaction will be accorded them.

CAIRO, February 20.

Egypt and the War Loan.

The subscription made by Egypt to the new British War Loan amounts approximately to £5,000,000, of which at least £3,700,000 is new money. This brings the total subscribed by this country to all the British loans or invested by it in the various other forms of raising money employed by the British Treasury, such as Exchequer Bonds and War Savings Certificates, to a figure which is estimated at not less than £35,000,000. These figures include the investment made by the Egyptian Government, but not those of the London offices of "Egyptian" banks, companies, and business houses, or residents who have been able to dispose of funds outside this country. It should also be pointed out that in addition to the subscription to the British, Egypt has contributed to the French and Italian loans, all of which have been very well supported from here. The country's cash subscription to the Allied cause is, therefore, considerably more than £35,000,000, and when one considers that in normal times the Egyptians do not, as a rule, invest money in European securities, and that the Levantine and neutral element, to whose huge profits out of cotton and local war contracts I referred last week, have shone by their absence from the list of subscribers, I think it will be admitted that this is a notable effort on the part of Egypt and of those of her inhabitants who have the Allied cause at heart. In conclusion, I should like to draw attention to the fact that this figure of £35,000,000, increased by the contributions to the French and Italian loans, does not by any means represent the full financial assistance rendered by Egypt to the Allies since the outbreak of war. There are many other ways in which this country has helped, and is still helping, the cause, and which, although they have their financial value, cannot so easily be translated into terms of £. s. d. Indeed, when the war is over and the assistance rendered to the Allies by the various dependencies is assessed, the share taken by Egypt will, I am certain, be found by comparison to be very considerable, and will come as a great surprise to many people.

THE DANCE OF THE JERBOA.

As the last rays of the sun's aftermath usher in the brief Eastern twilight, he leaves his lair to keep tryst with the evening star. Inebriate with the ambient air, or obedient to a lutany inaudible to human ears, he abandons himself to cepuscular revelries across the desert's face. Wild aerial essays suggest that in other æons he was germane to the bat rather than the mole, and would fain renounce his terrestrial habitat to cleave the clear skies in cousinly companionship. Here, there, and everywhere the keenest eyesight only may follow his phantasmal journeyings. A will-o'-the-wisp, he wheels away in mad career and is lost to sight, to materialize momentarily and finally in the gathering gloom.

Against the skyline, Bedouin women, vague and nebulous, flit in and out their tented dwellings, whilst far away a pariah is greeting the moon.

Over the lake a pale blue vapour rises slowly.

A telegram from Sofia received in Rome states that an epidemic of smallpox has broken out throughout the country. Many Bulgarian soldiers in Macedonia are infected.

Approval was recently given to the statutes of the National Council of Czechs and Slovaks in Russia, which aims at uniting all Czechs and Slovaks resident in Russia.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Experiences of a Cypriot Prisoner.

About a year ago a sailing vessel, the *Evangelistria*, belonging to a Kyrenia merchant named Savas Kharalamboou, respecting which there were suspicions that she was engaged in contraband trade, was sunk off the Papho coast by a French man-of-war, and the captain, one Michail Savas, was arrested and taken on board the warship. This skipper, who was recently released and has now returned to Cyprus, has given an account of his year's experiences to a Nicosia paper, the *Voice of Cyprus*. He went through many hardships and vicissitudes in a variety of places, but all his trials have, he says, been forgotten from the moment when, in the beginning of November, he was sent a prisoner to Alexandria. Here thousands of prisoners, Germans, Turks, and others, were interned, and here, he says, all enjoyed a life almost of freedom, and one which was in all respects a happy one. Their food was on a liberal and varied scale, the clothing excellent, and the beds and sleeping arrangements all that could be desired. A full breakfast, with eggs, butter, and milk; a sumptuous dinner, with two or three courses of meat; and a most liberal supper of a similar kind were supplemented by an abundance of cigarettes and plenty of sweets. But what impressed the prisoners most of all, and exalted the honoured name of England in their minds, was the excessive kindness and magnanimity which was shown towards them by the British authorities. All the prisoners speak with enthusiasm of the English, and especially the Germans, who said that they were ashamed that their country should be at war with the noble English people, from whom, although they were prisoners and in hostility, they received such protection, honour, and kindness as did not fall to their lot in their own country.

One can quite understand how the consideration shown to helpless prisoners by the British strikes the imagination of people whose treatment, in analogous circumstances, by others would bear little resemblance to that which the Kyrenia skipper is able to describe. And it is satisfactory to know that it has been appreciated. In the early days of the Occupation the treatment of prisoners convicted of offences in Cyprus, who had been accustomed to Eastern methods, was a revelation, and they returned to their villages with glowing accounts of the good fare, the gratuitous shaving, and other experiences which they had enjoyed. That generation is passing away, and the present one knows little of what their ancestors experienced.

General News.

Mild, spring-like weather prevailed during the week ending February 10.

A Government notice of February 6 informs the public that permission to travel to the United Kingdom or other places beyond the seas will not be given to women and children unless proceeding to take up duties as nurses or some other war work, or for urgent reasons of health, or of a private character. The regulations relating to Egypt now in force are not affected.

The price of charcoal, so much used in Cyprus for cooking and other purposes, has risen to a height never before experienced. The cause is said to be that all camels, mules, and other beasts of burden have been requisitioned for the transport of carobs, purchased by the British Government, to Famagusta.

New regulations in respect of the Nicosia Poor House being now in force, all begging is strictly forbidden within the municipal limits from February 26, and notices have been issued to that effect.

The election of a Bishop of Kyrenia is approaching. The process is very similar to that observed in the case of the Archbishop. A large body of electors has been chosen, and these are now proceeding to choose the "general electors" who meet and appoint the Prelate.

ESCAPED MONTENEGRIN PRISONERS.

After enduring terrible privations, fourteen Montenegrins have arrived in London via Holland, escaping from Sennelager, Holzminden, Dattel, etc. Most of them were fired at soon after they had left their place of internment, and two were hit badly and had to be abandoned by their companions. They all arrived in Holland in a state of physical collapse, having walked the soles of their shoes entirely from their feet. One man had to crawl in the snow for eight hours.

Arriving in London, they were taken over by the Montenegrin Relief Fund and fed, clothed, and housed. Acting under instructions from his Government, Sir J. Roper Parkington, the Consul-General for Montenegro, is despatching the men to Paris, where they will be equipped and sent to join the Montenegrin unit at Salonika.

TURK, GERMAN, AND ARAB.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 3.

Methods of Propaganda.

Reference was made in recent notes to the delegation of Syrian journalists sent by Jemal Pasha to Constantinople and the Turkish deputation that the Unionists, to return the compliment, sent to Syria, accompanied by a few German publicists. This deputation has just completed its tour, after travelling as far south as Medina, and, on the occasion of its return to Constantinople, the secretary of the *Tanin* and the editor of the *Turco-German Lloyd Ottoman* (the mouthpiece of the German Embassy) lavished praise on Jemal for having so "effectually" re-established peace and order in Syria. According to Turkish papers, one of the notable achievements of this deputation was the founding of three important Arabic papers, the first in Damascus, called *Al Sharq*, the second in Medina, called, with unconscious irony, *Al Hejaz*, and the third in Beyrout. A series of fêtes was got up at the principal stations in honour of the members of this deputation, and, under the reign of terror that prevails, the inhabitants were everywhere compelled to feign enthusiastic welcome. An address and exhortation was delivered by one of the members in the Ommeyad mosque at Damascus, after the Friday prayer, on December 8 last.

Turco-German "Friendship."

Up to the end of last year the number of Ottoman students sent by the Institute of Turco-German Friendship at Constantinople to Germany was 233. Of these, 157 pay their own expenses, while the Institute defrays the total expenditure of 28 and part of the expenses of 48 others. According to news from Berlin, when this Institute was founded a special committee left Constantinople for the German capital to found a similar institution there; and it is said that preparations are on foot for laying the foundation-stone of the building. The importance attached by the Germans to this work of increasing the understanding between the two peoples may be gathered from the fact that the wife of the Kronprinz invited the members of this committee, together with Hakkı Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, and two high German officials, to a tea party at Potsdam.

An illustration of the rapid spread of the Turkish "national" spirit is afforded by the fact that all the Greek names of streets in Smyrna have been replaced by Turkish ones. Efforts are being made to create in that town a large square similar to "Jemal Pasha Square" in Damascus.

EXTERMINATING THE SERBS.

Under date of March 4, Reuter's Corfu correspondent telegraphs that the Serbian official Press Bureau has issued the following statement:—

"The Serbian Red Cross Society, being anxious to help its Serbian fellow-subjects interned in Austria, addressed a request for a list of these to the Austrian Red Cross Society, which replied that it must defer compliance owing to the fact that the Serbian Red Cross Society, having left Serbia, and its functions having been entrusted to another institution, was not invested with any official status. We have no idea what this institution may be, and the only information in our possession is that it has been formed in Belgrade under the control and regis of the Austrian military authorities.

"It is ridiculous to maintain that the functions of the Serbian Red Cross Society, which is a branch of the Serbian State Medical Service, and for the work of which the Serbian Royal Government is responsible, can have passed into the hands of a society created in the invaded territories and controlled by the Austrian military authorities. The Royal Serbian Government alone is competent to say what society is invested with an official character. The Austrian Red Cross Society, even after the formation of the Red Cross at Belgrade, remained in communication with the official Serbian Red Cross Society for a period of six months, and the Austrian authorities broke off relations only when a list of our interned subjects was requested of them.

"The Austrian officials do not wish to furnish such a list, as it would disclose the enormous death-rate among our unfortunate people who have been interned, and that in these Austrian concentration camps steps are being taken for the complete and systematic annihilation of the civil population of Serbia."

Reporting an interview which the Greek Prime Minister, M. Lambros, had with the French Minister at Athens, the *Times* correspondent says:—"When the payment of damages for the affair on December 1 (in which many outrages were committed on Allied subjects) was discussed, M. Lambros declared that Greece also had losses of her own to make good, instancing the injury to the Observatory, which is close to the Philopappos Hill. The French Minister asked for particulars. When the Prime Minister advanced a claim for damage done to the roof of the powder magazine which was occupied by seamen and marines from the Allied fleet, the French Minister was unable to adopt M. Lambros's point of view."

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 15.

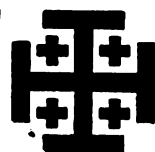
A singular fatality seems to hang over the question of relief for Syria. Just as Syrians abroad, after months of fruitless negotiations, which had made them all but despair of finding the means to send the outcome of their combined charitable efforts to their starving countrymen, were rejoicing over the arrival of the American relief ship *Cæsar* at Alexandria, en route for Beyrout, diplomatic relations between America and Germany became strained, and finally a rupture took place; and we can now account for the past delay of the ship at Alexandria. It would seem that, before her arrival at that port, and before there was any public announcement of the German Government's intention to declare a ruthless and indiscriminate submarine warfare on belligerents and neutrals alike, the U.S. Government foresaw the impending crisis, and the captain of the *Cæsar* received instructions accordingly. If, as it is feared, an actual state of war follows, it is more than likely that Turkey will, willy-nilly, be dragged into war with America, and the anticipation of such an eventuality has led so far to the indefinite holding up of the ship at Alexandria.

To crown the ill-luck of the Syrians, about 300 tons of flour and some packages of clothing have been damaged by seawater during the voyage, and had to be discharged at Alexandria and sold after survey by Lloyd's agents. It is indeed tantalizing to see such a profusion of footstuffs lying afloat, almost within a day's journey of Syria, while the poor people there are in a state of starvation, aggravated by the cold of winter, and each day's delay may mean further loss of hundreds of lives.

Plunder on Prisoners.

Among the prisoners of war captured in Rafah is a Syrian officer, belonging to a well-known Moslem family, and in a position to know the real situation in Syria. He confirms the accounts hitherto published. It is said that a great deal of money and jewellery has been found on Turkish prisoners, who could have only come by this booty during the massacres of Armenians, or the attacks on those villages round Damascus which were wrongly accused of harbouring deserters. One of these prisoners stubbornly refused to undress and take the regulation bath; and, when finally he was told that his own religion imposed on him the sacred duty of ablution, and was made to undress, belts filled with gold and jewels were found wound round his body and limbs.

"He feedeth



the hungry."

FAMINE IN THE HOLY LAND

VISCOUNT BRYCE, speaking at the Mansion House, said:—"I think that, in some ways, the condition of the unfortunate subjects of the Turkish Empire, in Syria and Palestine, is worse than that of those who have suffered in other countries, because the cruelties have been perpetrated by the Government of the country whose innocent subjects these people are. The storm broke first upon the Christians, next upon the Jews, and then descended upon the Arabs."

This striking testimony amply justifies the Fund now being raised for the Relief of the Starving People in Syria and Palestine.

As soon as the Allied operations permit, food and materials must be poured into the country. Free storage has been given at Port Said until the goods can be taken to Jaffa (12 hours), Haifa and Beyrout. The Fund will be economically administered by those who know the country and people best. The sole qualification for the receipt of help will be that of proved need, irrespective of race or creed. The Fund started by Bishop MacInnes (Bishop in Jerusalem) and Missionary Societies of all Denominations for

RELIEF in SYRIA and PALESTINE requires £50,000 to start with

Send your donation to-day to the Hon. Sec., Church House, Westminster, London, S.W.

ROUMANIA'S PEASANT SOLDIERS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT FORMERLY IN BUCHAREST.)

Those who have had much to do with the Roumanian wounded are frequently struck with the extreme simplicity of the peasant mind. "You want to nurse them to know them," said an English lady, who is giving up all her time to the meritorious work. "I have lived so much among them, but it is only now that I begin to understand them. They are a splendid lot of fellows, so patient, so thankful for what is done for them, and, above all, so brave; very different from the town-bred soldier, who is often rather inclined to give himself airs, and not infrequently discontented.

"It was only a few days after the disaster at Tutrakan that some of the wounded from there were beginning to recover consciousness. 'Oh, Sister,' said one of them, a big peasant from the Yalomitza district, with his arms and chest covered with proofs of Bulgarian devilry, 'I have had a most beautiful dream. Let me tell you of it. I thought I saw the battlefield of Tutrakan, and it was all wild flowers; wild flowers of every colour, as far as I could see. I never thought there could be so many and such beautiful flowers. And the scent of them—! I walked on and on, with the sun shining and the bees humming all round me. And then I began to see that the flowers were all red, yellow, and blue—the Roumanian colours.

" 'Now, do you know what that means, Sister?' he continued. 'It means victory, and that we shall win the war; that Tutrakan was nothing but a beginning. And it means that I shall soon get well and help to beat the Bulgars, and take my revenge for these,' motioning with his bandaged hands to his wounded chest."

The wounded in the neighbouring beds, my informant tells me, all regarded the narrator of this dream steadfastly. "Yes," they said, "it must be so. That is the meaning." Surely a mind that can conjure up such a dream, and so interpret it, must possess a deep strain of poetical feeling. And such feeling there generally is, when one can get down deep enough into these rugged minds to discover it.

Another peasant had had the first two fingers of his right hand shot off. He was terribly concerned when he found nothing was left of them. "How can I cross myself, now, *Doamnasora*?" The English lady showed how the "trinity" might still be formed with the two remaining fingers. "But will God not be offended if I use other fingers?" "Not if your arm were off," replied the English lady. But it took her ten minutes' talk to convince the peasant boy, a fair Român from the mountains, that form was after all nothing at all.

"What! England is so small," said a peasant of forty, as he studied a map of Europe. "I can't think how it is the water does not run over it."

They are all terribly interested in the war, and fully understand what would be the fate of the little countries should Germany ultimately prevail; but their knowledge of geography is small indeed. "Is Verdun in England?" asked one soldier, with a bullet through his left hand (here as elsewhere so many wounds, either from bayonet or bullet are in the left hand or arm); and this was the occasion of the map being brought to the hospital next day. One thing, however, seems too marvellous even for their simple minds. That England is fighting only for a promise made long ago to Belgium is to them a theme of general discussion; and since they learnt this their English nurse has become nearly a goddess to them.

They are very quick in clever replies and repartee. "Is there anything else you would like?" asked Queen Marie one day of a wounded man whilst visiting a hospital. "Yes, Majesty. To see you Empress," replied the soldier. He had, no doubt, heard the subject of Great Roumania becoming an Empire after the war discussed. Whether the Queen had or not I do not know, but those present seemed much impressed with the reply.

The one thing that worries the wounded peasant is his inactivity. He is so anxious to be back at the front

again. Revenge for the frightful cruelties of Tutrakan is his whole thought. One soldier had been shot in one of his toes. "It will have to come off," said the doctor. "Off with the whole lot if I can only get back quicker!" said the peasant.

One man was to have a large strip of flesh taken off his arm, where a shell fragment had "touched it up." "We will give you morphia," said the doctor. "Oh, never mind," laughed the *tzeran*. Do you think that the chaps that fired the shell gave me it first?"

There is one other incident to relate which shows better than ever the finer strain of feeling which the Roumanian peasant preserves; but in this case it is not connected with wounded. In the fighting for the Temesh Pass thirty men were shot in one regiment, a regiment recruited among the peasants of northern Moldavia. They were buried by their comrades on a mountain slope, the only crosses being such as could be cut from branches with bayonet blades. A little while later this regiment was replaced by a fresh one, and was sent back to enjoy a well-earned rest. Now, on the lower slopes of the Carpathians and the plains of Transylvania grow wildflowers beautiful and numerous. As this regiment tramped back over the ground so hardly won every man carried a big bunch of flowers plucked on the plains below, and added to on the way. When they came to where their comrades were sleeping the sleep of heroes they deposited their nosegays, each in his turn, till each of the thirty graves became a monument, a monument of Transylvanian wild flowers, and culled from the land which the dead have given their lives to free, with its Roumanian inhabitants, from the yoke of the Hungarian oppressor.

LADY PAGET'S HOSPITAL IN SERBIA.

On March 4 Mr. C. R. Cooke-Taylor, Hon. Secretary of the Irish Literary Society, recounted his adventures in Serbia to members of that body, the occasion being a luncheon given in his honour at the *Hôtel des Etrangers*, Gerrard Street, Soho. At the beginning of 1915 he joined the staff of Lady Paget's Hospital, which arrived at Skoplje early in March. The unit was allotted four blocks of derelict buildings, about half a mile from the little town, and after several weeks' incessant labour converted them into a perfectly equipped hospital, capable of dealing with 300 surgical cases. It soon filled to overflowing with sufferers from typhus fever, which had been imported into Serbia by Austrian prisoners. Infection spread to the staff, and a complete breakdown was averted only by the arrival of a vast supply of stores from England, together with twenty trained nurses, to whose courage and self-devotion Mr. Cooke-Taylor paid a well-merited tribute. Typhus is a seasonal disease, and the mortality slackened on the approach of summer. But now a more dangerous foe made his appearance. The treacherous Coburger, with an overwhelming Bulgar army, took Belgrade, and drove the war-worn Serbians southwards. The invaders soon reached Skoplje, and Mr. Cooke-Taylor witnessed a stubborn battle in its vicinity. When shells began to drop around him he thought discretion the better part of valour, and retired somewhat hastily to the hospital, but returned to the scene of action on meeting Lady Paget's disapproving eye! The issue of the battle was unfavourable to the Serbians, who were greatly outnumbered, and outclassed in artillery. Failing to obtain the expected succour from their Allies' base at Salonika, they were forced to evacuate Skoplje. It was a question whether the hospital staff should or should not accompany them in a retreat on Priština. Fearing that the additional demand for transport would embarrass the retreating army, Lady Paget decided to remain at Skoplje. She did so with some trepidation, but, luckily for her unit, the Bulgarian general who captured the town was that *rara avis* among King Ferdinand's subjects—a gentleman. He respected the Red Cross, and allowed the English staff to continue its ministrations. Hitherto the rough work had been very efficiently performed by Austrian prisoners. The rôles were now reversed; orderlies became free men, and their erstwhile superiors passed into captivity. Thanks to the commandant's intervention, the *status quo* remained almost intact: the Austrians continued to obey orders, and great numbers of wounded belonging to both sides were effectually dealt with. Mr. Cooke-Taylor had ample opportunity of observing the relations which existed among the conquering host. There was no love lost between Germans and Austro-Hungarians, while Bulgars regarded the latter with a deadly hatred. For several anxious weeks the unit stood in peril of being sent to Germany for internment, but it was averted by Lady Paget's diplomacy. They were despatched, bag and baggage, to England by way of Bulgaria, Roumania, Russia, Sweden, and Norway. In every country they received considerate treatment—nay, were welcomed as guests—and reached our shores with all their possessions. Mr. Cooke-Taylor rendered full justice to Lady Paget's tact and the wonderful organising power which she brought to bear in a very difficult situation. He concluded with an eloquent appeal on behalf of the little Serbian nation. F. H. S.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

CONDITIONS IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Your correspondent, in your issue of January 12, hits the nail on the head. He asserts that the prosperity described in official reports is only nominal, not real; that the revenue is maintained at a high level because the Government tithe grain is sold at a high price; and that the only persons who benefit are certain merchants and some of the well-to-do farmers. The greater number of agriculturists are in the hands of usurers.

The report on the Blue Book of Cyprus for the year 1915-1916 affords complete evidence of the truth of your correspondent's statement. The report says that the surplus on the year's transactions was £26,574. The local revenue was the highest on record: the increase is mainly attributable to the high prices obtained by the sale of the Government tithe grain and to an increase in the sale of forest produce. The tithe wheat in the Government stores was retailed at regulated prices for the purpose of maintaining a 3-c.p. loaf. In February and March barley reached the enormous price of 6s. per kilo. The local expenditure shows a decrease of £22,086, mainly due to decreased expenditure on Vote 29. The cost of living has gone up; people with too small holdings are selling. Although the wheat and barley crops were exceptionally small, the high prices in vogue more than compensated farmers for the short fall in quantity.

This represents the official view. I agree, however, with your correspondent. I sum up thus:—A credit balance of £26,000 is obtained by raising the price of bread and by not expending all the money voted for the service of the island; the small farmers being heavily in debt, the high price of grain does not benefit them; the cheap loaf promised by the Government disappeared long ago; the labouring population in general feel the pinch of hard times.

I enclose my card, and am, etc.,
Kyrenia, February 19, 1917.

G. L. H.

GREEK "FLAG-WAGGING" IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—The paragraph in the Cyprus Notes in last Friday's NEAR EAST seems to me to be of extraordinary interest. It shows how the "Hellenic spirit" has been, and is, fostered in the island. Put in other words, it shows how a handful of agitators—professional politicians and long-winded legal gentlemen as a rule—persist in one way or another in endeavouring to keep alive the idea of "union with Greece." It is, indeed, a pity that "this custom of carrying the Hellenic flag has been allowed to grow up" in Cyprus, as your correspondent reports; and since "it has been, for many years past, carried to an absurd extreme, and, in fact, abused" (to quote your correspondent again), it seems to be high time for the agitating, petitioning, vapouring "Hellenists" of Cyprus to be put firmly, and not too gently, in their right place. Whether that place would be a prison it is not for me to suggest, though I have my views on the subject.

What do these people really want? To hand over Cyprus to Greece, and to become themselves subjects of King Constantine? Where is their sense of proportion, to say nothing of their common sense? Cyprus is now a part of the British Empire, which is a far greater thing than even "the glory that was Greece"; and the agitators ought really to be proud and thankful that such is the case. If they are not, they should, of course, be at liberty to withdraw to Greece ("Royalist" Greece, I presume!). If they fail to avail themselves of that liberty, let them either hold their peace or be deported. Other British subjects are more than tired of their frothy agitation. And Britain, one feels sure, will not be in a hurry to offer Cyprus to Greece again after the experience gained in this war. The Hellenic flag-waggers are, therefore, wasting their time.—I am, etc.,

Wimbledon, March 7, 1917.

UNION JACK.

THE "GENTLEMANLY" AND "CLEAN FIGHTING" TURK.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR.—Some people who have lived in Turkey, or associated with the Turks in an official or social intercourse, have endeavoured now and again, through the Press, to influence public opinion in favour of the Turks, on the

plea that they know them to be gentlemanly and clean fighters. They base their assertions on arguments which, although probably meant in good faith, are very misleading. While the Turk, true to his own warring nature and the secular traditions of his race, is a keen and hard fighter, as a ruler he is the most dastardly and merciless tyrant that the world has seen. This has been luminously proved by undeniable and documented atrocities, which admirers of the Turks, while endeavouring to mitigate, are unable to deny.

The thorough knowledge of the Turk claimed by certain writers, although extending over a long period, is obviously very superficial. Relations with mellifluous Turkish officials in the gorgeous divans of a selamlık or in heavily carpeted Government offices over a cup of coffee and perfumed Turkish cigarettes, have rarely ever guided casual travellers or even diplomatic agents to an intimate knowledge of the Turk as an administrator. The capitulations protected foreigners in Turkey from the vexations and persecutions which the Ottoman subjects had to endure.

No one has ever denied that the Turk is a "tough fighter"; but between this and his being a "clean fighter" there is an immense difference. If we grant that he has not used poisonous gas or liquid fire, and that he does not ill-treat our prisoners (although their fate is shrouded in mystery), and also that he does not fire on hospitals (although we know that one Russian hospital ship was torpedoed in the Black Sea), it is certain he is not restrained from such acts by any consideration for humanity. It is only because he has met his match in the British soldier and is guileful enough not to deprive himself in advance of some saving grace in the day of possible defeat and reckoning. The bandits who did not hesitate to murder in cold blood hundreds of thousands of their own subjects, to violate young girls and disembowel pregnant women, to slaughter children and throw them in the sea, would not shrink from such paltry offences as the use of poison gas and liquid fire. The responsibility for the former atrocities they might easily transfer to roving bands of Kurds and outlaws, but they are well aware they would be personally called to account for the practice of illegitimate warfare.

It is not right that people in our midst should seek to champion the Turk and spread a veil over his barbarism in memory of past associations, however pleasant, with Turkish officialdom. Surely it is time that this morbid sympathy for a "gentlemanly" and "clean fighting" Turk should give place to a sense of justice and duty towards millions of innocent sufferers.—I am, etc.,

ONE WHO REALLY KNOWS THE TURK.

DR. PEMBER REEVES ON ABDUL HAMID.

Last Wednesday, at the London School of Economics, Dr. Pember Reeves detailed the course of events in the Near East during the nineteenth century. He described the more or less sincere attempts at reform in Turkey which were frustrated by the two wars, of the Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin, the setting up of principalities and kingdoms in what had been Turkish territory, and so forth. Of Abdul Hamid he said that he came to the throne after what he considered the failure of the era of reform. He knew what had happened to his reforming predecessor, Abdul Aziz, who had been dethroned and had committed suicide. He had seen that reform had not saved Turkey from partial dismemberment in 1879. Whether he had any thorough policy thought out, or whether he went on from hand to mouth, with the one idea of staving off the evil day of collapse, people must judge for themselves, but he (Dr. Reeves) thought Abdul Hamid's policy was largely made up of both these elements. Probably, seeing that reforms and the infiltration of Western ideas had failed to save Turkey, he thought the best thing to do was to appeal to the Old Turk—the ignorant, stubborn, brave, conservative Mohammedan—and throughout his reign he tried to stir up religious enthusiasm for Islam, and to create religious animosity between Turk and Christian. He was not a good financier. He was not a reforming Sultan in any sense: in the Civil Service he tried to make things worse; for at one period he endeavoured to turn all the Christians out of it. The one thing he kept up with any sort of efficiency was the army. Living in a semi-bankrupt state for thirty years, he yet managed to keep that going. The soldiers were often in rags, and were miserably fed; but they had rifles, gunpowder, and artillery, and they could fight then, as they can fight now.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.

F. W. CUMING & CO., LTD.,

THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA:
5, RUE AVEROFF.

CAIRO:
23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A Reuter's telegram from Athens announces that "the Proconnisos, a Greek ship recently requisitioned by the Royalist Government to go to the United States to bring a cargo of 5,000 tons of grain for the assistance of the Royalist population of Old Greece, has been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine." This really looks like a bit of sheer carelessness on the part of the Huns. If the unfortunate vessel had been chartered to take grain to the Venizelists we might have understood the reason for her being sunk by the Kaiser's water-rats. But to endeavour to starve such ardent Germanophiles as the "Royalists" of Old Greece is a strange thing for even a U-boat commander to do. Think what a nasty position it places Tino in, too! Doubtless the latter feels annoyed about it; but how is he to mark his annoyance? The only thing that his dear brother-in-law asks him (now) to do is to hang on to his Throne. Therefore, one supposes, the only thing he could do to annoy the said dear brother-in-law would be to abandon his Throne. And somehow it strikes me as unlikely that he will do that, voluntarily, even to get even with dear Wilhelm. He will, I presume, tighten his belt and just sit tight himself.

In his feeling references to the climate of Salonika, THE NEAR EAST's correspondent, in his letter published last week, did not refer specifically to what are known—if my memory serves me aright—as the "Vardar gales." These particular trials are experienced all the year round, I understand, but are more common in the winter than in the summer. The "Vardar gale" is a strong wind that blows down the Vardar valley and across the open country round Salonika. It lasts from one day to four or five; and its peculiarity is that while it is bitterly cold in the winter, it is terribly hot in the summer. In short, it makes itself as unpleasant as it possibly can, and the people of Salonika naturally detest it. But it is not only Salonika that suffers from this kind of thing. A few days ago a friend received a letter written by an officer stationed on an island in the Eastern Mediterranean. In this letter the officer wrote: "We are suffering from a lazy wind," and a little further on he defined "a lazy wind" as "one that does not trouble to go round, but goes right through you." The warm and sunny East seems to be getting weather almost as objectionable as that which we are now having to put up with.

The Constantinople papers announce that the Turks purpose building a mausoleum over the tombs of Othman and Orkhan at Brusa, after the style of Napoleon's Tomb at the Invalides. The Geneva correspondent of *Al Mous-takbal* says that it is proposed to open a national fund for this purpose, and that the monument is to cost three hundred thousand pounds (Turkish). The correspondent adds that this appears to be the only sensible thing that the Turks have done of late, as it is in the nature of preparing for the beautification of their new capital. This criticism is certainly sound, up to a point. But: (1) Is there any prospect of the money being forthcoming at the present time? (2) If so, what proportion of it is likely to be spent on the object for which it is subscribed? (3) What guarantee is there that the monument will not be designed by a German architect—and, therefore, not national in feeling?

Whatever may be thought about some of the opinions he professed, it cannot be denied that the late B. L. Moseley, to whom reference was made in last week's NEAR EAST, was an extremely interesting character. For this reason I venture to refer to a letter written by one who knew him well and was, in fact, on terms of intimate friendship with him, which I have been allowed to read this week. The writer of the letter, it seems, "once endeavoured to formulate all the grievances he [B. L. M.] thought the Egyptians had to bear. In all they did not amount to much: chiefly that the *fellaheen* collecting salt in the western desert were chased by the police; that the villagers drank foul water from the *birkets*, and so forth." Then he proceeds to throw some light on the way in which certain Members of Parliament gather together material for their "questions" to luckless Secretaries and Under-Secretaries, and for enabling them to pose as authorities. For, it seems, whenever B. L. M. detected, or fancied he detected, any errors of administration under Lord Cromer, he at once communicated them to one of these restless—not to use a more offensive adjec-

tive—politicians, who proceeded to make great play with them in the House. I used to wonder where this particular M.P. got his information from!

According to the letter from which I quote, the plot of a much-boomed novel on Egypt, written by an excitable gentleman with more heart than head, was actually B. L. Moseley's. This fact may perhaps be widely known already, but to me it was new. Whether the plot was a good one or not I am unable to say; for I never could bring myself to wade through the novel in question. I am not, I trust, particularly captious in such matters; but I hate to see fools rushing in where wise men fear to tread.

The late Mr. Moseley was, I gather, not altogether happy in his choice of hobbies, so to say, and was rather badly let down more than once by his *protégés*. His idea for an Egyptian university, for instance, came to an inglorious end owing to certain unfortunate financial "mistakes" on the part of some of those whom he trusted. In the circumstances it is not surprising to find his friend writing: "During the last ten years his ideas of Young Egypt changed. He had befriended and helped so many *protégés*, and they had failed him. I remember all he did for H— Effendi—got him a post when he was deservedly 'down,' and set him up for life. Yet when he wanted him to spend a few hours twice a week to introduce Mr. — to things Moslem, he (H. Effendi) broke every appointment." And the writer gives other cases of similar failure, and a little later adds: "B. L. M. recognised that really great 'Egyptians' were not really Egyptians, but Armenians, or half-Greeks, or Albanians."

If this be so, the recognition must have been a bitter blow for B. L. M. Yet he certainly had the knack of winning warm liking from many people whom he met. The writer of this letter, for instance, declares: "I not only liked him, I loved him . . . I never shall forget his horror when I took him to see the last agony of the poor horses and mules in the quarries behind the Citadel." And again: "He was so trustful of others. With all his legal knowledge a scoundrel robbed him of thousands by a fraudulent lease for some land at Mariout!" In those sentences perhaps lies the key to a strangely complicated character: his sympathy with suffering, which sometimes ran away with the sense of proportion (though I do not suggest that such was the case in regard to the poor quadrupeds in the quarries), and the too great readiness to place confidence in anyone who could pitch a plausible tale.

Apropos of my recent remarks about the survival of the belief in witchcraft in this country as well as in the East, I was much interested to read in Monday's *Times* of "an old woman who practised witchcraft in London as late as 1908." Her speciality, I gather, was the preparation of charms for breaking the spell of a "black witch," and she "learned the secret from her grandmother in South Devon, where it was popular with farmers. The black witches were supposed to bring about the death of sheep and cows by casting a spell over them, or by surreptitiously introducing the poisonous leaves of the yew tree into their food. By taking the heart of a sheep which had fallen victim to these machinations, piercing it with pins and nails, and hanging it up in the chimney, the spell was supposed to be broken." I should not have thought that London offered a favourable field for the exercise of this particular "white magic"; but it is curious to see the old idea of the piercing of a heart with pins employed for a "good" purpose rather than an "evil" one.

CORSAIR.

Reuter's special correspondent at the Serbian Headquarters, telegraphing by way of Salonika on March 4, says:—According to official returns, the number of enemy shells fired into the open town of Monastir and the outskirts (including bombs from aeroplanes on two occasions) during the last three months amounted to 2,627, while the number of victims among the civil population was as follows:—Men killed, 32; injured, 57; women and children killed, 45; injured, 85. Forty-three houses were destroyed and over 300 damaged.

Part 1 Now Ready.

4/-, Post Free.

A NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
THE HOLY QUR-ĀN,

With Arabic Text, Phonetic Transliteration and Explanatory Notes.

AHMADIA MOVEMENT, 41, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

TURKEY IN ASIA.*

Recent events on the Tigris and in western Persia have made us all turn once more to a study of the geography of that region. "Philips' Strategical Map of Mesopotamia and Asia Minor" will provide all the information that most people are likely to require, and, issued at a popular price, it is likely to have a large sale. It is extremely well printed, easy to read, and embodies most of the information available up to date. It is satisfactory, for instance, to note that the new course that the Euphrates is cutting for itself between Suk-es-Sheyukh and Garmat Ali is indicated, as are other changes taking place in the same river further north. The Baghdad Railway, too, is shown as completed beyond Harran and between Baghdad and Samara; and though it is almost certain that it has been actually carried well beyond both these points, the lack of trustworthy information justifies the editor's reserve in this matter.

The capitals of the vilayets are clearly indicated, but the boundaries and area of each vilayet might with advantage have been shown, we think, by some system of colour. As it is, we are left in doubt whether certain broken lines actually represent these boundaries, no explanation of them being given in the reference. Another improvement that we should like to see introduced would be some means of differentiating between the sites of (1) ruins, (2) modern towns and villages, and (3) those semi-permanent settlements that are so numerous in this region, especially in the south. Thus, Niffer (or Niffar), Yokkah, Affej and Rawa are all shown in precisely the same way, and their names are printed in the same type; yet the first two are nothing but ruin-mounds, and the last is little more than a tumble-down castle, now used as a barracks; while Affej (or Suk-el-Affej) is a growing Arab market village; and many of the names shown in Irak Arabi are unknown to the present reviewer, though he has travelled much in that region.

These things are, however, of little importance to the average map student of to-day, who will find the sheet full of interest and in most essentials a very serviceable guide. The principal towns, those in which the Englishman has lately learned to take an interest, are clearly shown, and that is what he chiefly requires. By studying this map he will be able to estimate better the difficulties that our Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force has had to encounter, and those that have confronted the Russians across the Persian border. He will also realise the importance that Baghdad derives from its position—at the point where the twin rivers approach one another most closely, and on the important Khanikin-Kermanshah trade route. If he prolongs his studies he may be led to ask himself whether it will be possible to halt at Baghdad (if we get there this time, as we all believe we shall), or whether we may not have to press on to the hills in the north. And, finally, if his tastes lie in that direction, he may spend several hours in the fascinating task of splitting up this Asiatic portion of the Turkish Empire on the lines that have been laid down by many self-appointed "authorities." In any case, he will find the map will repay careful study, and will not regret the few shillings he spends upon its purchase.

REMINISCENCES.†

In a "Foreword" contributed to Mr. Oliver Bainbridge's work, General Sir Alfred Turner remarks that the author has done well in recording the life-story of John Strange Winter, "even at this tremendous crisis in the world's history." We go further than this. Straightforward and unassuming records of the lives of our famous men and women are even more valuable now than they would be if bereft of the hideous background of war. John Strange Winter stood for a type of that healthy, charitable womanhood which is amongst our most cherished possessions; it is the feminine counterpart of the masculine virility which drives our bravest and our best into the British Services at the first breath of war. And Mr. Bainbridge has done his work well. He has paid his tribute to "a great woman and her influence," as he set out to do, and the result is an eminently readable volume. It contains many excellent photographs, including an autograph portrait of John Strange Winter.

* "Philips' Large-Scale Strategical War Map of Mesopotamia and Asia Minor." Scale, 40 miles to the inch. (George Philip and Son, Fleet Street, Paper, in envelope case, 2s. 6d. net; on cloth, 6s. net; or on roller, 7s. 6d. net.)

† "John Strange Winter: A Volume of Personal Record." By Oliver Bainbridge, with a foreword by General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., C.B. (London: East and West, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Humphrey Milford will publish in this country for the Harvard University Press, "A Selected Bibliography of Slavic Europe in the Western European Languages, comprising History, Languages, and Literatures," by R. J. Kerner.

A new book by Professor Hurgonje is announced by Messrs. Putnam. It is entitled "Revolt in Arabia," and deals with the movement of the Arabs, headed by the Emir of Mecca, against Turkish oppression.

We understand that Mr. Algernon Blackwood's "Day and Night Stories" (published by Cassell, at 6s.) contains several Egyptian tales.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Ships as Evidence of the Immigrations of Early Culture. By G. Elliot Smith, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. Reprinted from the Journal of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society, 1915-16. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1s. net.)

A Sketch of the History of Polish Art. By J. de Hólewinski; with an Introduction by H. D. Roberts. (London: George Allen and Unwin. 6d. net. Published for the Polish Information Committee.)

SERBIAN LIFE AS SHOWN IN THE BALLADS.

In the course of a paper which she read before the Anglo-Russian Literary Society last Tuesday at the Imperial Institute, Miss M. Edith Durham said that every nation had its collection of popular ballads and folk tales. But in Western Europe, for the most part, they had been long dead, for printing had a fatal effect upon them. When once they had ceased to pass from mouth to mouth, varied by each reciter, they died, and thenceforth were pickled in printing ink. We must go to the East of Europe to find ballads that still lived—to lands, in fact, that had but lately taken to printing and popular education. It would be hard to find a completer set of ballads than those possessed by the Serbs. Some came from the days of the great Serbian empire, others belonged to Turkish times, and there were others as late as the nineteenth century. Even to-day, in outlying parts, the peasant would seize his *guzla*, string together roughly metrical lines on passing events, and yowl them to the buzzing accompaniment of his single-stringed instrument. The whole series of ballads formed a mirror in which the past life of the Serbian people was reflected. The picture might not be correct in historical detail, but the version of events which was presented was that which had moulded the people. From these ballads we might learn how the chieftain lived, what he ate and drank, with what weapons he fought, what was his code of honour. We saw the life of the herdsman on the hills and of the brigand on the mountains. We saw the quarrels of the Balkan peoples one with another. We lived in the Middle Ages, and saw with mediæval eyes. From the laws of Stefan Dushan we learned that the peasants on a noble's land were bound to remain there, and that only those to whom the lord gave liberty might go free. They had to give him two days' work a week and do extra work in the vineyards and the hay. They also paid taxes, whereas the noble paid no tax but the dime. He gave military service and supplied troops, which he conscripted from the peasantry he ruled over. Every noble was practically independent, and they continually quarrelled with one another.

It was this fact which so greatly facilitated the Turkish conquest, for the united and disciplined army of the Turks met a nation divided against itself. At Kossovo, so little control had Tsar Lazar over his nobles that, as a ballad described, not one of the nine Yagovitchs would obey his order to remain at Krushevo to protect the Tsaritsa. One ballad describes the nobles as each leading his own army. Probably there was little or no concerted action among them. One of them, Vuk Brankovitch, went over to the enemy.

Of the celebrated hero of Serb ballads, Marco Kraljevitch, Miss Durham said that never, perhaps, had a stranger national hero been selected. The ballads represented him as quarrelling with his father when the latter murdered young Urosh, the rightful heir, and usurped the throne of Stefan Dushan. Marco early took service with the Sultan, and it seemed certain that he took no part in the fight at Kossovo. In spite of his loyalty to the Turks, the Serbian singers bestowed upon him all the qualities they most admired, and so fashioned a sort of superman. He was represented as bloodthirsty, cruel, and revengeful to an amazing degree; as cunning, and apt to win by treachery rather than by strength, as drunken and violent. Unfortunately he had been held up for centuries as a model for youth. Miss Durham said she had many times discussed him with young Montenegrins, who could not bear to hear him criticised. Drunkenness, for instance, they would say, could not be wrong, for Marco got drunk. His example had been used to condone many crimes. He had some compensating virtues. It was best not to inquire too closely how he came by his money; but, having got it, he gave it away by handfuls. He was merciful to the poor, always hastened to the help of his friends in distress, and was most consistently loyal to the Sultan.

Miss Durham read some English renderings of Serbian ballads of different periods. One thing, she said, they showed clearly—that Balkan troubles had always been the result of Balkan want of unity.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. March 9 10	1917. Feb. 24 25	Friday	1335. Jumada I. 15 16	5677. Adar. 15 16
11 12 13	26 27 28	Sunday	17 18 19	17 18 19
14 15	March. 1 2	Wednesday .. Thursday	20 21	20 21

Viscount Milner had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Monday, upon his return from Russia.

On Saturday Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace, when His Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (Military Division).

The King has been pleased to approve of the promotion of Major-General (temporary Lieutenant-General) Sir Frederick Stanley Maude, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., to the rank of Lieutenant-General, with effect from March 1, 1917, inclusive, in recognition of his distinguished service in the field, as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Mesopotamia.

The Roumanian Minister and Madame Misu regret that they are unable at present to return thanks for the many expressions of sympathy which they have received on the death of their eldest daughter. They are especially touched by the personal references to her, and hope to reply in time to each correspondent.

A Reuter's message from Jassy, dated the 2nd inst., reports: The Roumanian *Official Gazette* announces that the King has conferred the Star of Roumania, of the rank of Commander, with swords, upon Colonel Sir Norton Griffiths, in recognition of the good services rendered by him to the Roumanian Army and of the energy which he displayed on the field of battle. Colonel Norton Griffiths, it is stated, directed the difficult operations in connection with the destruction of borings in the Roumanian oilfields.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, is confined to his room through indisposition.

The Earl of Bessborough has returned to London from Birmingham.

Captain C. E. Binns, R.M., was mentioned in despatches for services rendered in the course of the war. The notification appeared in *The Times* of February 26.

The King has been pleased to confer the honour of a C.B. on Mr. Alwyn Parker, of the Foreign Office.

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to confer the Military Cross upon Temporary Second Lieutenant Kenneth Archbold, Rifle Brigade, who "organised a bombing post under heavy fire, thereby protecting his flank at a critical time. Later, he carried out several daring patrols." Lieutenant Archbold, who is a son of Mr. F. P. Archbold, of Braila, Roumania, was recently gazetted as temporary captain while in command of a company.

M. Caclamanos, who will represent the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos at Petrograd, has left London for Russia, to enter on his duties.

Captain Arion, the chief delegate of the Roumanian Military Mission in London, has been promoted major.

Sir Thomas Lipton has given fifty thousand cigarettes to Serbian soldiers.

The marriage of Major T. B. Pritchett, R.F.A., to Irene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria, which was to have taken place at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on Wednesday last, has been postponed owing to Miss Ross's sudden indisposition. It is hoped that the ceremony may take place in a fortnight's time.

The Serbian military commission that has been working in this country for some days examining Serbian subjects has finished its work. It has examined all Serbs liable to military service, and has returned to Salonika.

Mr. William Watson, of the firm of Messrs. Watson and Youell, Braila and Galatz, arrived in London with his wife and family this week from Galatz, after a journey occupying two months.

It is announced that the King of Roumania has conferred the Third Class of the Order of Mihai Viteazul upon Flight Lieut. Arthur F. F. Jacob, R.N.A.S.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Third Class Order of the Nile on Mr. McCorquodale, late Director-General in the Gharbieh Drainage Scheme, and Mr. Walsh, late Inspector of the Third Circle of Irrigation; the Fourth Class of the same Order on Mr. Mark, late Inspector Tewfikieh Secondary School; the rank of Bey, First Class, on Ahmed Kenal Bey, late of the Antiquities Service; and the rank of Bey, Second Class, on Aly Sherif Bey and Gawhar Loutfi Bey, late Chief Engineer in the Irrigation Service.

A correspondent writes from Egypt:—On September 7, 1916, an accident, which might easily have ended fatally, occurred at the ladies' bathing place of San Stefano Hotel, near Alexandria. Two Egyptian ladies who were not good swimmers had the temerity to venture out of the large bath into the open sea. They rapidly became exhausted, and found to their horror that the current was carrying them further and further from the bath. There were many ladies bathing at the time, of many nationalities, and some of these screamed loudly for assistance. Before other help could come, Mrs. Alfred Tubby, who is a good swimmer and was fortunately in the sea not far away, swam to the rescue of the two ladies, brought in one of them and returned without delay for the second, who was already in a state of collapse. The General Officer Commanding soon heard this story, furnished himself with documentary evidence from two English eye-witnesses, and forwarded it to the Royal Humane Society for its consideration. After due inquiry had been made, the bronze medal and certificate of the Society reached the General. Dr. Granville, C.M.G., gave a dinner of private friends to celebrate the occasion, and it was at the Sultan Hussein Club that Mrs. Tubby, to her surprise and delight, received the honour at the hands of the General Officer in Command. The General, in his eulogistic speech, remarked that it can have seldom happened that the mother of a grown-up daughter has received this coveted reward for saving life from drowning. He also took occasion to speak in complimentary terms of the valuable services to troops in the Mediterranean of Colonel Tubby, C.M.G., the consulting surgeon.

As announced in our issue of last week, the first part of the funeral service for Mlle. Marie Marguerite Misu, the eldest daughter of H.E. the Roumanian Minister and Madame Misu, was held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on the 1st inst. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, officiated, assisted by the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis. The principal mourners were

the Roumanian Minister and Madame Misu, accompanied by M. Michel B. Boeresco, Prince Antoine Bibesco, M. George Boncesco, the *personnel* of the Legation, General Georgesco (Chief of the Roumanian Headquarter Staff), Madame Georgesco, and Lieutenant Georgesco, and Major Arion. Among others present were the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh (representing the King), Mr. Dormer (representing Mr. Balfour), the French Ambassador, the Italian Ambassador and the Marquessa Imperiali, the Japanese Ambassador and Viscountess Chinda, the Swiss Minister, the Swedish Minister, the Norwegian Minister and Madame Vogt, M. and Madame Gennadius, and Madame Edwards, the Portuguese Minister, the Danish Minister and Countess Reventlow, the Netherlands Minister, the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch, Count de Lalaing (formerly Belgian Minister), Rear-Admiral N. Wolkoff (Naval Attaché to the Russian Embassy) and Madame Wolkoff, Colonel Milivoj J. Nicolaievitch, M. Pavle Karovitch, Mary Lady Lawrence, the Hon. Anna Lawrence, Lady Muriel Paget, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Miss de Bunsen, Mrs. A. Carrington Wilde, Mr. Harry Knight Stephens (representing the Roumanian Red Cross Society), Mr. A. J. Cocks (representing Sir Albert K. Rollit, Consul-General for Roumania), and Dr. and Mrs. Seton Watson.

The funeral of Miss Caroline Lucy Hutchison, the last surviving daughter of Alexander Hutchison, late of Peterhead, and a cousin of the late Lord Kitchener, took place at Brompton Cemetery on the 1st inst. At the service at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) was represented by Colonel V. Chater, and among those present were Mr. H. T. Kitchener, Miss Kitchener, and Lady Broome.

The Indian papers received by the last mail announce that Talib Bey, ex-Governor of Busreh, who resides at Torquiltstone, Infantry Road, Bangalore, was recently returning from a visit to the countryside, through the village of Yeavanthpur, when his chauffeur accidentally knocked down an old woman, killing her. The villagers mobbed the car, and refused to allow the woman to be taken to hospital in it till the police arrived.

The bestowal of British decorations on Marshal Mishitch, General Bogovitch, and Colonel Peshitch has given some satisfaction to all ranks in the Serbian Army, writes a Salonika correspondent. Senior in age, as in rank, of the three officers who have been thus honoured is the Voyvode (Marshal), Sir Jhivoin Mishitch, to whom has been awarded the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George. Born in 1855, he was for several years before the first Balkan War known as one of the most capable and promising members of the Serbian General Staff. In the wars of 1912 and 1913 he served as Adjutant to the Chief of the Headquarters Staff. The beginning of the Austro-Serbian campaign of 1914 found him at the elbow of that great commander the aged Marshal Putnik. But in November of that year he obtained his first independent command, that of the First Army. Upon General Mishitch it devolved to reorganise it and restore its impaired moral, and in this double task he was so successful that the First Army was soon able to lead the Serbian counter-offensive that resulted in the utter rout of the Austrians in Serbia.

General Boyovitch, now Sir Peter Boyovitch, K.C.M.G., Chief of the Headquarters Staff of the Serbian Army, is three years younger than Marshal Mishitch. He first came into prominence during the Serbo-Turkish Campaign of 1912, when, as Chief of the Staff of the First Army, he shared in the victories of Koumanovo, Prilep, and Monastir, the first of which procured him the rank of General.

Colonel Peter Peshitch, who has been made a C.M.G., is a military strategist and tactician of no small reputation. As a delegate of the Serbian General Staff with the Montenegrin Army in the Austro-Serbian campaign of 1914 his wide knowledge and experience led to his being asked to assume the entire direction of the Staff of that Army, and his decisions guided the operations of the Montenegrins throughout that campaign.

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

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Under date of February 26, the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes:—It is considered in Greek circles here as probable that M. Metaxas will accept the post of Greek Minister in London as King Constantine's representative. M. Metaxas was for many years Minister there, and subsequently, from 1908 to 1910, Minister in Rome. He has had personal experience of German submarines, having been torpedoed by the Huns on his way to kiss hands at Athens on his appointment as Minister to Washington. In politics he is a friend of M. Gounaris.

The Acting Governor-General of the Sudan has approved of the appointment of Major S. K. Flint, District Judge of the 1st grade Halfa Province, as Province Judge; Bimbashi James Keith, as District Judge, Semmar Province, and Bimbashi R. W. Hutton, Inspector Nuba Mountains Province, and J. L. Garstin, Inspector Blue Nile Province, as Magistrates of the 1st Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Captain Geoffrey C. Gowland, Royal Engineers, Captain A. H. Kent Lemon, York and Lancaster Regiment, and Captain J. P. Shelley, Royal Lancaster Regiment, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as special service officers with the rank of Bimbashi. The first has been posted to the Department of Military Works, the second to the Sobat-Pibor district and the third to the 11th Sudanese.

The following appointments are announced in the Egyptian and Sudan papers:—Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) C. Cassidy, M.C., M.B., Recruiting Department, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam and appointed Assistant Adjutant General, Recruiting Department.

Miralai R. G. Anderson Bey, Assistant Adjutant General, Recruiting Department, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Bimbashi A. C. B. Critchley Salmonson, D.S.O., 11th Sudanese, has been transferred to Nuba Territorials.

El Bimbashi (temporary) H. L. R. Watt, 3rd Battalion, has been transferred to Eastern Arab Corps.

Bimbashi A. J. Matthew, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed 2nd Inspector, Kassala Province, to date December 1, 1916.

Captain W. G. Cowley, Essex Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer with the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the 11th Sudanese for duty.

Lieutenant G. Donne, 9th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Miralai P. C. Joyce Bey, Officer Commanding 3rd Battalion, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

A telegram from the Hague says that Greece will in future be represented diplomatically at the Hague by a Minister Resident. M. Rangabe, who has assumed this post, was received last Friday morning by Queen Wilhelmina.

The following decorations have been conferred by the King of Serbia:—

ORDER OF KARA GEORGE.

Fourth Class (with Swords).—Commander James O. Hatcher, D.S.O., R.N.

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.

Fourth Class (with Swords).—Lieut.-Cdr. Morris E. Cochran, D.S.O., R.N.

Fifth Class (with Swords).—Lieut. Harry C. Fry, D.S.C., R.N.R.; Lieut. Edward M. Rae, D.S.C., R.N.R.; Lieut. Francis Wells, R.N.R.; Lieut. James Soanes, R.N.R.; Lieut. Alfred James, R.N.R.; Lieut. Arnaud Adams, D.S.C., R.N.R.; Lieut. Robert Baunton, R.N.R.; Lieut. William P. Parker, R.N.R. (since died); Sub-Lieut. Richard L. Stowell, R.N.R.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

Asst. Payr. Hugh N. Page, R.N.R.

OBITUARY.

The *Times* reports that indirect information from Belgrade to Geneva announces the death, in circumstances of the greatest misery, of M. Yovan Avakumovitch, former chief of the Serbian Liberal Party, several times Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Serbia.

Owing to his great age—he was 76—M. Avakumovitch did not leave Serbia at the time of the enemy invasion of 1915. He was dragged barefoot for 125 miles as far as Belgrade by Hungarian soldiers, with about 30 former Serbian dignitaries who, like him, had remained at the watering place of Vrnjatchka Banya, and was then sent a captive with them to Hungary. There he died at the internment camp at Nezsider.

M. Avakumovitch enjoyed a widespread reputation as a lawyer and jurist. An intimate friend of Yovan Ristitch, who was the Serbian Regent during the minority of Kings Milan and Alexander, and with whom he shared the same views on foreign policy, M. Avakumovitch played a great part in the history of Serbia in bringing about the fusion of the National and Conservative elements of the country under the name of the "Liberal Party." He had also fought against the Radicalism of the great and popular party of M. Pashitch, then in Opposition, and also the Austrophilism of the reactionists with which King Milan almost exclusively governed the country. His Ministerial career was always marked by a clear tendency to seek the friendship of Russia and of the great Western Powers.

He returned to public life in June, 1903, in order to preside over the Coalition Cabinet under which the Skupstina and the Senate elected Prince Peter Karageorgevitch King of Serbia. It was he who welcomed the new King on his arrival on Serbian territory on June 23, 1903. He also formed the first Cabinet of King Peter.

Mr. A. Séfi writes: "The unexpected and premature death of Mr. H. J. Cust on Friday last, after a short illness, is, I have reason to know, a serious loss to the Syrians, as he leaves them at a time when they most needed his help in framing Syrian policy and helping them in their present martyrdom under the Young Turks, subjects which aroused in him a sympathy and zeal second to none. . . . Long before the Syrians claimed his attention I was able to appreciate his sympathetic views upon Egypt, his sincere pleasure at the creation of the new Sultanate, and his admiration of Sultan Hussein.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Eden, late of the Cameronians, died at Bournemouth last week at the age of 76. He took part in the Abyssinian Expedition of 1868, receiving the medal.

Colonel Granville R. F. Smith, C.V.O., C.B., late Coldstream Guards, of Duffield Hall, Derby, who died at Tunbridge Wells as the result of services in the present war, served in the South African War, and was thrice mentioned in despatches. Subsequently he was in Command of his Battalion in Egypt till 1910.

In connection with the death at Salonika of Lieutenant Matthews, Royal Flying Corps, a letter has been sent to the widow at Cottingham enclosing the copy of a message dropped from a German aeroplane on a British aerodrome: "The English aviators had been fighting very bravely, but after five minutes their aeroplane dropped, and they were killed. They died heroes. Their bodies will be buried with all military honours."

A correspondent writes that news has reached London of the death of Mr. Henry Richard Daston, as the result of the ill-treatment and cruelty of the Turks, at Chorum, where he had been deported as a measure of reprisal for the detention of Kiazim Effendi. Deceased was a grandson of Philip Daston, Barrack Master-General at Sta. Maura and Ithaca, and of Major John Macphail, Resident and Inspector of Militia at the same islands during the British occupation. At the time of his death he was in his sixtieth year. He leaves, in Constantinople, a wife and children.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.**DEATH.**

PREECE.—On February 25, at 46, Bullingham Mansions, Kensington, John Richard Preece, C.M.G., late H.B.M. Consul-General, Ipahan, Persia, beloved husband of Mary Isobel Preece, youngest son of the late Richard Matthias Preece, of Carnarvon. Funeral at Highgate Cemetery, noon, Thursday, March 1. No flowers by request.

WHERE TO STAY.**Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.****SHEPHERD'S HOTEL.**

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS' CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

Alexandria.**CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.**

Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.

Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.

Patronised by the *Elite*.

Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. Full Pension P.T. 50 per day.

G. AQUILINA, Proprietor. (Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917.

THE MESOPOTAMIAN ADVANCE

The Mesopotamia Expedition has once more come into its own, and there is no need to flog a lagging interest in order that its fortunes should be adequately followed by the British public. As the pursuit of the Turks in the direction of Baghdad continues, the victory at Kut acquires increasing importance. The greater the distance the enemy has to cover before he is in a position to make a fresh stand the more evident is it that he cherished a belief in the impregnability of the positions at Kut. In the light of his confidence we are able to appreciate the more fully the measure of General Maude's achievement. For eight months the Turks had been left in undisputed possession of the town and of the formidable lines lower down the river which protected it. They had selected this point as the most suitable position for the defence of Baghdad, and all the careful thought and scientific ingenuity of which their German masters are capable were devoted to the task of strengthening it. At the time of the original advance of the Expeditionary Force up the Tigris the Turks were taken more or less by surprise. They had to rely almost entirely on their own resources, and were no match for British troops in warfare of an open character. Since that date the Germans have realized the importance of developing the fighting strength of their Allies. The Turkish forces were placed under German control, the various fronts in Nearer Asia received the full benefit of Germany's preparations for the war, and the whole character of the campaign in Mesopotamia was altered. An earnest of what the Turks could accomplish under German leadership was given in the short time that elapsed between General Townshend's withdrawal from Ctesiphon and the first attempt to advance to the relief of Kut. They were given practically a year for the further consolidation of the same positions, and we may be certain that the Germans had left nothing to chance in their determination to keep the British troops at bay on this front. General Maude's diagnosis of the situation would seem to have been singularly accurate. He realized that against such opposition no rapid success could be achieved, and he settled down to the systematic investment of the Turkish lines. Something is known of the methods he adopted, but the full story of the preparations for the further advance up the Tigris, when it can be told, will, we believe, prove as interesting as almost any similar chapter in the history of this war. The results have splendidly justified the measures taken. Trench by trench, position by position, along a front of nearly thirty miles between Shumran and Sanna-i-Yat the enemy yielded to the resistless pressure brought to bear upon him, and at the end of ten weeks the whole army broke into incontinent flight.

Mesopotamia is not the Western front, and we have no intention of overrating the significance of this success at Kut. But just as the Central Powers have appreciated the necessity of keeping every part of their fighting line as strong as possible, so we can only appraise the real value of the present course of events along the Tigris by bearing in mind the relationship of this front to the other theatres of war. One of the first points to attract attention is the fact that, in spite of the deliberate nature of General Maude's investment of Kut and the long warning consequently given to the enemy of the danger threatening from this quarter, the Turco-

German authorities have not been able to dispatch reinforcements to the Sixth Army Corps in time to stem its flight at any considerable distance from Baghdad. This feature in itself is an eloquent commentary upon the enemy's general position. The importance of the Mesopotamian theatre lies not in the occupation of this or that line, but in the need for maintaining among the native population of this part of the Ottoman Empire—and, indeed, among the Turks themselves—the belief in the invincibility of the Turco-German alliance and in its early achievement of complete victory over its enemies. We may feel certain, therefore, that, if it had been possible to prevent it, the Turkish troops at Kut would not have been allowed to continue their precipitate flight until there could no longer be any question of disguising the completeness of the defeat from the Arab world. When on the top of Turkey's discomfiture south of Baghdad comes the news of the capture on March 2 of Hamadan by Russian troops, it may be presumed with some degree of certainty that the strain of a long war has at last told not only on Turkish resources, but also on Germany's capacity to supplement the shortcomings of her Allies. Although help has not yet reached the retreating Turks, it does not follow, however, that a special effort will not be made to reverse the decision on the Tigris. The obvious value of Turkey's assistance to Germany during the war and the great store set upon her acquiescence in German designs after the war will almost inevitably compel Marshal von Hindenburg to make some sacrifice to meet the new developments in Asia Minor. If, as is likely, the menace to Kut has been appreciated for some weeks past, then we may expect to find that the process of denuding some other front to make good the deficiencies of Baghdad has already taken place, and a systematic probing of the enemy's line by the Allied Powers will sooner or later reveal the fact.

For the moment, however, in view of the course of the war in Mesopotamia since the arrival of Expeditionary Force D at Busreh, interest centres in the immediate developments arising from the victory at Kut. Already the pessimists of the "Western" school are rendered unhappy by General Maude's success, and talk unctuously of the path of military rectitude and the temptation of political aims. The era of reckless adventures, we like to think, is over; but we know of no canon of military law which forbids the hammering of a defeated foe so long as he offers a safe and easy mark. The question of an advance on Baghdad ought to be settled in a large measure by the actual military position in Mesopotamia and not by any preconceived ideas regarding the relative merits of the Western and the Eastern front. If General Maude can keep in touch with the retreating Turks, it is to be hoped that he will do so to Baghdad or beyond, if necessary, so long as he can protect himself against surprises and safeguard his communications. The position at Kut has no special strategic or tactical value against an enemy approaching from the north, and higher up the river one place is as good or as bad as another for a defensive line, as any position must rely upon entrenchments. On the other hand, there are sound military reasons—if we can only bring ourselves to regard the war in the light of a single front—why a great effort should be made to carry through the Kut success to its logical conclusion and consolidate once and for all time the British position in this region. No doubt shipping resources and other matters have to be taken into consideration; but the pusillanimous argument that we could do no more than we were doing was advanced to justify the circumstances which have had to be investigated by the Mesopotamia Commission. As it was possible to improve upon the half-hearted efforts of 1915-16, so, given the good will, it will be easy to supply General Maude with all that he requires for the occupation of the whole country as far as Baghdad. There can be no question of British prestige having been vindicated in the Middle East, until that city is taken and held. The attempt formerly made to capture it failed, and that failure will not have been atoned for until British troops have proved their ability to reach the objective they tried to gain in the autumn of 1915.

SUPPLY WORK IN EGYPT.

THE CAMEL TRANSPORT CORPS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It is just two years—January 29, 1915, was the precise date—since a round dozen Cairo Britons found themselves detraining at the little station of Abu Sheir—a dozen or so miles from Ismailia—where a heterogeneous mass of some 1,300 camels and their drivers were awaiting them. That was the beginning of the Egyptian Camel Transport Corps, a unit which to-day numbers over 20,000 camels, and does the major portion of the supply work for the troops engaged on the eastern and western frontiers in Egypt.

At that time the Turks were advancing on the first of their ill-fated attempts upon the Suez Canal. The mule transport the Canal troops then possessed was not deemed sufficient for their needs, and so the C.T.C. came into being. The original method of formation was simple. Camels and their masters were commandeered from the Delta, though most of them came from the Cairo district, and packed off to the Canal zone. Miralai Whittingham Bey, Director-General of Egyptian Prisons, an old Guardsman who won a commission in the Boer War and later made a big name for himself as Chief of the Slave Trade Repression Department in the Sudan, was given the command, and he had as his staff Major Worsley, of the A.S.C., attached Egyptian Army (who won a D.S.O. in Gallipoli); Captain Stanley Flower, Director of the Cairo Zoo, as Adjutant; and Major Roland Pillinger, late 10th Hussars, as Quartermaster. The inspectors, as the British section commanders were first known, were recruited in Cairo at twenty-four hours' notice; briefly, they were anyone who could get off at such short intimation, and included two Government vets., a forage contractor, a surveyor, two schoolmasters, a journalist, three engineers, an accountant, and a Government storekeeper. Later, they were reinforced by a contingent from Alexandria. They wore no uniform, but were given a red brassard "to prevent their being shot at sight by over-zealous sentries."

It was, then, a motley crowd that Whittingham Bey had under his command. But if the inspectors were mixed, what of the camels and their drivers? Among the latter were halt, blind, deaf, dumb—in fact, men possessing every one of the conceivable—and many of the inconceivable—ills to which the Egyptian peasant is heir. And yet, five days later, the camels had all been organised into sections, their old and generally useless equipment discarded, new saddles, ropes, nets, and headstalls served out to them—and Whittingham Bey was able to lead his unit out across the desert to Ismailia, marching in column of sections sixty deep, and keeping a tolerably straight line at that!

Naturally, a lot of hard work had had to be performed to accomplish this result, but then Whittingham Bey is the man for hard work. A big, broad-shouldered man well over six feet, he never spares himself and never spares others. He rarely praised, but often blamed, and yet there was not one of his men who did not like him.

At first there were, naturally, many difficulties to overcome, and a good many of these were made by the camelmen themselves. An Egyptian camel is not a nice person to deal with, but his driver is more often than not a good deal worse. The original idea was that each section should consist of camels coming from the same district, but this often had to be disregarded owing to several of the men apparently not knowing where they did come from! One individual had a whole section to himself for some time, as he said he came from "Gebel." He was the only one who claimed such a residence, and I don't know what would have happened to him if a linguist among the inspectors had not happened to remember that "gebel" is the Arabic for "desert," and that it was merely the peasant's mode of expressing that he was a nomad.

It was all really very good fun in those early days of the C.T.C. Of what they did when they were first

formed I need not write now. It is enough to say (I am quoting the *Times'* History of the War from memory) that they earned much praise from even the experienced Anglo-Indian officers under whose supervision they came.

Now the Egyptian Camel Transport Corps is an accepted unit of the British Forces in Egypt. Its officers are all given commissions, and their names duly appear in the *Gazette*. They include many troopers from Australian and Yeomanry units, who have already seen some service in Egypt, as well as many Government officials and civilians. Each company has a captain and four subalterns as well as a number of N.C.O.s; these latter may later on take commissions if their work has been satisfactory.

The work the corps has done in supplying the various troops scattered about the outlying districts, and also in acting as supply columns to reconnoitring expeditions, has earned general admiration from all quarters. Moberly Bey, of the Egyptian Prisons, has already won the D.S.O. for good work on the Western Frontier, while there was another story in Cairo a while back of a schoolmaster-subaltern who displayed great courage and presence of mind when the troops to whom he was acting as supply column were suddenly attacked by the Turks. Fully one-half of his native drivers bolted at the first shot, but he rallied the rest, and succeeded in saving not only most of his camels, but also most of the stores and ammunition they were carrying.

The C.T.C. is one of the minor—and lesser known—units that have come into being owing to the war. But it is assuredly one that has come to stay, and after the war will undoubtedly continue to form an important branch of the British troops in Egypt.

KUT: CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

The Secretary of State for India telegraphed last week as follows to General Maude, the General Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia:

"Kut.—Since control of these operations passed to the C.I.G.S. I have refrained from telegraphing to you for obvious reasons, but I must offer my hearty congratulations on your brilliant success and express my profound admiration for gallantry and endurance of troops under your command, which, under your guidance, have overcome all difficulties."

General Maude replied as follows:—

"On behalf of Army in Mesopotamia wish to offer you our warmest thanks for your kind message, which is immensely appreciated by us all. Devotion to duty, dash, and gallantry of troops, both British and Indian, have been matchless."

"GENERAL MAUDE."

The following telegram has been sent by General Nivelle, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the North and North-East, to General Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office:—

"I beg your Excellency to accept my warm and sincere congratulations on the capture of Kut-el-Amara by the gallant troops under General Maude. This splendid feat of arms and the important successes just secured by the British Armies on the banks of the Ancre have opened brilliantly the campaign of 1917."

A Reuter's message from Jassy, dated February 21, and delayed in transmission, says: M. Bratiano, returning from Russia, has resumed his duties as Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and has reported at Headquarters the results of his visit to Petrograd. In well-informed quarters it is declared that M. Bratiano does not conceal his satisfaction in regard to the promises he has obtained of generous assistance and perfect harmony on all points among the Allies, particularly from Russia, the effect of which will soon be seen.

The Serbian population under the Bulgarian régime is not permitted to have any communication with Serbs living abroad. Correspondence with neutral countries is rigorously prohibited. Latterly the Bulgarian authorities have carried barbarity so far as to forbid the consignment of money from abroad for the maintenance of families suffering from starvation in its acutest form. Is this a new kind of revenge? Is it a plan for exterminating the entire innocent population—the women and children—by letting them die of hunger? Nevertheless all foodstuffs have been taken from the public. Everywhere is the cry of famine.

Students of Arabic in France have hitherto been able to submit themselves for examination for the B.A. degree only at the University of Lyons, or else have had to go to that of Algiers. But now, says *Al Moustakbal* (Paris), the Ministry of Education has rendered it possible for such students to undergo examination in Paris or Bordeaux in July and October of each year. This step is obviously calculated to encourage the study of Arabic.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Dardanelles Report.

March 7.

Earl LOREBURN asked what was the reason of the delay in presenting to Parliament the report of the Dardanelles Commission; whether it was true that the report would not be presented to Parliament in its complete form; and whether copies of the report in its complete form had been already shown to certain political leaders other than members of the present Government and also to certain newspaper editors or representatives.

Earl CURZON said there had been no delay in presenting the report. It became necessary to refer a few passages—not more than two or three—in the report, before publication, to the Governments of France and Russia solely for the reason that they related to the views or proceedings of those Governments, and one of which consisted of a letter from a Minister of one of the Allied States. The result of these representations was that in the case to which he had referred the Foreign Government asked that the letter of their Minister should not be printed in the report as circulated. At the same time, he could not remember that any other alteration made at the request of a Foreign Government was either substantial or vital. The report was also submitted to the War Office and to the Admiralty in order that those Departments might make certain that nothing was made public that would be of real assistance to the enemy. The Departments in one or two cases suggested the omission of a sentence or phrase. Those were the only two respects in which omissions had been made. The places where words had been omitted would be indicated by asterisks or spaces. He deprecated the use of the word mutilation. There had only been the omission of a few sentences or a few phrases here and there.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Cleaner Packing of Dates.

Feb. 28.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether, considering the value of dates as an article of food, he would initiate steps to institute cleaner and more sanitary methods of packing this fruit for export from Mesopotamia as soon as the war conditions should permit of such action being taken, so as to encourage a larger import of the fruit into the United Kingdom.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: My hon. and gallant friend's suggestion will be borne in mind.

The Dardanelles Commission.

March 1.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked when the Dardanelles Commission report would be in the hands of members, and whether it would be published without any omissions.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The report will be laid in dummy on the Table of the House to-day. It is in the hands of the printers, and I hope it will be circulated to members early next week. Some references affecting foreign relations have been omitted, but the Government have thought it right to send the report, without alteration, confidentially to the Speaker and to the Leaders of each of the political parties in the House.

Sir H. DALZIEL: Were the Government themselves responsible for the omissions, or did they take place as the result of any representations made by any foreign Government?

Mr. BONAR LAW: We had to communicate with foreign Governments in regard to some of them, and it was at their request that some of the alterations were made.

Mr. L. JONES asked the Speaker whether the document to be laid on the Table was in fact the report of the Commission at all. If the report was laid on the Table, was not any member entitled to see it, and not merely an edited copy?

The SPEAKER: The report which is laid on the Table of the House is, of course, open to members of the House.

The Mesopotamia Operations.

Mr. H. W. FORSTER, speaking on the Army Estimates, said that, before he came to general observations, he could not omit a reference to the loss of Lord Kitchener—a great soldier whose name would ever be remembered when the story of the war was told. As to the military situation, since Mr. Bonar Law gave a survey earlier in the session nothing of great public interest had occurred either in Salonika or East Africa, but that was not the case with regard to France or Mesopotamia. In Mesopotamia important results had been obtained by General Maude's operations. General Maude stated that enemy forces were badly shattered and would reach Baghdad as a disorderly mob. Over 2,500 prisoners had been secured since the 24th of February, and the Turkish losses in killed and wounded had been very heavy. Full details had not yet been received as to the number of captured guns. Since December 13 last over 5,000 Turkish prisoners had been taken, and the Turkish losses were estimated at considerably over 20,000. These results would not have been possible but for the energy and foresight displayed in our arrangements, especially in regard to railway and river communication. General Maude spoke in the highest terms of the stubborn determination and endurance of all ranks. The dash shown by the troops and the skill of General Maude were worthy of all praise. We might face the future with ever-growing strength and confidence. While in no way underrating the power and purpose of the enemy full faith could be placed in our ability to meet them. The troops trusted their leaders, the leaders trusted their men, and the country trusted both. As to the medical service in Mesopotamia, a special Sanitary Committee had made an exhaustive examination, and the general conditions might be regarded as fully satisfactory.

The Bushire-Shiraz Road.

March 5.

Mr. BALFOUR, replying to Sir J. D. REES, said that the Bushire-Shiraz route had not yet been reopened to traffic as a result of General Sir Percy Sykes's operations.

The Salonika Expedition.

Mr. G. LAMBERT, speaking of the shortage of agricultural labour, and the withdrawal of men from the front, asked whether instead of withdrawing ten thousand men from the Army, it would not be better to withdraw ten thousand men from Salonika, where they were fully trained.

Mr. PRINGLE asked whether the Salonika Expedition had ever seriously threatened the German communications with Constantinople or Baghdad? It was said that this Expedition had been systematically starved by the War Office against the will of the late Cabinet. The responsibility for indecision, however, must rest with the Government. But there had been indecision even since the new Government came into office. Unless the Expedition could be reinforced it could be of no military value. The Expedition had also to be considered from the point of view of our tonnage resources. Sea-power to us was of more consequence than man-power.

Mr. CHURCHILL agreed that the Salonika Expedition affected the problems of food and man-power to a marked degree. All enterprises in the Balkans and the Turkish theatre of war were limited by the carrying power of our mercantile marine. In 1915 a decisive result could have been obtained in those theatres by armies whose size was not beyond the limit of our available carrying power; but those opportunities had been lost. From the moment that Bulgaria had entered the war and the Germans had obtained a thorough route to Constantinople it had been obvious that the size of the army needed to achieve a decisive result exceeded our carrying power and a revision of plans became necessary. It ought to have been recognised that the hour for successful amphibious intervention in this theatre on a great scale had passed. The problem involved considerations of honour as well as military and diplomatic considerations. M. Venizelos had claims which the Allies could never be unmindful of. Four great Powers, of which this country was but one, and three minor Powers were involved in the operations. Therefore the question was not one which could be swept aside by a few bold and decided gestures. But he thought the House would do well to consider this and all the other great questions connected with the war, and also the general policy of the country in regard to the war, more fully than it had done in the past.

Sir H. DALZIEL thought the Government ought to make a declaration of policy regarding Salonika. The House had never had a full statement of that policy. He estimated that we had lost as many men there as in the whole of the Boer war. If the information could not be given in public let them have a secret session. The situation was serious.

Mr. DILLON thought the Government ought to make a frank statement. Was it or was it not a fact that we made promises to Roumania if she came into this war which we were unable to redeem? Was it not a fact also that for months before Roumania came in General Sarraill was telling his Government and ours that, owing to the way his Expedition was being starved, he was not in a position to make an offensive in Macedonia? Further, he was informed that the Generals in command of the Russian armies on the Roumanian frontier warned their Government and ours that it would be a mistake for Roumania to come in. Who overruled them? He was firmly convinced that if the Allies had kept their pledges to Roumania or if they had kept Roumania out of the war we should have been in sight of the end at this moment, whereas the war had been prolonged by a year at least. According to his information the position of the Allied troops at Salonika was still one of grave danger, while M. Venizelos and his friends were at the mercy of a camarilla inspired and controlled by Germany.

Mr. R. McNEILL urged the Government to reply with regard to Salonika. It would be very undesirable for the idea to get about that the view that the expedition should be abandoned was shared by the independent members of the House. If we were to withdraw from Salonika it would not only be to the despair of our friends, but it would give the Germans a prospect of permanent domination in the Balkans and the Turkish Empire.

Mr. BONAR LAW: I have heard this subject debated before, and I have more than once hesitated as to whether I should rise to say anything about it. I have always refrained for the simple reason that I do not believe it is possible for me to say anything to the House which it would be the least interesting for the House to hear. This is obviously a question, not so much of the past as of the present and of the future, and I think the House must feel that it is quite impossible for the Government to give any indication at all as to what their intentions are in regard to the Salonika force. I have heard in previous debates an hon. member ask the simple question: "Is the force at Salonika intended to be offensive or defensive?" It is precisely to that kind of question that it is impossible to give any answer. There is one section of members who, in talking on this subject, have definitely taken the view that we ought not to have a Salonika expedition. There is another section who think it is one of the vital operations in the war. I am not going into the merits of the expedition at all, but I do wish to point out to the House that we are engaged in a war with many Allies. The policy as a whole cannot be the policy of this Government alone, and therefore even if we took the view of those who think this expedition is a mistake it does not follow that it would be possible for us to act in any other way. But I am very far from admitting that that view is correct. Let me point out the obvious facts to the House. If by any chance this expedition were taken away, the first thing that would happen would be that Greece would be overrun, that the whole Balkan peninsula without exception would be in the hands

of our enemies, and that those who have helped us from the beginning would be at the mercy of our enemies; and we know precisely how they would be treated. It is quite natural that the House should wish to have a free and frank discussion of this subject. I do not think it is possible. We cannot possibly discuss policy if there is any doubt as to the use which you are going to make of a force in any particular theatre of war. I recognise as strongly as anyone the disadvantages to us now, especially when tonnage has become so important, of such an expedition. All these considerations are as fully in the mind of the Government as they are of any member of the House. Nothing has exercised us more than the whole subject of Salonika. It has been difficult because the Allies who are interested in Greece and the Balkans have not always taken the same view as to the right policy to adopt. I believe in this respect we have recently gained some ground. We are carrying out a common policy. The main object of that policy for the moment is to make sure that if our German enemies choose to advance against us there we shall not run the risk which we would have run a few months ago of being attacked from behind. That is a great advantage. There was some discussion about Roumania. Again it would be impossible to deal with that subject. All I can say with regard to Roumania is that, deplorable as the result has been, there were no threats of any kind used towards Roumania to induce her to come in, and I do not think that because her coming in has proved so disastrous to her and has inflicted suffering upon her, which the Allies would have done anything to prevent, that is reason for condemning the Allies because they welcomed her assistance.

Feeding Serbia.

Mr. BALFOUR, answering Mr. LYNCH, said: We are quite willing to consider the importation of foodstuffs into Serbia, provided that a practical scheme, guaranteeing the neutral control of their distribution and other essential precautions, can be advised. No such scheme, however, has as yet been presented to us, and the attitude of the Austrian authorities forbids much hope that matters will improve in the future.

The Dardanelles Report.

March 6.

Mr. BONAR LAW, replying to Mr. RENDALL and Sir WALTER ESSEX, said that the leaders of parties to whom he had sent a full copy of the Dardanelles Report were Mr. Asquith, Mr. Redmond, and Mr. Wardle.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that never in the whole history of Parliament has a proposal been made to give special information by the Government to certain members of the House in reference to a public document that will come before the House as the Grand Inquest of the nation?

Mr. BONAR LAW: If I had not been aware, I was informed of it the other day. I do not myself think there was any insult to the House, and certainly none was intended.

Sir C. HOBHOUSE, a little later, asked the Speaker whether it was in order to lay on the Table as the report of the Dardanelles Commission that which was confessedly a incomplete report, and whether if in debate Ministers quoted from the report they would not be compelled by Standing Order and by the practice of the House to produce the whole report.

The SPEAKER: I think the Government must take the responsibility for any report that they lay on the Table. I cannot go behind the report which is laid on the Table. If a quotation is made from a document which is not produced, then the rule of the House that the whole of the document should be produced will no doubt be enforced.

Sir C. HOBHOUSE asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of calling attention, as an urgent matter of definite public importance, to the proposal of the Government to lay on the Table of the House for the first time in its history a report which was confessedly not the complete report of the Committee. Ultimately, after some little discussion, Sir C. Hobhouse announced that he would put down a motion asking for the production of the report, and hoped that it would receive early consideration.

Greece and the Allies.

March 7.

Mr. DILLON asked the Foreign Secretary whether the Royalist Government at Athens had officially announced that up to February 19, 15,849 soldiers had been transported to the Peloponnese; whether the Entente Ministers were satisfied that this figure fulfilled the demands of their Note; and how many troops still remained at the disposal of King Constantine north of the Peloponnese.

Mr. BALFOUR: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, although the evacuation of troops and artillery is proceeding satisfactorily there remain certain demands, such as the surrender of rifles, which are still unfulfilled. As regards the last part of the question, it is estimated that the total Greek force remaining in Northern Greece is about 6,000 regulars and about 3,000 gendarmerie.

Mr. DILLON asked whether King Constantine's Government promised to grant a complete amnesty to the followers of M. Venizelos whom they had arrested; whether they had now officially announced that the scheme for releasing prisoners, by granting an amnesty to all except those convicted of the gravest offences, had been abandoned in favour of a reduction of penalties on a certain scale; and whether his Majesty's Government were content that the Royalist Government at Athens should modify their acceptance of the Allied Note as soon as the Allied Fleet had been induced to modify the pressure of the blockade.

Mr. BALFOUR: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The Greek Government promised to release the partisans of M. Venizelos whom they had arrested, and they have given an official assurance that all proceedings against them have been absolutely and finally abandoned. The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Talaat through Dutch Eyes.

The Dutch *Handelsblad*, in its weekly review, as quoted by the *Gazette de Hollande*, gives a picture of the new Grand Vizier of Turkey which strikes us as rather quaint. The last active representative, it says, of the old mysterious Orient has yielded his place to a younger man, who represents modern, sober, plain Turkey of to-day.

The place of the Egyptian pince, with the famous name, is taken by an erstwhile telegraphic official; one of the oldest families of Turkey has had to give way to one of the men who *veulent être des ancêtres eux-mêmes*; one of the ancient traditions as to the status of the Grand Vizier has been abandoned. Young merit is ousting hereditary traditions. Talaat Bey has been appointed Grand Vizier of Turkey in the place of Prince Said Halim Pasha. It is one of the most important changes in the Government of the country since the Young Turks first took action. It means the appointment to the rulership of a man of the people in a country that hitherto has been under the sway of priests and princes. . . . The strength that is to be brought to bear by the new Turkish Cabinet must come in the first place from Talaat Pasha. If Turkey is to count for anything in the future, she must rely on such men as this Minister, who, besides a clear brain, possesses great knowledge, great energy for getting things done, and diplomatic ability. The end of the Turkish Empire, the death of the "Sick Man," has been too often foreshadowed for us to believe that it is in the last throes of agony. There is in the Turkish statesmen of the new school a vital *elan*, a creative force, that may enable them, if circumstances are favourable, to achieve great things. When the deadly, crushing, traditional rut has been abandoned, when the Asiatic or Egyptian habits of laxity have been replaced by the energetic action of pushing and intelligent young men, who keep pace with the times, add honesty to their energy and know how to act against corrupted bureaucracy by the only argument likely to impress it—i.e., immediate dismissal—then there is, perhaps, still a future for Turkey. Such a task is in store for Talaat Pasha if he has the good fortune and opportunity to bring his will-power, his clear insight, his clever brains, and his indomitable courage to bear on the future of his fatherland, for which undoubtedly a difficult period is in prospect.

The Salonika Expedition.

M. André Chéradame's opinions upon the problems of the Near East are always of value, and an article ("The Will to Victory and 'the Single Front'") that he contributes to the *New Europe* (March 1) merits careful consideration. It deals, as may be inferred from its title, with the advisability or otherwise of abandoning Salonika. This idea has been much to the fore again of late, and the "Westerners"—the advocates of a concentration of all our efforts upon the Western front, and of the abandonment of our foothold in the Balkans—have shown much activity in pressing their views. M. Chéradame, it is hardly necessary to say, opposes the proposal vigorously. The Allies' great mistake, he urges, was in allowing Germany to link up with the East. Bulgaria and Turkish help alone have enabled Germany to prolong the war. And, unfortunately, our operations at Salonika have never been carried on vigorously; they have suffered from "passive resistance" on the part of those who ought to have done everything possible to help them forward.

The dispatch of troops to Salonika and Belgrade, which had been advocated in France since early in 1915, would have radically prevented the loss of the Danube front, so essential to the Allied cause and so easy to defend. But the very idea of such an expedition met with furious opposition in France and England from a few men who were unhappily in a position to influence the supreme decision. Their opposition placed repeated obstacles in the way of the Salonika Expedition, even after it had been undertaken. Now it was, above all, the inadequate means placed at General Sarrail's disposal which prevented him from giving to the Serbs that succour which it was our duty as Allies to furnish to them, quite apart from the fact that it coincided with the purely selfish interests of France and Britain to do so. It was, again, the opposition to Salonika which throughout 1916 led to the Eastern front being regarded as of secondary importance. The result was that our Balkan Army did not receive the material and the reinforcements necessary for a powerful offensive. Thus, when it began to move in April-May, 1916, it could not do what it might have done if even a quarter of the Franco-British effectives which have since then been sacrificed on the West, without any strategic result, had been sent to it in good time. The most recent consequence of this absence of any offensive from Salonika has been the crushing of Roumania, the fatal effects of which upon the development of the war as a whole cannot be disputed.

"How can we expect a defeat west of the Rhine so great as to force Germany to renounce for ever her Hamburg-Persian Gulf design?" asks M. Chéradame. On the Western front the Germans are better organized

than anywhere else to meet the shock of the Allies. The latter have not only to force the Germans to evacuate territory occupied in the west, but also to destroy Pangermania.

Everything goes to show that the cutting of the Hamburg-Baghdad route, which means the complete defeat of Germany, involves military action by the Allies in the Balkans. The constant efforts of William II. to induce his brother-in-law Constantine to paralyse, so far as lies in his power, the action of the Allies in the East surely proves that at Berlin they have always been afraid of the Balkan front of the Allies assuming that importance which might and ought to have been assigned to it.

We have space for only one more quotation:—

If we desire "integral victory," the struggle must be pursued in the Balkans, as elsewhere, by suitable offensive means. We are certain of making no mistake, if we maintain, organise, and reinforce the Balkan front. If the Allies gain a great victory on the West, the moral of the Turko-Bulgaro-German troops in the Balkans is sure to be profoundly affected; and in that case an offensive northwards from Monastir, combined with a Russo-Roumanian attack on the Sereth, might have rapid and important developments. If, on the other hand, our Western offensive should not yield all the results expected, our presence in the Balkans in a position not easily assailable would diminish the moral effect of any possible check, and would always prevent the enemy from concentrating all his effectives on the West.

M. Chéradame concludes by urging that the three fronts, Western, Eastern, and Balkan, must all be unified and organized for a simultaneous offensive. Pangermania must be destroyed: so only can the Allies be saved from ruin and enslavement.

The Armenian Atrocities.

Dr. Clarence D. Ussher contributes to the *New Armenia* (New York) of February 1 an article entitled "The Armenian Atrocities and the Jihad." He estimates that in all probability more than a million unarmed and offenceless people have lost their lives in these latest massacres, and that hundreds of thousands of women and girls have suffered things worse than death. As to the responsibility for the crimes—

The extermination of the Christian population of Turkey was determined long before Turkey decided to enter the war. Religious fanaticism had apparently nothing to do with the project, though its aid was much invoked, and occasionally it played a part after the massacres began. Those who, as heads of the Young Turk Party or of the Committee of Union and Progress, ordered the Jihad, or "Holy War," were notoriously spoken of by the Moslems as infidels. While their natural tendencies and hereditary propensities would tend to estrange them from the Christians, it cannot with any justice be said that their decree of Jihad was induced by religious fanaticism. The Jihad has been a failure. In spite of every possible effort on the part of the Young Turk leaders, Persian, Indian, Egyptian, African, and Russian Mohammedans refused to participate.

It is conceivable that the suggestion of deportation came from a foreign source, and that the execution and details of barbarity are purely Ottoman. That Germany has had a share in it is proven by the fact that German officers have been seen herding the women and children along the road. The instructions of German officers to their Turkish students have been, "Injure the enemy in every possible way, and spare nothing to trouble and horrify them." That the German people are cognisant of and party to these atrocities I cannot believe, but that the German military are I cannot doubt.

Gruesome details of the massacres and atrocities are given. Thus:—

In Agantz, the chief city of Ardjesh district, the local Governor (*Kaimakam*) was beloved and trusted by the Armenian population, who had no reason to suspect him of sinister motives. He and all the officers of the province had the same instructions—viz., the Moslems might choose the women and girls they desired for their harems, but the men and boys and the rest of the women must be exterminated. "Any Moslem known to protect a Christian was to have his house burned first, the Christian slaughtered before his eyes, then his family and himself, and we were informed by Moslem refugees in the American Mission in Van that the first house burned by the Turkish soldiers in Van was the house of a Moslem who protected a Christian.

The *Kaimakam* of Ardjesh summoned all the men, sending gendarmes for those who were tardy. They gathered at the Government building without suspicion. Two thousand five hundred were taken out in groups of fifty and shot down by the soldiers. One of the leading men, known as *Prote* (Protestant) Harotun Aga, wounded in five places, crawled out at night from under the mass of corpses and escaped to his home. There he hid for five days in a straw bin, when the Turks discovered him, dragged him out, and shot him in the street before his family. Only three men escaped from the entire town, two of them natives of Bitlis. This was undoubtedly the most merciful massacre in the province. In the villages smaller bands of soldiers and gendarmes were located, but did not work so systematically. The villagers, who could, defended themselves till their ammunition was exhausted, and enabled many women and children to escape to the mountains, where some of them, wounded and naked, subsisted for twenty days with only snow to eat.

One redeeming feature about the dreadful business is that in spite of lying reports as to atrocities committed

by Armenians on Moslems, "the Moslem population of the cities could not be induced generally to attack their neighbours, and the Government was compelled to use soldiers and gendarmes and Kurds from other districts."

Serbia or Bulgaria.

The current *Asiatic Review* contains an article with the above title, contributed by M. V. R. Savitch, late director of the Serbian Press Bureau at Belgrade. The writer begins by saying:—

The future solution of Balkan questions offers to the British statesman a fine opportunity for insight and wisdom, as upon it will depend the peace in the Balkans and the security of the British position in the Mediterranean. After the expulsion of the Turks from Europe, the durable settlement in that part will depend mainly upon the mutual position and relative strength of Serbia and Bulgaria, as it depended in the centuries preceding the arrival of the Turks.

Great Britain's paramount interest in the Balkans is undoubtedly the realization of the principle, "The Balkans for the Balkan nations, a durable peace, and protection from conquest by any Great Power."

How can that be achieved? The principle of our artificial equilibrium in the Balkans must, says the writer, be abandoned and give place to a plan for the creation of a really strong national State. And he then proceeds to consider "the scheme of creating a strong Serbia or Bulgaria." The proposal to make Bulgaria into this strong State "would mean," the writer declares, "in a mere access of folly, to sacrifice friends and Allies to benefit an unscrupulous enemy"; and he very rightly dismisses the proposal as "offensive to common sense and to every moral conception." Again, "to leave Bulgaria in her pre-war frontiers could satisfy neither Serbia nor Roumania," and it would leave conditions in the Balkans still in a quite unsettled state. The third solution put forward—the compensation of Serbia at the expense of Bulgaria—offers Europe many advantages, in M. Savitch's opinion. The "mission of Serbia to be a bulwark of peace could be strengthened by adding to Serbia those territories in what is now Bulgaria, which are inhabited by a population even now neither Serbian nor Bulgarian in character." The article concludes:—

Every student of Balkan history knows that Slav tribes, all of whom spoke one language and had the same standards of life, settled in the Balkans in the sixth century of our era. But the Mongolian tribe of the Volgars, penetrating over the Danube at the end of the seventh century, conquered the Slav tribes, which lived between the Isker, the Danube, the Black Sea, and the Rhodope Mountains, and upon this territory, by the mixture of the Mongols with the Slavs, was created a new Bulgarian nation. Only later on, after the amalgamation of the Slavs with the Mongols was consummated, the Bulgarians crossed the Isker and the Rhodope, and for a certain time asserted their dominion over the Slavs who inhabited Macedonia or the territories between the Isker and the present Serbo-Bulgarian frontier. The Slavs of these territories form an intermediary link between the Serbs and the Bulgars, having some characteristics in common with both of them. Thus, until now the Bulgars never called the Slavs that lived to the west of the Isker "Bulgars," but the "Shops," and their language the "Shopski" language, which is more akin to the Serbian than to the Bulgarian tongue. These "Shops," having no Mongolian blood in them, as is proved by their fair Slav type, manifested, until the Congress of Berlin, Serbian sympathies, and expressed their desire to be united with the Serbs.

Justice, as well as expediency, which in this case do not diverge from each other by a hair's-breadth, would be best served by compensating Serbia with the territories to the west of the River Isker and the Rhodope Mountains. Thus, Serbia would be enabled to fulfil her mission of being a bulwark for peace in the Balkans. Bulgaria would be deprived of her powers for doing evil, be purged from German influences, and might be sooner cured from her insane Teutonic ambitions, and eventually find rest and prosperity in a union with the Serbs. Of course, this can only be achieved later on, as the Serbs, still bleeding from the wounds inflicted upon themselves by Bulgaria's foul action, will not for a long time be in a mood to entertain any proposal for reconciliation with the Bulgars. We say to-day: "Rather Hell than Paradise shared with the Bulgars." When the Bulgarian nation has thrown off her present masters for ever, the Serbs will not persist in their present mood, and an admission of the Bulgars in the Southern Slav union may then be expected.

Articles to Note.

"Strategical Aspects of the Roumanian Campaign," by Major T. E. Compton, in the *Broad Arrow*.

"Constantinople: Its Past and Future (An Interview with Sir Edwin Pears)," in *Common Sense* (March 3).

"Salonika and Sanity," in the *Evening Standard* (March 6).

"Mesopotamia," in the *Manchester Guardian* (March 6).

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

An interesting letter has reached me from a British officer who has recently returned to this country from Mesopotamia, in which he dissents from my suggestion that the number of Indian rupees current in the country of the blessed name is comparatively small. "I should like to say," he writes, "that my experience, such as it is, points rather the other way. I served at Nasiriyeh on the Euphrates for more than six months last year, and during that time came across very little coinage except Indian. Persian krans are in circulation, but they are by no means so common as the corresponding Indian coins."

"Commentator" does not seem to realise that not only the Indian soldiers are paid in rupees but the British troops also, and all the hired Arab labourers who work in large numbers on embankments, and so on. Seeing that the Arabs are now getting so very much more money, both by direct earning and by selling goods to the troops, than they had any chance of doing before, I should say there must be a much greater amount of Indian coinage in circulation than any other kind. I should, therefore, agree with "Commentator" that Indian coinage is likely to be the principal currency in Mesopotamia in the future. Indeed, whether it remains under the control of the Indian Government or no, there is so much Indian money in circulation now that it is bound to be a long time before it is exhausted."

Cotton-goods dealers in Egypt will have observed with interest the striking development which has occurred in the trade in India, where the Government, by increasing the import duty on cotton textiles, has by one fell swoop destroyed the protection which the Lancashire industry enjoyed against the Indian mills. I know India very well, and can speak of the bitter resentment which the countervailing Excise duty of 3½ per cent. on Indian cotton manufacturers has always aroused. Meanwhile, in an interesting letter, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, of the West India Committee, raises an appropriate point. "I recall," he writes, "that the Lancashire so-called 'Free Traders' who are now agitating for a countervailing Excise duty on Indian cotton goods are the self-same people who protested vehemently against the proposal that countervailing duties should be imposed on bounty-fed sugar, which was ruining our sugar-producing colonies fifteen years ago."

Personally, I do not care two piastres about politics, so called, and as for discussing the respective merits of Free Trade or Protection this is not a suitable time. Let us win the war first, and all things else will follow; but I admit that I rejoice at the action taken by the Government of India. There is no reason in the world why India should continue to be penalised in favour of people who have always displayed a selfish preference for the interests of number one, as Lancashire

has always done. My readers in Egypt will remember that that country had a grievance of the same sort; she has no grievance now, because her cotton mills were killed—murdered would, perhaps, be the word to use. Congratulations are due to the Government of India generally, and to Sir William Meyer in particular, for the courageous step, which is to help the Mother Country financially on the one hand and to assist Indian millowners on the other.

It is looking a long way ahead, perhaps, but there certainly seems to me to be no reason why Egypt and India should not "do a deal" in this matter. Egypt wants piecegoods and India can make them; both countries have the nucleus of a mercantile marine, and there is a good deal of produce which could be exchanged between the two countries. India, of course, is better off for shipping; but there is the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company, which, after the war, might be glad to find new seas on which to trade. The matter is worth some consideration, and I hope the possibilities of commerce and shipping will not be forgotten on the banks of the Canal and in Hindustan.

I hear that the Austro-Hungarian banks continue to prey vigorously on the Serbians. All seems to be grist that comes to their mill; but talking of mills, one recalls with satisfaction that "the mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small." That is a point for the future. Meanwhile, my latest information is that, in defiance of the rules of the moratorium, and while Serbian men-folk are with the Colours, a central office has been established in Belgrade "for the protection of creditors." This, it is said, has been established for the purpose of reclaiming all sums owed by Serbian business men to Germans, Austrians, or Hungarians, and its object is being carried out by absolutely illegal means.

The trade in Serbian currency—another means of impoverishing the population—has been carried on without scruple. After having fixed the rate of exchange for the Serbian dinar at 50 heller, the Military Government permitted both banks and private individuals to "corner" Serbian currency—which is covered, as everybody knows, up to more than 70 per cent.—for the absurd sum of half a krone per dinar. The population opposed a passive resistance to this measure, with the result that, in proportion as the value of the krone dropped, that of the Serbian dinar recovered its true nominal value.

The comments of the paper *Az Ujsag* on this subject are interesting—and frank. "The question of the rate of the Serbian dinar," says the paper, "has been much debated both from the political and financial point of view. The value of the dinar, which was rated at 50 per cent., has both here (in Hungary) and in neutral countries abroad risen to 104-105. Our thousands of banks have explained that it was preferable by far to pay in dinars in Serbia, although the dinar commands a high price here. At the same time, the import of dinars from Serbia is forbidden, which has resulted in a further rise in the value of the dinar, as it was becoming

scarce over here. The *Belgrade Hires* publishes interesting returns concerning the circulation of the dinar in conquered Serbia. This paper avers that payments are usually made in Austro-Hungarian currency. The dinar has almost disappeared. This disappearance is due to an erroneous interpretation, on the part of the population, of certain regulations concerning the value of the dinar. Certainly it is a very difficult question to decide. The fact that latterly the dinar has not been kept to the compulsory rate of exchange, but has been allowed to take its chance, testifies to the great perspicacity of the authorities."

Poor hoodwinked Turkey! Enemy though she be, it would be harsh not to regret the apparent ease with which the Hun has been able to exploit her and her people. All the world realises that the Turk is a belligerent because it suited the German book to include her in the Central Europe Alliance; either to prevent her from being on the other side and so free the Dardanelles to the Entente, or to make use of her army and whatever poor resources for making war which she possessed. We know all about the loans and the financial window-dressing in which Berlin has taken a hand on behalf of the Ottomans. We know, too, how great are the difficulties which the manipulation will cause when the time comes for adjustment. This is all so evident that discussion would be a futility. It is worth recording, however, that Hun promises are still being made and put forward in Constantinople as a bait to the suffering population. The latest is that Germany has undertaken to send every year to Turkey £T3,000,000 in gold, in order that Turkey may be able to withdraw its paper money from circulation, even though the number of notes to be withdrawn is covered by commercial transactions. After the war the merchandise of Turkey's allies will be favourably treated as regards importations into Turkey.

The latter seems to be the *quid pro quo*; in reality it is another shackle forged round the feet of an already heavily ironed people. One may ask, too, which Turkey? It would seem at the moment that the Ottoman Empire is crumbling. In Mesopotamia the British are at last forcing their way to the heart of things, in the Caucasus Russia has a grip which she is not likely to relax, the music has begun to play in Syria to which the Turk will presently be called on to dance, while in Europe the Turkish hold depends entirely on whether her precious Allies can win the war. Germany knows all this with great certainty, and the Germans are not likely to throw away £T3,000,000—or 3 marks for the matter of that—a year if no return is likely to be forthcoming. I referred on a previous occasion to the lament of Djavid Bey that Turkish paper money had sadly depreciated in Constantinople, and we may take it for granted that his last speech, in which he also emphasised the "financial assistance which Germany is giving in not requiring the payment of interest on her advances until Turkey's paper currency has been entirely withdrawn from circulation—that is to say, for eleven years," was just another attempt to bolster up a broken exchequer—in a word, more window-dressing.

COMMENTATOR.

The Sudan and Its Economic Advance.

No. 4.—The Dongola Province.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

Dongola is the province of the Sudan that is best known, with the exception, of course, of Khartoum, to the "man in the street" by reason of the important military operations that occurred there during the different British military expeditions conducted in that country. Superficially, it is also the largest of the fifteen political divisions, but by no means is it the most densely populated. The official figures show this to amount, as nearly as possible, to one person to the square mile; that is to say that with a total area of 141,200 square miles the province claims a population of no more than 141,170 individuals.

The province of Dongola was the last of all the Egyptian Khedive's possessions in the Sudan to be evacuated in the sorrowful days of June, 1885, when the Nile Expeditionary Force was broken up. Later, in 1892, before the Sudan had been finally rescued from the bane of Mahdism, it was also here that the late Lord Kitchener commenced once more to throw out the Egyptian frontier. For the Khaliifa at that period being engaged in fighting the Italians at Kassala, the time was deemed propitious for the British to advance upon Dongola; notwithstanding official advice to the contrary, the necessary steps were taken, and, as we know, they proved completely successful. It was on the 25th September, 1896, that Dongola again became a part of the Khedivial possessions, an achievement which marked more than anything that had up till then occurred, the commencement of the Khaliifa's final collapse.

The Usual Route.

The usual route to Dongola from Khartoum is by train to Abu Hamed and Kareima, and thence by regular steamboats to Merowé, and so down the river as far as Kerma, a small village practically at the extreme end of the province where the cataracts (of Bahr-el-Haggar) commence. One day, when money becomes more plentiful, the Government may determine to continue the rails from Kareima to Kerma. At one time, indeed, there existed a small, badly constructed and even worse equipped line from Kerma to Wadi Halfa—actually the first railway line to be laid in the Sudan—a track which was used by the late General Kitchener in his memorable campaign of 1885. That line, however, has long since been torn up, the usable portion of the material being employed elsewhere. For nothing in the Sudan is wasted under its provident administration.

With the conquest of Dongola commenced its regeneration, and the province has always been looked upon as the model department of the Sudan, claiming the services of a Governor who had been longer in office than any other official of the Administration. For many years the seat of government was located at the old town of Dongola, situated some 200 miles further down the Nile than the present town of Merowé, which was selected during the spring of 1903, when the then Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir F. Reginald Wingate, was visiting the province upon one of his periodical tours of inspection.

The Town.

Under the personal care and supervision of the Governor, Colonel H. W. Jackson, C.B., a well-designed, well-constructed and even attractive little town has grown up. Long, straight avenues have been laid out and planted with handsome evergreen lebbek trees, imported from India; although only now in their ninth year, these trees have already become tall, stately and intensely umbrageous. Broad pathways, well gravelled, and separated from the houses by brilliantly green, neatly trimmed hedgerows; range upon range of square, or oblong, brick and plaster edifices, tinted a pleasing rose-colour (an effect obtained from a natural earth pigment found locally); and houses designed in semi-Moorish style of architecture, with broad, sloping, or flat roofs and protruding eaves, approached by wide porticoes and

mostly surrounded by well-tended beds of brilliantly-coloured flowers and lofty date-trees, afford an impression at once pleasing and effective. Undoubtedly modern Merowé may be regarded as a pleasant little town, and since it has abundantly justified the time, trouble and outlay which have been devoted to its construction, it may well serve as a type for other new towns, or help to suggest improvements to be introduced into old ones, in the gradually-expanding Sudan.

Important Points.

While Merowé ranks as the principal town in the province, there are several others of some importance—such as Argo, Debba, Kerma, Khandak and Korti, all of which, in addition to that of Dongola, are officially regarded as *memurias* of the province. At times of low Nile, and other similar natural misfortunes, the Argo natives generally seem to suffer more severely than others, and this is mainly due to their thriftlessness and innate laziness. All the efforts of the Government—continued over a period of years with remarkable patience—to instil a little enterprise and endeavour into these people have failed, and in times of stress they have to be fed like so many helpless animals.

Some of the best land in the district has been given to them, but it is mostly either wholly neglected, or the surface is merely scratched. Naturally, the people are abjectly poor. A persistently unfortunate state of affairs existed until lately, when a change seemed to manifest itself in the large district of Debba, whence fully 20 per cent. of the males had left in order to seek a livelihood elsewhere. The town of Debba is still maintained as the district headquarters, for, at one time, the place was regarded as an important trade centre. There it was that caravans, carrying gum, ivory, slaves, etc., first touched on their way from Omdurman to Kordofan, *en route* for Egypt. To the mind of most Englishmen who have visited Debba within the past few years the most interesting object to be seen there is the tree planted by the late Lord Kitchener to commemorate his long sojourn in 1884-5 in the native garb of an Arab, and when he was so wonderfully disguised, and spoke the language so admirably, as to be able to pass for months together as a tribesman. The famous tree was planted in December, 1912.

Tangassi.

Not far from Kareima there are several interesting small towns and villages, such as Tangassi, still one of the more important markets in the Sudan, accommodating an immense gathering of native buyers and sellers every Sunday; Hetani, the site of the camp of the 1st Brigade, which occupied it just before the withdrawal of the British troops from the country in 1885; Karad, also the site of a British camp—that of the 2nd Brigade; Letti, a new irrigation basin, measuring some 8,000 feddans; Old Dongola, the former capital of the Christian kingdom existing in the sixth century A.D.; Labab Island, some ten miles south of Dongola-el-Ordi, and locally known as Geziret-el-Ashraf, (since it was here that had been born the Mahdi Mohammed Ahmed, son of a humble boat-builder, and the cause of all the trouble that fell upon the Sudan between 1882 and 1898); Argo Island, whereon, at a place called Hag Zumar, there repose two colossal stone statues, now in a recumbent position (fallen, no doubt, from the upright), and resembling in some respects the colossi of Thebes, together with a headless statue of great antiquity, attributed to 2,300 B.C.; and, also, Artigasha Island, some five miles north of Argo, where, for years, a certain Sherif Sayed Mohammed-el-Idrisi-el-Yamani occasioned the Ottoman and Egyptian Governments much serious trouble.

Kerma, as above mentioned, was formerly on the railway line from Halfa, situated a distance of 203 miles from that town. It

had been the dream of the Khedive Ismail Pasha to open up the whole of this part of the conquered country by means of an iron track, and in 1877 he was particularly busy in his Sudanese dominions. The Dervishes, however, in 1885, destroyed every yard of line which had been so patiently and expensively built. The British-Egyptian troops relaid the track in 1896 to afford means of transport for the Dongola Expeditionary Force, which was then operating against the Mahdists. Finally, it was completed only to be abandoned.

Improvidence.

Were the people of Dongola of an industrious and more intelligent nature the undoubted economic resources of the province would be better appreciated and put to greater use. The soil is capable of producing richly when properly cultivated and artificially irrigated. Although in the months of November and December wheat and barley should be sown, and reaped in the following months of April and May, there seemed to be but little attention devoted to the pursuit of this industry when I was in the province some two or three years ago. I have little reason to suppose that since then the character of the people has in any way changed for the better. Under ordinary circumstances the crops of the Dongola Province should produce about 4½ ardebs (an ardeb equals 5.44 bushels, or, say, 297.15 lbs.) per feddan (equals 1 acre) of wheat, and 5 ardebs (say, about 25 bushels) per feddan of barley. Other crops grown in this province comprise maize, sown in July and garnered in September or October, and dura, sown in June and September and garnered in the following months of September and December, yielding two crops annually. The produce should ordinarily amount to 6 ardebs (say, about 32½ bushels) per feddan. The date-growing industry is also of some moment in Dongola, and with more care on the part of the growers and further assistance upon the part of the authorities, the industry might well become a very remunerative one. Already a considerable trade has been built up between Dongola and other parts of the country, while samples of the dates have been sent to London for the purpose of interesting wholesale fruit importers in Sudan produce.

Large as is its area, the province of Dongola is economically governed. In addition to the Governor, Colonel H. W. Jackson, C.B., who, as stated, has been longer in the Administration, by about seven months, than any other official (actually exceeding the lengthy term of service filled by the late Governor-General, Sir F. Reginald Wingate), there are one Senior Inspector, Mr. W. R. G. Bond, and two Second Inspectors, Mr. A. W. Skrine and Mr. F. T. C. Young. While Colonel Jackson and Mr. Young are at Merowé, Mr. Bond (who succeeded Captain Jackson as Senior Inspector) and Mr. Skrine are located at Dongola.

MESOPOTAMIA.

In shipping circles (writes a correspondent in the *Yorkshire Post*), the progress of operations in Mesopotamia is being closely followed. Before the war, the German steamship lines were beginning to get a substantial share of the Persian Gulf trade, which, at one time, was monopolised by British owners. Indeed, if she had not precipitated hostilities, Germany, through the Deutsche Bank, the chief promoter of the Baghdad Railway, and by means of the agreement with British interests for the navigation of the Tigris and the Euphrates, might by now have occupied a position of supreme importance in the Middle East.

Not only had the Hamburg-American Line been steadily increasing its direct connections with Muscat, Bunder Abbas, Busreh, and other parts, but, a few months before the war, it had also concluded an agreement with a Liverpool concern for a joint service between the United Kingdom and the Persian Gulf. The worst, however, was that considerable shipments of materials for the British Government were being made by German steamers, notwithstanding the fact that British vessels were always kept open for them.

It may be safely assumed that the situation in this respect will be entirely altered with the restoration of peace, and that the big improvements to be carried out will not be for the benefit of enemy countries.

GREEK MACEDONIA.

Filler leaf tobacco, unstemmed, is the chief article of export from Greek Macedonia, the value of this product purchased by American firms alone amounting to about £1,200,000 in a normal year. According to general reports of purchasing agents from various points in this region, the 1916 crop is far better in quality than that of the preceding year, and the quantity is greater than that of a normal year.

Meteorological conditions have been favourable to this year's crop, but it has been difficult to gather and manipulate it. As the more important producing centres—Cavalla, Drama, Serres, etc.—are in the war zone, the export of a large part of the Greek Macedonian tobacco crop is impossible, and no information is available as to its condition or quantity. The quantity of tobacco raised in the districts near Salonika is relatively small.

The prices of filler leaf tobacco, unstemmed, in districts not cut off from commerce, in the middle of November last were 250 per cent. above normal. In some instances prices were 600 per cent. above last year's quotations. There was then only a very small quantity of inferior tobacco on sale in Salonika.

The Opium Market.

Favoured by dry and warm weather, the eastern Macedonian opium crop, harvested during June and July, 1916, was gathered under advantageous conditions. Its quality was much better than usual, the morphine contents being one per cent. higher than in normal years. As regards quantity, local opium cultivators estimate that about 100 cases (each weighing 150 pounds) were produced in Greek and Serbian Macedonia during 1916. Of this amount one-half was taken to the Salonika market, while the other half remained in Serbian territory occupied by the Central Powers.

In November Greek Macedonian crude opium in the natural moist state, containing from 14 to 15 per cent. of morphine, was selling at 132 drachmas per oke. As that price was 20 per cent. lower than the New York, London, and Paris prices, local crude opium exporters were holding their goods for a further advance in price.

BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY.

Mr. G. H. Roberts answering Mr. Joynton-Hicks in the House of Commons, on behalf of the Board of Trade, said:—"The shares of the British Petroleum Company and of its allied companies were some months ago vested in the Public Trustee and the companies are controlled by directors nominated by the Board of Trade. The shares were previously registered in the name of the Europaishe Petroleum Company, a German company, but of whose shares the Russians, French, and Belgians claimed to own 49½ per cent. His Majesty's Government consider that it is to the national advantage that the organisation of the British Petroleum Company should be kept alive and that it should remain permanently under British control, and they have taken steps to ensure this object. The arrangement with the Anglo-American Company was made with the knowledge of the Board of Trade, the reason being that only by such an arrangement could the British Petroleum Company preserve its valuable petrol distributing goodwill until such a time as the company could erect its own petrol distributing installations. I understand that shares have been sold."

The Egyptian wheat crop is estimated to be above the normal in Lower Egypt and normal in Upper Egypt.

According to a Constantinople telegram, the Turkish Government has submitted to the Chamber a Bill for an extraordinary war credit of £115,000,000. The Bill was sent to Committee.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The absorbing subject for discussion in the market during the past week has been the decision of the Indian Government, with the consent of the Home Government, to increase the import duty on cotton goods without a corresponding increase in the countervailing Excise duty. The announcement came as a great surprise to Lancashire, and no time has been lost in organising opposition to the proposal. The agitation has been quite spontaneous, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for India, at the deputation which he is to receive on Monday next, will find that Lancashire is determined at all costs to resist the imposition of the duty.

Trading in all quarters of the market has been on small lines. There seems to be a general lack of confidence in the outlook at the present time.

An indifferent demand has been reported in piece-goods for Egypt, but advices from the other side with regard to clearances are not discouraging.

Some relief has been felt at the decision of the Food Controller not to prohibit the use of flour for sizing until the situation makes it absolutely necessary.

Cloth business for India has been under a cloud, and there is not likely to be any improvement in the turnover until more is known as to the intentions of the Government with regard to the import duty. Offers from Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras have been decidedly scarce.

Some fair miscellaneous sales have been put through for China, not only in bleaching cloths, but also in the lower qualities of grey shirtings. The prospects for manufacturers as a body remain very uncertain. Some merchants state that it is useless to purchase goods which cannot be finished, printed, and dyed for many months ahead. Then traders do not know from one day to another what facilities will be available for shipping goods abroad.

Depressing conditions have prevailed throughout the yarn market. American qualities for home use have been sluggish, and wretched prices have been taken from time to time by needy sellers.

Some producers of Bolton spinnings are more inclined to seek orders, but fine counts are still deeply under contract.

SHIPPING IN EGYPTIAN PORTS.

The Ports and Lights Administration have issued a statistical report for shipping, cargo, and passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 1916. One hundred and forty-two steamers arrived in Alexandria; out of that number 83 were British, 179,084 tons of cargo was discharged and 1,692 passengers landed. The departures from this port included 159 steamers, 248,872 tons of cargo and 2,646 passengers.

The arrivals in Port Said (not transiting the Suez Canal) numbered 40 steamers, 8,942 tons of cargo discharged, and 314 passengers landed, the departures from this port were 39 steamers, 1,548 tons of cargo, and 98 passengers. The Suez Basin arrivals were 78 steamers, 48,205 tons of cargo, and 478 passengers. Apart from the number of ordinary passengers, 1,892 pilgrims landed at this port.

During the three months 90,684 tons of cargo and 1,784 passengers were landed or shipped at Port Said by vessels transiting the canal, and 6,190 tons of cargo and 361 passengers at Suez Road. The total number of vessels transiting the Suez Canal for the three months was 289.

INCONSTANT CONSTANTINE.

The following, says Reuter's Agency, are extracts from a communication received from a French source in Athens, dated February 12:

The Royalist Government is jealously guarding all cereals and is beginning again at Athens the comedy played at Drama and Kavala, where the people were allowed to die of starvation, while the enemy found reserves of 60,000 tons of grain. Enormous supplies of provisions are also being kept in Thessaly and at Thebes, and the Government is keeping in military storehouses quantities sufficient for a three months' campaign of an army of 100,000 men, which King Constantine boasted some weeks ago before the Entente Ministers that he could mobilise in a fortnight.

TRADE NOTES.

Algerian Cork-wood.

The Consul-General at Algiers has forwarded particulars of the quantities of cork-wood of the 1914, 1915 and 1916 harvests, cut from certain areas in the State forests in the Province of Constantine, which will be put up for sale at Constantine on March 30 and following days. Firms desirous of taking part in the sale should communicate with the "Conservateur des Eaux et Forêts," Constantine. The particulars (in French) above referred to may be consulted by British firms at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London.

Prohibitions.

A Beylical Decree, dated January 16, is published in the *Journal Officiel Tunisien* for January 27, which prohibits the exportation and re-exportation of made-up articles of linen tissue from Tunis. Exceptions from this prohibition may, however, be allowed under conditions laid down by the Tunisian Director-General of France.

A *Government Gazette* contains a copy of a Proclamation, dated December 18, 1916, prohibiting the export from the Sudan of gold, whether in coin or bullion, except with the permission of the Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, or an officer appointed by him in that behalf.

Sale of Enemy Property.

Mr. R. E. Moore, Savoy Chambers, Cairo, Receiver of the Gasmotoren Fabrick Dentz, has called for tenders for the purchase of the book debts due to the firm.

Licences to Trade.

The following have been granted licences to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain: Djanga-zoff, Rachko Ivan, 81, Rue Attarine, Alexandria; Ankimoff, Nicholas Vassileff, 13, Rue Sobqui, Alexandria.

AMERICAN RELIEF FOR SERBIANS.

CORFU, March 7.

The official Serbian Press Bureau has issued the following statement:—

"Mr. Stuart, the delegate of the American Red Cross, declared in Paris that the Bulgarian Government had refused to allow him to distribute relief to the Serbian inhabitants of the invaded territories. In connection with Mr. Stuart's allegation, the Bulgarian Official Telegraph Agency issued, under date of February 27, a statement to the effect that Bulgarian official circles were unaware of the steps taken by certain American circles, and maintained that Mr. Stuart's declaration was a slander. In contradiction of this Bulgarian denial, we affirm that at the end of 1915 Mr. Stuart personally and officially made application to the Bulgarian Government, but his request was refused. Subsequently Mr. Stuart made several further attempts, but each time without any success.

The Bulgarian Government, which has refused to recognise our Red Cross Society, and which has also interrupted postal communication between the inhabitants of the invaded territories and their relatives abroad, remains true to its principles in refusing even to allow the American Red Cross to distribute relief to our unhappy fellow-countrymen. Such is the Bulgarian system."—Reuter.

LONDON TO KARACHI IN SEVEN DAYS

Speaking of overland routes, in the course of a lecture on "Mesopotamia: The Key to the Future," at Bristol on Sunday, Canon Parfit, M.A., said it would be possible in the future to travel from London to Karachi, via Persia, in seven days, and from London to Port Darwin, in Australia, in fourteen days, and, as Lord Montagu said, by aerial navigation for mails in three days. Mr. Parfit paid a high tribute to General Townshend and his brave comrades in their heroic stand at Kut. General Maude had made good that misfortune, and interesting events might be expected hourly of still further British successes. General Sir Percy Skyes, in co-operation with the Russians, was driving the Turks out of Western Persia, and would soon join the British Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia. Pictures were thrown on the screen of many places in the region under consideration—public buildings, waterways, irrigation schemes, railways, the great oilfields, the natives, their costumes, customs, etc.

PRODUCE REPORT.**Currants.**

LONDON, March 8.

The market has been very active, with large business done in all available quantities at continuously advancing prices. The apparent reason was given in last week's report. There are no Provincials in the market, and Amalias are quoted 88s. to 92s., against 44s. to 48s. last year; Patras 90s. to 94s., against 45s. to 47s.; Gulf 90s. to 96s., against 45s. to 50s.; Vostizza 90s. to 98s., against 45s. to 49s.; Islands 90s. to 95s., against 44s. to 46s.; Smalls 78s. to 90s., against 42s. to 50s. In the Liverpool market there is a scarcity of all qualities, and what is available is changing hands at very high prices. There is, of course, no prospect of any arrivals at present, and prices undoubtedly will continue to advance.

Sultanas.

There has been a fair demand, with some business done at advanced prices, especially in Afghanistan fruit, which holders believe will have a further advance.

Figs.

There is a good demand only for the lowest qualities and out-of-condition fruit, which are used for manufacturing purposes or cattle-feeding.

Dates.

A good demand has prevailed this week, with business done at considerably advanced prices. Persians sell at 42s. to 44s., against 16s. to 28s. last year, the same period.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet, but steady at about late rates; Calcutta-to-London, afloat, February-March and March-April, 112s.; with Bombay, February-March and March-April, at 114s. Bombay to Hull, spot and afloat, 112s. is asked. Rape seed is firm on scanty offerings. To London from Cawnpore, prompt, 95s. is asked. Cotton seed is quiet and easier to Hull. Egyptian to London, f.a.q., spot and prompt, £20, and Sakelarides, spot, £19 5s.; to Hull, f.a.q., afloat, £19 10s.; and prompt was sold also at £19 10s., with Sakelarides, afloat, at £18 10s. Bombay, afloat, £19 is offered by buyers, whilst sellers ask £19 10s. Rangoon Beans are steady; spot is quoted at £68; new crop, March, was sold at £54; March-April quoted £52 10s.; April-May, £51 10s.; and May-June, £49 10s., c.i.f.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet, spot pipes selling at £51 15s., and spot, barrels, at £52; March-April, £53; and May-August, £54 15s. Rape oil is firm; refined, English, in barrels, spot, sells at £65. Cotton oil is steady; crude, pipes, spot, £49 15s.; refined, pale, pipes, £53 10s.; and sweet, barrels, £59 to £61, as

to make. Olive Oil: There are no supplies on the market, and quotations are unavailable.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes are rather dull, and with the exception of some very small business passing nothing is going on, which may be attributed to the probable restrictions likely to be imposed by the Controller, as was mentioned in our report last week. London makes sell quietly at £19 10s. to £20, with prime American at £18 to £18 5s.

Cotton Cakes.

There is a marked scarcity of Egyptian, and prices are fully 2s. 6d. to 5s. per ton dearer, spot parcels making £15 10s. 6d. to £15 15s.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended February 10, 1917.

	1916.	1917.
	£M.	£M.
Feb. 1-Feb. 10	6,842	7,105
April 1-Feb. 10	160,613	185,812

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
February 28	230,000	60,000
March 1	470,000	80,000
March 5	170,000	250,000



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

**CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.**

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

**Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.**

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

**Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.**

**Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.**

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

**Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.**

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The Financial Prosperity of Egypt.

Surplus Revenue of £E2,290,448 in the Nine Months to December, 1916.

CAIRO, Feb. 13.

The State accounts for December show that the public Exchequer is in a most satisfactory situation. During the month the revenue came to £E1,817,634 and the expenditure to £E1,116,565, as compared with £E1,829,547 and £E888,575 respectively in December, 1915, but the general position has so improved that there is a surplus of revenue of £E2,290,448 as a result of the nine months' administration against one of £E1,405,228 a year ago. The total figures for the period are actually:—Revenue, £E15,266,367; expenditure, £E12,975,919.

Practically every head of revenue shares in the improvement. Direct taxes are £E93,250 up, Customs have increased by £E36,203, tobacco dues by £E76,824, legal fees by £E62,077, railway receipts by £E782,199, Post Office by £E21,673, Domains by £E132,877, and sale of land by £E26,082. As before, the only important decrease is port dues, which have fallen off by £E26,847.

Record Year in View.

It is interesting to note that with three months still to run Customs dues have exceeded the estimate for the year, £E1,850,000, by over £E200,000; Domains sales, their estimate, £E492,000, by £E128,000; and that fees from the Mah-kamas, rents and sale of land are all slightly in excess of the budgetary figures for the whole year, whilst railway receipts are but £E58,000 below their total of £E3,394,000.

It looks very much as if we shall have a record year, and that not only the revenue will be within measurable distance of £E20,000,000, but the surplus will be high on £E3,000,000, if, indeed, it does not actually exceed that figure. Neither of these limits has ever been reached before, the previous records, taking into account the operations on the reserve, which used to be shown separately, being, as regards revenue, the year 1912, when the total receipts were £E17,848,352, and as regards surplus, the year 1915, when the net balance in favour of the State was £E2,435,159.

Expenditure is being kept down with a vigorous hand, and despite the claims, very rightly recognised, of the railways and of the Public Works, the total for the nine months is only a million more than at the end of December, 1915. The final figures will very probably prove to have been kept within budgetary limits.

The Customs' Returns.

CAIRO, February 21.

The Customs returns published last night show that the turn of the year has not interfered with the progress of the country's foreign trade. During January imports amounted to £E2,594,045 and exports to £E5,362,438 as against £E1,695,054 and £E3,248,369 respectively a year ago. Both these figures are in excess of the corresponding ones in 1913 and 1912, the exports considerably so.

The chief imports during the month were Preserved Meat £E129,798 (from England and Australia), Skins £E16,869 (equally from England and America), Boots £E16,801 (from England and Switzerland), Rice £E245,087 (from India), Flour £E33,623 (from the British Empire), Dried Fruits £E20,279, Raw Sugar £E147,081 (from Java), Coffee £E23,436 (one third from India), Pepper £E19,813 (nearly all from the British Empire), Mineral Oils £E40,617 (mostly from the United States), Stationery £E61,715 (30 per cent. from England, 25 per cent. from Italy and the balance from Holland and Scandinavia), Furniture £E45,482 (80 per cent. from England), Coal £E201,332 (80 per cent. from England and the rest from the United States), Natural Indigo £E47,298 (from India), Matches £E18,846 (from Sweden and Italy), Drugs £E37,425 (of which one third from England), Chemical Manures £E126,341

(practically all from Chili), Textiles £E700,579 (of which 70 per cent. from the British Empire and 16 per cent. from Italy), Worked Iron and Steel £E102,747 (80 per cent. from England), and Machinery £E63,968.

Increases.

The chief increases were in Preserved Meat £E117,649, Rice £E244,982, Raw Sugar £E147,075, Mineral Oils £E32,559, Stationery £E40,359, Furniture £E41,494, Coal £E33,150 (but the quantity fell off by 1,000 tons), Natural Indigo £E27,424, Chemical Manures £E118,997, Cotton Threads £E23,387, Cotton Tissues £E108,804, Worked Iron and Steel £E37,075, and Machinery £E42,653. Decreases were recorded in Flour £E27,241 (the quantity was 1,655 tons less), Construction Wood £E98,861, and Sacks £E46,614; again no Petroleum was imported.

Exports.

Exports of importance during the month were Eggs £E95,904, Cotton Seed £E285,239, Cotton Cake £E88,301, Wool £E3,821, Gold and Silver Bar £E10,544 (practically all of which went to England), Tanned and Raw Skins £E53,997, Cereals £E35,303, Sugar £E18,997, Cotton Seed Oil £E8,374 (all of which went to France), Cotton £E4,685,701 (of which England took 45 per cent., the States 30 per cent., and Italy and Switzerland each 5 per cent.). Cereals fell off all along the line, owing to the prohibition of export of all foodstuffs; there will in all probability be a very marked diminution in this category this year as there is little prospect of the local production increasing to such an extent as to permit any export on any useful scale. Eggs also fell off by £E54,000 in value and about three millions in quantity; Cotton, although the value improved by £E2,154,450 or nearly 80 per cent, decreased by 55,796 cantars. Cigarettes were exported to the extent of £E21,583, an improvement of £E3,695 in value and 4,618 kilos in weight.

Trade Distribution.

England sent £E970,814 of the imports, somewhat less in proportion than last year; the United States £E134,531, and Italy £E192,384, in each case more in proportion than before. On the other hand the rest of the Empire just about trebled its sales to this country, whilst Russia and France fell off considerably. As the major part of the exports consisted of cotton, the proportion of that commodity taken by the principal countries represents very approximately their share in the total export.

Trade with the Sudan underwent considerable improvement, the total turnover during the month amounting to £E221,869, as against £E144,495, the previous year; of this £E137,669 was import from the Sudan and the balance export to that country. The principal imports were Livestock £E38,480, Maize £E44,725, Sesame £E24,921, and Senna £E4,430; the chief exports were Sugar £E11,125, Cotton Tissues £E21,421, Butter £E5,480, Flour £E2,321 and Tobacco £E10,058.

A recent telegram announced that the Proconnisos, a Greek ship recently requisitioned by the Royalist Government to go to the United States to bring a cargo of 5,000 tons of grain for the assistance of the Royalist population of Old Greece, had been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. The Proconnisos was a steel screw steamer of 2,769 tons, which was built at Sunderland in 1902, and is shown by Lloyd's Register to have been renamed Verdun and to have a French registry. No owner's name is given. As the Proconnisos the ship was owned by N. J. Eustathiadis and registered at Andros, Greece.

HUN METHODS IN MOROCCO.

A Timely Exposure of Sharp Trade Practices.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade has received a copy of a pamphlet, which has been issued by the Economic Service of the Residence-General in Morocco, containing advice to French merchants and traders wishing to do business in Morocco. The following is a free translation of a portion of the pamphlet, which describes the methods adopted by German and Austrian firms in carrying on business in that country:—

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

Subsidies.

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

The Moors, like native races in other parts of the world, willingly sacrifice quality in goods to appearance, and seek cheapness before all things. Their wants were appreciated and catered for by the Austro-German manufacturers and commission agents who engaged in the "muck and truck" trade, and by this means the goodwill of a clientele with primitive tastes and always susceptible to low prices was secured.

Credit.

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

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

Orange merchants of Murcia (Spain) have held a meeting at which it was decided to ask the Government to obtain the free exportation of oranges for all countries.

Judge W. Thorrie, Judge of First Instance on the Mixed Tribunals at Alexandria, has been appointed British representative on the International Finance Commission at Athens.

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Pump Windmills.

We had occasion in previous Engineering Notes to allude to the large demand for windmills—especially for pumping purposes—in the Near East, where, owing to the prolongation of dry seasons, droves of cattle are often entirely destroyed owing to the want of water. Where dug-out wells exist the means to raise water are generally inadequate, being, as a rule, of primitive designs; where such wells do not exist the sinking of new modern wells has become an emergent necessity. In many cases even the local government boring machines have been called in use to supply cattle with the water necessary to sustain life. As usual, German and American firms have done their best to secure control of the market, and a number of boring sets and windmills with pumps have been successfully introduced by them. There is still, however, a large field in the Near and Middle East for work in that line, and British manufacturers should be prepared to grasp the opportunities which remain after the war.

Two kinds of pumping windmill sets are saleable: a light one, for pumping water for cattle, and a heavier one, to pump for irrigation purposes. The main points considered in purchasing such sets are lightness, combined with great capacity, facility in transport, and ability to be set in motion by the lightest breeze. Windmills answering these conditions will meet with a ready sale. Up to now American-built windmills have been preferred, as partly answering these requirements. As we know, there are British-built windmills which can entirely answer such requirements, and there is no doubt that, without particularly great efforts, the market could be secured. Care should be given to the packing and shipment of goods. Duplicate parts must be at hand, so that broken machinery can be repaired at short notice. This is a point to which German, as well as American, manufacturers give special attention, and which, it must be admitted, we, as a rule, neglect.

New Farm Tractor Factory.

The news that Messrs. Henry Ford and Son have received permission from the Government to build works in Cork to make low-priced farm tractors at the rate of 50,000 a year has not, apparently, caused any comments in British motor manufacturers' circles, nor in those other circles which, undoubtedly, will be affected if the permission is also given—as indeed it is reported—that materials will be brought from America both for the works and for their product! In the meantime it is reported that the Ministry of Munitions have authorised Mr. S. F. Edge to call British motor manufacturers together to ascertain if they will organise an enterprise at least commensurate with that of the Ford Company, so that they can supply the British market, both at Home and Overseas, with British-made tractors.

Substitute for Acetylene.

The use of acetylene in the Near East has, in recent years, been continuously increasing. Apart from all sizes of plants for its production and accessories for lighting purposes, which are imported mostly from the Continent of Europe and America, there are in some of the larger towns native manufacturers who, in their small workshops, can turn out annually a number of cheap "home-made" lamps which are often seen in out-of-the-way villages, lighting humble cottages, vineyards, store-sheds, etc. The fear of explosion and the higher price of calcium carbide, however, restrict in some way a wide use which otherwise this illuminant would enjoy. With the newly-invented thermalene gas, such restrictions may disappear, and the acetylene light will become more popular in

the East. This new gas, which is recommended as a substitute for acetylene, and is described as an acetylene, is, in its generation, impregnated with oil gas, and thereby rendered less explosive than acetylene and more suitable for lighting. Thermalene is generated "packed" in closed tin cases or cartridges, which are charged with alternating layers of calcium carbide and sawdust, the latter being soaked in oil. When water penetrates into the cartridge from below—the cartridge having been pushed into the generator—acetylene is liberated with the evolution of heat, the oil is heated, and the acetylene becomes impregnated with the oil gas as it forces its way through the sawdust.

Precautions.

As the resulting lime expands considerably, and as oil and carbide must not come in direct contact with each other, the layers of carbide and of oil are separated by two discs of cardboard, between which spaces metal spirals are interposed. The lime and impurities in the carbide remain in the cartridge, and are ejected with it. It is also claimed that the carbide in a cartridge need not all be decomposed at the same time. The cartridges, 8 in. high, 4½ in. diameter, weigh 5 lbs. each. The largest cartridge weighs 40 lbs.

Heavier than Air.

Thermalene gas is described as heavier than air, density 1.1, and as being less explosive than acetylene. Liquefied thermalene is not explosive at all. The gas requires less oxygen than acetylene for burning, and its specific heat is only an eighth of that of acetylene. It mixes better with oxygen, when it is said to give a better flame. Thermalene is also credited with having a sweet, not unpleasant, smell, and with not being poisonous. It is also recommended for welding, as its flame does absorb carbon from the iron in welding, so that a soft weld is obtained, especially with cast-iron. The weld is made with the aid of a torch, which is specially designed against flashing back.

British Magnetos.

For the benefit of the uninitiated, it may be explained that magneto is a compact and specialised form of dynamo fitted on car engines, and so designed that when driven by the engine it shall supply electricity for the ignition of the charges in the cylinders, and ensure that the sparking for this purpose is passed between the points of the sparking plug in the cylinder at the right moment. It is strange to say that until the war broke out we were practically entirely dependent on one German factory for our supply of these necessary adjuncts to all motors. The peril was grave, because in spite of all hurried efforts at the time, no more than 100 magnetos per week could be produced here. This was, of course, a very small quantity, considering the great number of the machines wanted for aeroplanes, seaplanes, airships, motor lorries, motor ambulances, motor cycles, motor boats, heavy gun tractors, wireless sets, searchlight sets, and other mechanisms dependent on the internal combustion engine.

British Advance.

With remarkable rapidity and adaptability, however, the British magneto industry has been built up in the face of great technical difficulties, and there are now more than a dozen firms making magnetos sufficient for war purposes and private use; and these British-made machines have been proved to be more efficient and reliable than any that has yet been produced, even in Germany.

Work in Mesopotamia.

The despatch from Sir Percy Lake, K.C.B., issued recently, indicates that a considerable amount of engineering work is in progress in Mesopotamia, although necessarily few details are given. Two new railways are under construction, water communications are being

dredged and generally improved, and at Basrah extensive engineering works have been made, and wharves have been built at which ocean-going steamers will be able to unload. General Lake specially mentions the able assistance given by Mr. W. Grant, Admiralty Overseer at Abadan, in preparing river craft for service. The work of the Indian Marine comes in for prominent notice. It is stated that the rapid growth of its duties may be gathered from the fact that whereas in January, 1916, there were nineteen permanent and twenty-one temporary officers and 525 other ranks employed, by July the number had risen to forty permanent and 163 temporary officers and 3,981 other ranks, besides native labourers. "The necessity for assimilating this large influx of newly appointed officers and men threw a heavy strain on the permanent cadres who were also faced with many unforeseen demands. That under these conditions its duties have been carried out with a considerable measure of success is distinctly creditable to the service." We quote further regarding the preparation of the port of Basrah, as follows:—"The appointment of Sir G. C. Buchanan to the Force as Director-General of Port Administration and River Conservancy, has been of undoubted value. Owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining certain stores and equipment from India and Burma, and to sickness among the supervising staff, the work of developing the port of Basrah, and of dredging and improving water communications generally, was at first delayed. It is now, however, well in hand, and the results already achieved are sufficient to show that the projected measures will have a far-reaching effect on the business of the port and our all-important river communications. Sir G. Buchanan especially desires to mention the assistance he has received from Lieutenant J. G. Grant, R.E."

THE WORLD'S TRADE.

Sir Albert Stanley, the President of the Board of Trade, has issued figures relating to the trade and commerce of foreign countries and British possessions.

IMPORTS (Eleven months ended November).			
	1914.	1915.	1916.
France.....	239,812,000	378,049,000	
Spain.....	38,247,000	33,138,000	
United States.....	348,879,000	455,588,000	
Japan.....	56,413,000	69,615,000	
British South Africa.....	34,159,000	39,268,000	
British India.....	102,334,000	95,641,000	
Egypt.....	21,188,000	27,907,000	
United Kingdom.....	539,635,000	782,138,000	
Russia (10 months).....	91,827,000	110,654,000	
	1913.	1915.	
Switzerland (12 months)....	54,826,000	66,659,000	
Italy (9 months).....	91,848,000	151,871,000	
Canada (10 months).....	86,205,000	123,682,000	
Australia.....	62,363,000	57,188,000	
New Zealand.....	18,176,000	20,765,000	
EXPORTS (Domestic). (Eleven months ended November).			
	1914.	1915.	1916.
France.....	184,128,000	133,179,000	
Spain.....	30,856,000	50,683,000	
United States.....	381,336,000	1,022,187,000	
Japan.....	54,682,000	100,309,000	
British India.....	129,774,000	137,956,000	
Egypt.....	21,901,000	30,848,000	
British South Africa.....	16,723,000	19,083,000	
United Kingdom.....	403,952,000	466,532,000	
Russia (10 months).....	88,581,000	44,044,000	
	1913.	1915.	
Switzerland (12 months)....	54,826,000	66,659,000	
Italy (9 months).....	61,670,000	61,174,000	
Canada (10 months).....	61,508,000	175,156,000	
Australia.....	49,912,000	51,502,000	
New Zealand.....	20,581,000	27,322,000	

The Board of Trade has awarded a piece of plate to Captain Gerasimos Bonikos, master of the Greek steamship Castro, of Piræus, for his services to the shipwrecked crews of the steamships Meroe and Torino, of Liverpool, whom he rescued in the Atlantic on October 30.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN Anglo-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boiler and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 4,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 798.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan. "
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

How to Solve the Light Railways Problem.

A Contractor's Sound Advice to British Manufacturers and Shippers of Plant and Material.

Mr. J. W. Williamson, the well-known contractor, of Cairo and Ismailia, writes as follows to THE NEAR EAST on the subject of light railway material:—

I see in your issue of January 6, 1917, under the heading of "Light Railways Problems," that a company (Light Railways Limited) has been formed to deal with the export of light railway materials, with the special object to supplant the Germans in Eastern and Colonial centres.

Being a buyer of light railway material and spare parts on a fairly large scale, I am pleased to hear of the formation of this company, and perhaps the following information may be of use to Light Railways Limited, or any other firm that may intend trying to obtain a footing in the Egyptian market:—

Watch the Huns.

In the first place it must be accepted as a fact that the German firms which hitherto had practically a monopoly of light railway material in Egypt will make strenuous efforts as soon as the war is over to recover the trade; in fact, if I am not mistaken, they have already begun operations, for I notice that several of their late employees who are neutral subjects have started business in this line in their own names and are sending circulars to clients of their former employers touting for business. I attach one of these circulars, from which you will note that at least two of the names composing the firm issuing the circular look very like German. I also know of two other late employees of a former German firm who have jointly started a similar business, selling second-hand German material, which they buy, repair, and renew. It is possible that these are both genuine efforts to start a business for themselves independent of their late employers; but, knowing the German as we now do, and his methods of doing business, it is probable that ejected firms will use any means that are available to reinstate their hold on the trade until the war is over, when they will be able to import German material, either direct from Germany or through neutral countries, such as Holland or Switzerland.

Another important point—perhaps the most important—to keep in view is the manner in which the German firms conducted their business in Egypt before the war. Doubtless the same system was adopted in other Eastern countries, though I only speak from personal knowledge of Egypt. These firms kept a very large stock of light railway material in Egypt, consisting of rails of different section and weight, sleepers, trucks and locomotives, with all spare parts, so that they could supply any demand immediately and deliver at any place in Egypt within forty-eight hours of the receipt of an order.

German Methods.

This is a very important point, as the largest buyers of this light railway material are earthwork contractors; nearly all contracts are put up to public adjudication, and until the day of opening the tenders no contractor knows if his tender will be accepted. If he is successful he has a month, and often less time, allowed to begin work, and should his material be employed on another job, he has immediately to purchase rails and rolling stock and get them on the site, fixed, and ready to start on due date.

The German firms, besides their principal depot, where they kept their stock, had large showrooms in Cairo and Alexandria, with agents in all other principal towns and a whole staff of travellers, doubtless paid by results if we may judge by the energy and perseverance they displayed in the booking of orders.

Whenever and wherever public tenders for any earthwork or engineering contracts were opened their agents or travellers were present taking notes of the names and addresses of the competing contractors, the rates of their tender, the value of the con-

tract, and conditions of payment. All the contractors, and especially the successful one, would be visited on the same day, and offers to supply light railway material on favourable terms of payment would be made.

Terms.

These terms, generally, were as follows:—A contractor, having secured an earthwork contract, say, of a gross value of £10,000, which he has to finish in a period of six months, with monthly payments for work done, requires to purchase £500 worth of material and spare parts. The German firm offers to let him have this material on condition that he signs five bills each of £100 falling due at intervals of one month between each bill. Should any of these bills be unpaid on due date, the courts could be moved immediately to issue an order to the Government department, company, or private individual who has given out the contract to make no further payments to the contractor until the case is tried. This brings the contractor immediately to book because he cannot afford to have his encashments stopped—he has to pay his workmen and other expenses week by week.

This system was adopted with the innumerable small contractors. With the more important contracting firms that take up works of greater magnitude the Germans gave either very large discounts for cash or six, nine, and twelve months' credit, as might be required. Any British firm wishing to secure the Egyptian market for light railway material will have to adopt a similar system; otherwise it is bound to fail to do business except with firms that can pay cash, even if it can undercut the Germans both in price and quality.

An Essential Condition.

Mr. Williamson writes in a subsequent letter:—"I omitted to mention one very essential condition to which any British firm striving to capture the Egyptian market must conform, that is, that all gauges sections and sizes of material must be manufactured to the metric system of measurements and quoted for on that system in Egyptian currency."

"The sizes in general use are rails weighing 5, 7, 9, and 12 kilos per metre run fixed in pairs with 5 to 7 steel sleepers to gauges of 50 to 60 and 75 centimetres; tipping trucks are made of $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 metre cubic capacity and so on all through. The metric system is in general use in Egypt and at least 99 per cent. of the buyers of this class of material understand no other measurement and will not bother to learn the English system. If the British public could be brought to see the amount of valuable time they waste working with our complicated system and our manufacturers and merchant the volume of trade which is annually lost to them for the same reason, there would be some hope that advantage would be taken of the general upheaval brought about by the war to alter the same to the metric system as the Germans did after their successful war against France in 1870-1."

COLOMBO TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The following exports were registered at Colombo and Galle from Egypt between January 1 and February 5, 1917:—Black tea, 292,850 lb.; Cinnamon quills, 60 lb.; Cocoanuts 496,223 lb.

Levant Base:—Black tea, 89,500 lb.

The Spanish Cabinet has decided to prohibit the transmission of telegrams containing information of the movements of shipping in Spanish ports.

It was alleged in the Australian House of Representatives recently that the British Imperial Oil Company had secured "a considerable business interest owing to its name, but it was one of fourteen so-called companies all working together," and that the managing director, who had a large German interest, lived in Holland, near the German border.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meeting.

An ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Saturday, April 7, 1917, at 4 p.m., at the head office of the bank in Cairo for the purpose of receiving the directors' report, receiving the auditors' report, submitting the accounts for the year ended December 31, 1916, declaring a dividend, electing directors, and electing auditors for the year 1917 and fixing their remuneration.

Oil Outputs.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended February 25, 49,000 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended March 4, 801 tons.

Black Sea Amalgamated Oilfields.—Week ended February 17, 20,495 poods; February 24, 20,502 poods.

British Mailkop Oil.—Week ended February 17, 1,866 poods.

Cheleken.—Fortnight ended February 24, 484 tons.

European.—Week ended February 25, 84,400 poods; March 4, 85,600 poods.

Mailkop Combine.—Week ended February 17, 15,039 poods; February 24, 14,867 poods.

North Caucasian Oil Fields.—Week ended February 7-20, 696,250 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended February 17, 50,900 poods.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

Sudan Goldfield Company.—Dividend for the year 1916 of 1s. per share, less tax, payable on March 28, the same as for 1915.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The purchase of all the carobs of the Kyrenia district has been concluded, the price being £4 10s. the ton. Tithe and weighing fees are paid by the vendors. As all the carobs are to be exported from the Famagusta district, the loss of weighing fees taken on shipment would fall on the municipalities of three ports in the Kyrenia district, and it is hoped that some arrangement may be made to provide that they shall not be thus deprived of an important source of revenue.

There seems to be good hope that the question, so long in abeyance, whether the growth of tobacco would be profitable in Cyprus, should soon be solved. At one period, before the occupation, a very fair tobacco was grown in some of the higher lands. If it is found that a leaf grown at lower altitudes, and in the plains, can compete successfully with tobacco from other countries which now supply the Empire, there should unquestionably be a great future for this branch of agriculture.

A considerable stimulus to the enterprise has been given by the experiments of last year, and encouragement is being given in several new directions. For example, an expert from Smyrna advertises in local papers offering his services to those who desire to make a start, both as regards the methods of cultivation and curing, and in advising as to soils and localities in which it would be expedient to make trials. Should the results of the forthcoming shipments of last season's crops be favourable, there can be no doubt that many Cypriot agriculturists will take up the cultivation of the plant.

A RAILWAY APPOINTMENT.

Mr. J. B. Ball, the present engineer-in-chief of the Great Central Railway, has been offered, and accepted, the appointment of chief engineer to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company, in succession to Mr. Morgan, who is retiring and joining the board of that company.

During Mr. Ball's tenure of office on the Great Central Railway he has been responsible for many heavy development works covering an expenditure of several millions, amongst these being the equipment of the Immingham Dock, the removal of two heavy tunnels at Sheffield, and the widening of the lines consequent thereon; the important widenings between Doncaster and Thorne and Wrawby Junction and Brocklesby; and the new Keadby Deviation Railway, with its combined railway and roadway bridge, with a lifting span of 165 ft.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, E.C., Thursday.

Our market has been very quiet this week. Some National Banks have been done at about 13½, and a few hundred Agriculturals have been bought on local account up to 5 3-16. In Anglo-Egyptian Banks there have also been some transactions at the slightly lower level of about 11½. A small lot of Béheras changed hands at 6½, and a few thousand United Egyptian Lands at between 5d. and 6d.

Egyptian Markets have been a firmer spot, and some business has been done up to 25s. 6d. On the other hand, Salt and Sodas are rather quieter round 20s.

Khedivial Mails, after dropping about 1s. 6d. to 25s. 6d., are closing firmer at 26s.

There has been some business in Egyptian Unified round 78½, but Egyptian 3½ per cents. are sought for at 67, without finding sellers.

In Greek securities the market continues very firm, with some business to-day in Larissa and Monopoly.

Oil Shares.

No improvement is to be reported to-day in this market, but, generally speaking, the tone has been firm. The market, as a matter of fact, is not too well supplied with shares, which, of course, has had an effect on prices.

Spies have improved to 14s. 6d., and North Caucasians, Ural Caspians, and other well-known Russian lines are firm, if quiet. International Russians remained dull, with business done between 6d. and 8d., while Anglo-Maikops were inquired for, and rose to 6s. 3d.

The Paris Bourse.

The general business on the Parquet has again been unimportant in character.

Suez Canal shares have been firmer, and at the close stand at 42.36. Turkish Unified stock has been quoted a point higher at 65.25. For the rest there is little to report.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, March 8.

Considerable discussion is afoot as I report regarding the prospect of the Bank-rate being reduced this afternoon, and the view is expressed that it ought to be possible to bring the official value of money in closer touch with open market rates without leading to a withdrawal of foreign balances from this market. It is thought, too, that the authorities may find it desirable to bring about a lower standard of rates in anticipation of a resumption of the sale of Treasury bills. The decline in market rates during the past few days is in itself an indication that in the money market the view is held that there is at least a possibility of the rate being reduced to 5 per cent.

The general rate for weekly loans is in the vicinity of 4½ per cent., though a few of the clearing banks stand out for 5. Day-to-day loans are being arranged at 4½ per cent. to 4 per cent.

The latest quotation for exchange on Alexandria, sight, is 97½.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended Feb. 24.	1917. Week ended Feb. 22.
Cattle markets	1,089	1,327
General markets	338	397
Cattle markets closed	2	9
Receipts (£)	1,427	1,724
Total from commencement of year (£)	11,218	12,912

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuok and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax,
Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Pack-
ings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable
Address: "Samokh, Manchester." Exporters of all
classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleach-
ing, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing
Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK
EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price July 27, 1915.	Price Mar. 2.	Pre- sent Price.
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	28	67	67
Greek 5%, 1881	57	51	51
Do. 5%, 1884	56	51	51
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	46½	46½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	41	41
Do. 5%, 1890	56	50	50
Do. 5% Fin. L., 1893	54	49	49
Do. 4% Rents, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5% L., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71xd	71xd
Do. 5% Current	—	87xc	87xd
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	—	—	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. L., 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	72½	72½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	66	66
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	6½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank, Persia	—	—	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	3	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5	5
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	9½	9½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% ..	90	74½	74
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	2½	2½	2½
Béhéra Co.	8½	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2½	2½	2½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. Do. and Foreign Trust	9½	8½	8½
Gharbiéh Land Co.	1½	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	8½
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-6	-6

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	20/6	25/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	20/6	20/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	27/-	26/-
Do. do. Prefrs.	3½	3½	3½

OIL.

	Price on Feb. 15.	Feb. 22.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/5	10/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21/-	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6
Roumanian Consolidated	9/3	9/-

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON FEBRUARY 16.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E. 13½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. —	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E. 12½	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. —	—	—
lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. —	—	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. —	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) Privilegiée	Frs. 68	—	—
Cheikh Fadi	Frs. 73	—	—
Urbanes et Rurales	L.E. —	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte ..	—	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	—	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. —	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. —	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. —	—	—
Unifiée	L.E. 81	—	—
Privilegiée	70	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt	4½	—	—
" Fondateur	—	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	—	—	—
Nungovich Hotels	2½	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	5½	—	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	—	—	—
Ord.	25/-	—	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	4½	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways ..	Frs. 5	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 102	—	—
Jouissance	Frs. 156	—	—
Egyptian Markets	—	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv. ..	Frs. 270	—	—
Div.	Frs. 200	—	—
Braeries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 170	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	20/9	—	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 635	—	—
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 350	—	—
" 1903	Frs. 261	—	—
" 1911	Frs. 261	—	—
Delta Lands	—	—	—
Port Said Salt	—	—	—
Cotton Ginnery	10/-	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	P.T. —	—	—
United Lands	—	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	—	—	—
Fond	—	—	—

NOTICES.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Saturday, the 7th April, 1917, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report.
- Receiving the Auditors' Report.
- Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1916.
- Declaring a dividend.
- Electing Directors.
- Electing Auditors for the year 1917 and fixing their remuneration.

All shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting, providing the Shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:

In Egypt, at the latest, the 2nd April, 1917.

At the Head Office, Cairo.

At the Branch of Alexandria.

At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiout, Assouan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Dammanhour, Fayoum, Kench, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod el Farag, Sohag, Tanta, Zagazig, and Mousky (Cairo).

At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

Bank of Athens,
Banque Belge pour l'Etranger,
Imperial Ottoman Bank,
Banque d'Orient,
Banco di Roma,
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio,
Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris,
Crédit Lyonnais.

In the Soudan, at the latest, the 28th March, 1917, at the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt, at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakim.

In Europe, at the latest, the 16th March, 1917. In Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise.

In Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

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

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.

Cairo, the 27th February, 1917.

IMPORTANT EXTENSION OF TIME.
IN LIQUIDATION, by ORDER of the OFFICER
COMMANDING in CHIEF H.M. FORCES in
EGYPT.

EGYPTISCHE EGRENIE FABRIKEN A.G.
(Egyptian Cotton-Ginning Factory Company.)

NOTICE OF SALE

of a large and important COTTON-GINNING FACTORY of 90 cotton gins (including 10 for extra cotton) at Wasta (Bani Suef Province), Upper Egypt, situated on the Nile, and directly connected with the Egyptian State Railway, and 1½ hours by train from Cairo.

OFFERS for the PURCHASE of this Valuable PROPERTY will be received by Mr. H. Bridson, the Receiver of the above-mentioned Enemy Company (appointed the 30th day of May, 1916, by the C.-in-C. of H.M. Forces in Egypt), at his office at 6, Old Bourse Street, Alexandria, Egypt, on or before the 15th day of March, 1917, to which date the time has been extended.

Offers should be made on the form attached to the printed Conditions of Sale, and must be accompanied by a deposit in cash equal to one-tenth of the price offered. Deposits accompanying offers which are refused will be returned to the owners at their risk.

The said Receiver reserves the right to refuse any offer without giving the reasons for such refusal, and shall not be bound to accept the highest offer.

The property will be sold subject to the conditions contained in the printed Conditions of Sale ("Cahier des Charges").

The property consists of 12 feddans, 23 kirates, and 4 ashmes, or thereabouts (approximately 54,560 square metres or thereabouts), and the large cotton-ginning factory built in 1913 and of the latest type, with Manager's and Employees' Dwelling Houses, Offices, Oil Reservoir, and Stores, and other Buildings erected thereon, and the Gins, Diesel Oil Engines, (Dynamoes, Presses, and other Machinery, Tools, Implements, Office Furniture, Fittings, and Effects therein and thereon.

The buildings cover 5,408 square metres or thereabouts.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale and copies of the general plan of the property can be obtained of Frederick Leveaux, of 6, Old Bourse Street, Alexandria, Advocate, or of Messrs. Field, Roscoe, and Co., of 36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, Solicitors, or of Messrs. Oliver Jones, Bilton, and Co., of 5, Cook Street, Liverpool, Solicitors.

The deeds and documents of title can be inspected at the aforesaid office of Mr. Frederick Leveaux, the advocate of the said Receiver, any weekday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

The property can be inspected on application to the said Receiver.

PARIS BOURSE.

	Feb. 22.	Feb. 23.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	425	—
Canal de Suez	4445	4236
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	675	620
Serbian, 1895	55.50	—

THE NEAR EAST.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	457	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	462	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	471
Cairo	459	The Return Flood	462	American Trade Energy in	
Cyprus	460	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	464	the Middle East	472
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	468	Produce Report	473
The Turco-German "Allies":		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	469	Lancashire Cotton Market ..	473
An Arab View	461	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Cereals in Egypt	473
The New Turkish Ministry	461	Marko Kraljevitch and the		Banned Firms	474
The Gift of Tongues	467	Serbian Soldier (Dr. M.		Engineering Notes	475
LEADING ARTICLE—		Curcin)	463	Company Notes	475
The Dardanelles Commission	466	"A New Translation of the		On 'Change	476
		Koran"	463	Stock and Share List	476

No. 306.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1917.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The capture of Baghdad is the logical sequel of the victory at Kut—logical both from the military and from the political point of view. When, after two months of almost ceaseless hammering by artillery fire and of systematic attack by infantry, the British troops finally turned the Turkish position the enemy found himself hopelessly broken. Thanks to the careful and thorough nature of his preparations and to the support he received from the General Staff at home, General Maude was able not only to pursue the Turks with his cavalry, but also to keep up with them with practically his whole force. At no point did the enemy have time to re-form his shattered army. The first attempt at a stand was made at Lajj, some twenty-seven miles from Baghdad; but its speedy collapse led to the abandonment of the Ctesiphon position and shortened the time at the enemy's disposal for the preparation of the Diala lines. Here again General Maude's resources, which enabled him to throw a force across the Tigris with little loss of time, left the Turks completely outmanœuvred, and the pursuit had now reached the outskirts of Baghdad itself. The battle for the town lasted three days; details of the fighting are not yet known, but by March 11 the city was in the hands of the British.

The pursuit of the enemy has not ceased with the entry into Baghdad. Two days later General Maude was able to announce that his advanced detachments had reached a point thirty miles farther up-stream, and, more important still, that steps had been taken to prevent the flooding of the city during the coming rise in the river. Some idea of the completeness of the Turkish *débâcle* can be formed from the fact that the British troops found in Baghdad a small arms factory in good repair, serviceable machinery uninjured in the railway workshops, together with five locomotives and some rolling stock. Even the British guns captured at the surrender of Kut in April, 1916, have also been recovered in Baghdad. General Maude's reference to the steps taken to prevent the flooding of the city are a welcome indication of the attention now being paid to the details of the occupation. Both military and economic considerations enter into the permanent success of Great Britain's presence in Mesopotamia. Not only will it be necessary to have a frontier which lends itself to defence, but the territory actually under British influence must be extended far enough to the north to enable the irrigation schemes necessary for the development of the region between Baghdad and the Persian

Gulf to be elaborated without fear of international complications in the catchment area.

The success of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force is a triumph of organisation, supported by sound and, it may well prove, brilliant generalship. When we read of "the fierce gales, the blinding dust-storms, lack of water away from the river, and the vigour of the pursuit," we know, too, that without the splendid qualities shown by the troops under his command, Indian as well as British—their dash and staying powers—General Maude could not have reaped the fruits of the long months of painstaking preparation. But when all this is admitted, we shall do well not to make the mistake of over-rating the exploit. For those leaders of public opinion who were fain to see yet another expedition condemned to soul-deadening inactivity, with Kut as the farthest point occupied, it is perhaps not unnatural to celebrate the capture of Baghdad with excessive pæans. Others who have held that the City of the Khalifs was the only possible goal of the British troops after the failure of 1915 will regard its occupation with no less satisfaction, but with more *sang froid*.

The nation has had a long time to wait for the rehabilitation of British prestige in Nearer Asia. But though it comes late, we must admit that, owing to the way in which General Maude and his army have carried out their task, it has now been achieved most handsomely. The political effects of the capture of Baghdad will be in one direction almost unlimited. Probably no other event at this stage could appeal more powerfully to the public mind throughout the bazaars of the Eastern world. The Turkish *communiqués* may avoid all reference to the actual capture, but the story of the long retreat culminating in the immediate fall of the city will be told with all the wealth of imagination of which the Oriental is capable, and will be cited as conclusive proof of the length of Great Britain's arm. So be it. The obligation which this result imposes on the British Empire is to complete and to consolidate our possession of Mesopotamia. In this connection not the least satisfactory feature of the success is that it represents no mere hurried leap into the dark on the heels of a demoralised enemy. General Maude's advance, there is reason to believe, has been supported by the most approved methods of securing his communications, and it is no idle boast when he reports that he is satisfied that he can provide for the necessities of his army in Baghdad.

While, then, the political significance of the success is really great, we need not fall into the error of over-rating its military importance. Apart from the necessity imposed upon the Turks of adjusting their military resources to meet the altered situation in Mesopotamia, the immediate influence of the capture of Baghdad will be restricted to the operations in progress in Western Persia. One portion of the Turkish forces which had invaded Persia was based on Baghdad; the other, or northern column, was more probably despatched from Mosul. Both are retreating before the Russians, and as the southern force can no longer fall back on Baghdad, it will have to find another route, if it wishes to make good its escape. For the rest, distances in the Ottoman Empire are too great for a defeat in one theatre necessarily to react at once in the others. But inasmuch as the disaster to Turkish arms in Mesopotamia implies a shortage of man-power and equipment, so we may look for the same symptoms on the remaining fronts.

From the military point of view the chief significance of General Maude's sweeping victory lies in the tendencies which it reflects. Foremost among these, of course, is the evidence it affords of the capabilities of the British General Staff under the new regime. What has been accomplished in Mesopotamia can be reproduced in every other theatre of the war, and the nation can look forward with the greater degree of confidence to seeing similar results achieved elsewhere. In these circumstances it is impossible to refrain from instituting a comparison with the Salonika Expedition. It was under the old order that this force was condemned to its long spell of inactivity, and the policy was not one that could be hurriedly reversed. But neither along the Western Front nor in Mesopotamia is a marked predilection on the part of the Allied armies for inaction to be observed any longer; and it may be legitimate to hope that a belated effort will now be made to bring the Macedonian Force within the orbit of a general offensive. Certainly if the measure of success gained in Mesopotamia had been secured in Macedonia the military results would have been far-reaching and instantaneous. Relatively, the capture of Baghdad loses some of the importance it would otherwise have from its remoteness from the main theatres of war. In this respect German commentators are right in maintaining that its political influence is greater than its military effect. What they have not realised, however, is all that the victory stands for, nor can they accustom themselves to the idea that it must necessarily entail a permanent occupation of this portion of Turkish territory.

An interesting subject of speculation is the effect of the capture of Baghdad on the situation in Constantinople. If Talaat Pasha is at all superstitious, he may have some misgivings in regard to his capacity to break the tradition of brief Vizirates which has given Young Turkey more than a dozen occupants of that post in eight years. That the Porte will resent the presence of Turkish armies as far afield as Galicia, while large portions of the Empire are being lopped off by their enemies may be taken for granted. But it is equally certain that it will be powerless to do more than enter a mild protest. Possibly by this time the question of money carries more weight with the powers that be on the Bosphorus than such a trifle as the loss of a little more Ottoman territory. German advances amounting to £142,000,000 cannot lightly be lost sight of, however serious the reverse to Turkish arms in a distant vilayet. We may, therefore, expect to find that for the present the ordered policy of subservience to Germany which has held good for so long in Constantinople will be maintained unimpaired, at least on the surface.

The recrudescence of activity in the Caucasus would seem to challenge the statement that the effects of the Turkish reverse in Mesopotamia are not to be looked for so far away. But both here and in part of Persia Russian successes are probably based upon causes which antedate at least the fall of Kut. On the other hand,

it must be remembered that the attack on Kut began as long ago as last December, and it is hardly possible that the Turks should have failed to realise its seriousness before many weeks had elapsed. If neither the Persian nor the Armenian front was weakened in order to send fresh drafts to the Tigris, it is safe to infer that both were denied the reinforcements they had counted upon. To this extent all theatres of war are interdependent, and the fact points to the necessity of synchronising as far as possible the Allied offensive on every front. In Persia the Russian recovery is taking effect along the whole front from Lake Urmiah to Hamadan. Between Sakiz and Sehna, 160 and 80 miles north-west of Hamadan respectively, our Allies are rapidly nearing the frontier. The country does not lend itself to rapid movement; but any considerable measure of success in this neighbourhood must inevitably threaten the line of retreat of the Turkish force farther south, which is retreating from Hamadan. The forces engaged in this theatre are not great; but if the Russians could once more advance in the region of Rowandiz, they would, with the timely help of part of General Maude's army, have a good opportunity of bringing off a minor Sedan.

The sad death of Mrs. Harley, who was engaged in relief work in Monastir, will bring home the precarious nature of the Allies' occupation of that town. Its capture, it will be remembered, was due to a brilliant piece of work on the part of the Serbians and Italians, and in many quarters it has been maintained that, if General Sarrail had been in a position to co-operate with the movement by ordering a general advance all along the line, the success on the left wing would have been even more pronounced. As things are, the Allies were only able to eject the enemy from Monastir; they failed to drive them from the heights commanding the town. Consequently Monastir has remained more or less at the mercy of any guns of moderate range which the Germans could contrive to send to the Bulgarians. Recently the town has suffered from a furious bombardment, which has taken a heavy toll of civilian life. The enemy's position would seem to be too strong to be challenged successfully by a local engagement. Monastir's immunity must be won by a general action in this theatre.

The anomalous situation in Greece continues. In one direction the familiar *komitajs* have made their appearance under regular officers of the Greek army, and have succeeded in ambushing and killing a French patrol. At Patras a somewhat obscure episode, which involved the firing of some shots by Greeks at a French boat, took place in the harbour. Meanwhile, a protest against the blockade addressed to the British Prime Minister by the President of the Athens Bar gave Mr. Lloyd George an opportunity of telling the Greek people some home truths. He pointed out in his reply that the raising of the blockade depends upon the fulfilment of the demands contained in the Ultimatum and the two subsequent Notes addressed by the Entente Powers to the Greek Government. The blockade, Mr. Lloyd George added, would already have been raised had it not been for incidents such as the mining of the Corinth Canal and the continued activity of the Reservists, which give rise to suspicion. Wonderful to relate, the Athens newspapers have allowed themselves to be impressed by this answer—a sure sign that the blockade is having a salutary effect. King Constantine's vocal contributions to current history bear a marked relationship to the music of the German Emperor's legions. Both seem to be launched upon a *pianissimo* movement.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsgatherers who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 20.

The Nile Irrigation Projects.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, the Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, who, as reported at the time, went last month on a tour of inspection in the Sudan with Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, the Minister for Public Works, returned to Cairo last week. I understand that this visit has been most satisfactory. It is highly probable that as an outcome of the study of the conditions on the spot the original projects drawn up for the White and Blue Niles may undergo some alteration, or, to be more correct, some extension. The works resulting from this adjustment will be such as to afford Egypt that complete protection from the dangers of high floods of which she stands in such great need, and to ensure her water requirements now and in the distant future, the while they will provide the Gezira with all the water necessary to its development as a cereal and cotton producing area. The modification in the original projects is still under consideration, but I hope to be able to give you some interesting details within the next week or so, if, as I trust, a definite decision is reached by then.

The New Year Honours.

I gather that the list of New Year Honours conferred on Anglo-Egyptian officials, as cabled out by Reuter, is by no means to the satisfaction of the community. By this I do not mean to infer that it is considered that the recipients have not deserved the distinctions bestowed on them; on the contrary, it is recognised that long service or special work done since the outbreak of war has entitled them to these honours. It is, indeed, not the names recorded in the list, but the omissions therefrom that have again evoked comment. It is pointed out that there are several men, officials and others—to mention their names would serve us no useful purpose; nor would they thank me for so doing—who have done most excellent work, both before and since the war, but whose services appear for some mysterious reason to have been entirely overlooked. It is contended that if at this date it is considered opportune to reward men who in a civilian capacity have distinguished themselves by their service to their country, then it is surely invidious to bestow honours on some and persist in passing over others who, by reason of the length or the nature of their services, have just as great, if not greater, claims to recognition.

I pass now to another point, the honour conferred on Judge Bond. When that distinguished lawyer retired from the vice-presidency of the Native Court of Appeal considerable surprise was expressed that no public notice had been taken by the British Government of the eminent services which he had rendered, and the omission was much commented on, not only in British, but also in Egyptian circles. The bestowal of a K.C.M.G. on Judge Bond to-day, in itself a welcome sign that the authorities at home are after all not unmindful of the great work he did during his thirty years' service under the Ministry of Justice, has been hailed with delight by his ex-colleagues and his friends, who, however, sincerely regret that the honour was not conferred on him whilst he was still in office. It is held in many quarters—and very rightly so—that if a man's services with the Egyptian Government entitle him to some mark of recognition from his King, then it is a great mistake for the British authorities to wait until he has retired in order to confer an honour on him. The act savours too much of an afterthought; which is all the more regrettable when as in a case like this one the honour is so greatly merited; and at the same time it does not make the impression on the Egyptian community which it is certainly desirable that the bestowal of distinctions by H.M. the King should create. This is not the first time that an honour for services rendered under the Egyptian Government has been conferred on an English official after his retirement, and the hope is expressed that the practice will not recur.

The Census of Egypt.

A most interesting and instructive lecture on the coming Census of Egypt was delivered on Friday evening last at the Sultania Society of Political Economy by Mr. J. T. Craig, Controller of State Statistics, to whom the work of "numbering the people" has been entrusted. To many it may appear surprising that at the present juncture, when all efforts should be concentrated on winning the great war, the Egyptian Government should decide to undertake such a gigantic and cumbersome task as the taking of a census which one might think could well be put off until more peaceful times had set in. Mr. Craig, however, proved to the satisfaction of his audience the great desirability, in fact the absolute necessity, for the taking of the census next month. In the first place, the war has not stopped the Customs, the Ports and Lights, the Railway, and the Public Health and Agricultural authorities from compiling and recording their usual statistics; and since the census of the people, with all the additional data it gives as to their social and economic condition, fits all these statistics into their places of relative importance and alone enables useful and necessary deductions to be made from them, it follows that there is no logical reason why the census of the people should likewise not be taken. In fact, the omission to take it would seriously affect the utility of these statistics, and would render the proper study of the economic problems created by the war quite impossible. Secondly, it is usual in other countries to take a census at least once every ten years; if more than that interval is allowed to elapse difficulty in comparing statistics is experienced, and in the meantime deductions based on the old figures may lead to serious mistakes. Since the census was taken in Egypt in 1897 and 1907, it follows that it should also be taken in 1917. Thirdly, no effort otherwise available for the conduct of the war is devoted to the work. About 70,000 enumerators have been engaged; almost all of these are Egyptians, and the very few Europeans engaged are either temporarily lent from other Government administrations, or have been exempted from military service, or are in a few cases subjects of neutral countries.

Mr. Craig drew attention to the peculiar difficulties attending the taking of a census in a country like Egypt, amongst them the strong suspicion with which the Government's action is regarded. The people got it into their heads, mainly because they did not understand its real object, that the census was intended as the first measure of a system of new taxation, and that it was preparatory to a general conscription for the purposes of the war. It is absolutely untrue that either of these objects is at the back of the taking of the census. In any case, that it has nothing whatever to do with the war is proved by the fact that the decision to take a census in 1917 was come to as far back as 1913, when Mr. Craig was transferred to the Statistical Department. The illiteracy of the people is also a great obstacle to the



Incorporated
A.D. 1720.

Head Office
ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued to cover loss incidental to	FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUAR. ANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK, — THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —	at lowest possible premiums.
---	--	------------------------------------

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. H. L. Bell, Manager.
EGYPT—CAIRO: Everard Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.
Count Michel A. de Zoghbe, Cairo Manager.
ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABBARI STORAGE COMPY.
CYPRUS: NAJEM HOURY.

execution of the work, but to overcome that, and at the same time to allay the popular suspicions, special meetings of omdas, sarrafs, and the villagers have been held throughout the country under the direction of the provincial authorities, who have thoroughly explained the situation and the objects of the census to the people. In addition, a propaganda has been carried out in the schools, where every pupil has been given a short pamphlet on the subject, and the masters have explained during school-hours the utility of the census and what is expected of the people. Mr. Craig gave a most lucid exposition of the work which has to be carried out in connection with a census in this country and of the information which has to be collected; and the impression everyone took away with him from this lecture was that everything humanly possible had been and is being done to ensure the success of the numbering of the people, which will take place at midnight on March 6 and 7.

CAIRO, February 27.

The Health of the Sultan.

An improvement has been marked in the health of the Sultan, and his doctors have allowed him to go out for drives. One of the first acts of his Highness after this permission was given him was to drive over to the Residency, in order to thank the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate for the many inquiries they had made as to his progress. Although the Sultan is now receiving people again, it is evident that he is as yet not in a fit state of health to stand the strain of receptions and ceremonies such as he was accustomed to hold before he fell ill. The fever threatens to set in again at the slightest extra exertion or excitement, and his doctors have to watch him very carefully in order to prevent any further relapse.

The Financial Adviser.

Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser, has proceeded home on leave, and the Council of Ministers has appointed the Hon. Ronald Lindsay, Under-Secretary of State for Finance, to act for him during his absence. As usual, there are all manner of rumours flying around as to the reason for his departure and the date of his return. The facts are that Lord Edward, who has thoroughly earned long leave, is taking it at a juncture when it is extremely desirable that there should be someone at home fully acquainted with local conditions, and qualified to watch over and promote the interests of this country. During his stay in England he will, in addition, endeavour to secure a satisfactory solution to various questions which vitally concern this country's economic future.

At the same Council of Ministers as that at which the appointment of the Acting Financial Adviser was ratified the promotion of Sir Murdoch Macdonald to the post of Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works was approved. Sir Murdoch will still retain the Under-Secretaryship of that Ministry. The promotion will carry with it no increase in pay, as he was already in receipt of an Adviser's salary, but, of course, it gives him precedence over all the other Under-Secretaries. This is but as it should be, seeing that Sir Murdoch, although Under-Secretary in name and therefore, theoretically speaking, only responsible for the executive side of the administration, was at the same time Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works. The decision to grant him the higher title and precedence to which his duties entitled him may be regarded as further recognition of the good work he has done during the past few years.

The Maharajah of Bikanir at the Residency.

The Maharajah of Bikanir, Sir James Meston, and Sir Satyendra Sinha arrived in Egypt this week on their way to London to attend the Imperial Conference. H.H. the Sultan has placed two of his river steamers at the disposal of the Maharajah. The latter is a guest of the High Commissioner at the Residency, where a banquet was given in his honour and that of his fellow-delegates on Friday evening, the guests including T.H. Prince Fuad and Kamel-ed-Din, General Murray, the Ministers, and British Advisers. The Maharajah and his staff have gone to the Canal zone in order to inspect the Bikanir Camel Corps, whilst Sir James Meston has proceeded on a short visit to Luxor.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Greek Community.

Following the Greek incident at Famagusta, there has been a regrettable sensation at Larnaca. At a meeting held in connection with a festival the Greek Bishop of Kition, who had referred to the affair at Famagusta, was proceeding to speak on the "Cypriot question," when he was abruptly interrupted by a prominent Greek and those who stood near him. The general body of those present strongly objected to the interruption, and loudly expressed their disapproval; upon which angry recriminations took place, and a disturbance arose that threatened to lead to serious consequences. Fortunately, by the timely intervention of some of those present, peace was restored, and the Metropolitan was able, on the urgent request of the great body of his hearers, to continue his address. The circumstance shows that the Greek community is as far as ever from unanimity in its views on some of the matters which principally occupy its attention at present. The Press delivers homilies on the need of complete harmony, in view of the critical period through which "Greek national life" is passing.

The Lighting of the Capital.

For some time past the electric company which supplies Nicosia has been suffering financially owing to the increasing cost of carrying on, and it has been considering what course should be adopted. There is a question whether it would not be expedient to hand over the administration of its service either to the Government or the municipality, with whom it has entered into *pourparlers*. A meeting of shareholders is shortly to come to a decision on the subject. Many are of opinion that, if satisfactory terms can be arranged, it would be well if the municipality were to take over the administration. Many shareholders of the company, on the other hand, are in favour of holding on, seeing that in normal times, after the war, which is the cause of the trouble, good profits can be assured. In the event of the company continuing its work, it is clear that the terms of existing agreements cannot be rigidly enforced, and that various concessions will have to be made. Economy could, e.g., be effected in the lighting of the streets, and the number of lamps as well as the hours could be reduced during the continuance of the present adverse circumstances.

General News.

In the Provost-Marshall's Court various fines have been inflicted. A Greek who showed a light visible from the sea was fined £5. Several others have been fined smaller sums for refusing to sell articles of food.

Papho has followed Nicosia. Bread of mixed barley and wheat is being made, and sold at 3 piastres (4d.) the oke. The municipality has made arrangements for a supply, at moderate prices, of both kinds of grain. From various parts of this and other districts come accounts that villagers are, in only too many cases, being driven into the hands of money-lenders.

At Nicosia Government officials have recently established a co-operative bakery, which promises to be very successful. There are already about 230 shares of the value of £1 10s. each.

THE TENETS OF ISLAM.

At a meeting of the Sufi Society last Tuesday evening, at 86, Ladbroke Road, Inayat Khan spoke on "The Tenets of Islam." He said that Islam meant peace—with one's soul, with those around us, and with God. Mohammed taught the unity of God and the brotherhood of man. He taught respect for all the prophets, from Abraham onwards, who had preceded himself, and never claimed to be anything more than the servant of God and the giver of a divine message. He discouraged his immediate followers from treating him with too great reverence. If they were on a journey he would not allow them to wait upon him, but insisted on doing his share of such necessary work as going to the bazaar to purchase food, cooking the meals, etc. Four things he taught were fasting, prayer, pilgrimage, and charity. In fasting, men learned to discipline themselves. By praying five times a day they kept a constant watch against temptation. We found time for our meals, and ought to be able to find time for our prayers. The Mohammedan pilgrimage was to the Kaaba, the temple founded by Abraham at Mecca. There men from every country in the world met as brothers. All wore the pilgrim's dress, and every distinction of class or nation was laid aside.

According to a wireless Press message from Rome, Bulgaria has forbidden the export of green vegetables and potatoes to Austria and Germany.

It is semi-officially announced that France has given her adherence to the agreement come to between Italy and Great Britain on July 31, 1916, for the establishment of bases for common action in regard to the Senussi, says a Reuter's message from Rome.

THE TURCO-GERMAN "ALLIES."

AN ARAB VIEW.

That the relations between the Turks and their German taskmasters are not, in fact, nearly so cordial as they are officially represented both in Constantinople and in Berlin has long been known. The ill-feeling has been spreading fast of late—and the fall of Baghdad is unlikely to check its spread. Some interesting particulars of German methods of dealing with their "allies"—and in the country of those "allies" be it noted—are given in an article published recently by *El Kiblah*, the official organ of the Hejaz Government. The following passages are extracted from the article referred to, and they speak eloquently enough, for themselves:—

The mutual animosity and hatred between the Germans and the Turks—especially in the case of the officers—has lately increased in intensity on many grounds, some administrative and political, others connected with the treatment extended by the Germans to the Ottomans, their bullying and contemptuous manner of dealing with them, and also the recent conviction on the part of the Turkish officers that their Government is at present doing all in its power to benefit the Germans and injure themselves.

If a German soldier—not to mention an officer—meets a Turkish officer in the streets of an Ottoman city, he does not return his salute, holding him beneath his notice. The Unionists have given to all the German soldiers first-class tickets on all railways, whilst Turkish officers, up to the rank of major, must travel second-class.

As the railway is not completed between Bozanti and Tarsus, automobiles and special carriages are provided for the transport of officers between these places; these are under German control. If there is a vacant seat in one of these automobiles occupied by one or more German officers a Turkish officer is not allowed to enter it, and is, therefore, subjected to endless trouble and fatigue, whereas these carriages are Ottoman carriages on Ottoman soil. The same conditions prevail between El-Mamoura and Iraliyya on the Baghdad railway.

In all cities of the empire you will find the German troops well fed and comfortable in all respects, whilst the Ottoman troops are in the lowest degradation, weak and hungry. And besides these material evils, the latter have to endure scornful manners and the worst of treatment from the Germans.

The Germans have control of all the commissariat depots in the military centres, and this administration is the life of an army. The Germans and Austrians favour their own men, spend vast sums upon them, and facilitate their welfare in every possible way, whilst the Ottoman troops meet with nothing but brutality, ill-treatment, prejudice, and contempt.

The Ottomans feel bitterly the scorn evinced by the German officers towards the Sheikhs and all persons wearing the dress of Ulema. They will not permit these to enter a railway carriage with themselves, and often drive out Sheikhs from places which they have taken.

This state of things has led to many of the Turkish officers and men giving open utterance to curses against the Germans and the Unionists. Their best way of safety is to be taken prisoner in action, whereby they are delivered from these troubles, of which they can discern no end.

The hatred and despair felt by the officers has caused the Unionists to place no confidence in them, and they, therefore, prefer to entrust the army to reserve officers, taken from the School of Law, the Civil College, and the Polytechnic School, most of whom are very young. The sympathy of the Unionists for these men is because they are saturated with Turanian fanaticism and well trained in the established principles enunciated by the new societies for the overthrow of religious morality and the rights of other Ottoman races.

So much for what concerns the army. We have previously drawn attention to the extent of German interference in the Ministries and civil administrations, and the influence which they exercise in provincial administration. It is as though the Germans were waiting at every door through which they might enter and seize upon Ottoman territory. What most concerns German subjects is to gain possession of commerce in all its branches. You will now find many houses at Constantinople in German hands, and most of the houses in Pera are so crowded with German families that you would fancy yourself in a German city. The German spirit is obvious in every part of those regions.

The Government had pretended to the people that the foreign Capitulations had been removed. As a matter of fact, the Allies were willing to renounce these privileges before the war, on the condition that Turkey maintained her neutrality. But when matters turned in favour of the Germans, these latter opened postal and telegraph offices, in which their own countrymen were employed, the reason alleged being that the Turkish officials of these administrations did not know the German language, and that correspondence was thereby subjected to delay. The Turks now perceive the peril that has come upon them, but they have at their disposal no means of escape from their internal and external calamities.

THE NEW TURKISH MINISTRY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 10.

The former Constantinople correspondent of *Al Mokattam*, who had exceptional opportunities of acquiring first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of Young Turkish politics, makes the following comments on the recent Ministerial changes in Turkey:—

The resignation of Prince Said Halim does not indicate any material change in the Unionists' foreign policy; for, as Prime Minister, he was but a blind instrument in the hands of Talaat Bey and his compeers of the C.U.P. But the actual acceptance by Talaat of the post is of political importance, even though he had always occupied it in fact if not in name. Talaat is a politician of the subtlest type, who has always carried out his evil schemes through cat's-paws, so that he might eventually be able to evade the responsibility of his acts, and to justify himself before public opinion, which he never ceased to court and before which he has always been anxious to appear as the sincere reformer. His direct assumption of the portfolio of Grand Vizier may, therefore, be taken as an indication of a belated realisation by the Unionists of the critical position in which they are placed, and of their anxiety to withdraw from the odious policy to which they had committed themselves. By those who have studied the character of the man, and learned his ways, no other conclusion can be drawn; for had Talaat still retained the belief in the final success of the policy based on wholesale crimes, committed in the name of a simple, innocent man like Prince Said Halim, he need only have compelled the Sultan to refuse the latter's resignation, or to appoint, in his place, another dummy Grand Vizier.

A fact that lends further support to this line of reasoning is the nomination of Musa Kazem Effendi as Sheikh-ul-Islam and Minister of Wakfs; for Kazem Effendi, although a loyal Unionist, is known to be a man of free conscience and true liberalism, as his career in the early days of the Constitution testifies. Moreover, Khalil Bey, Minister of Justice, has not, as far as is known, sullied his name by the atrocities committed during this war, by the Unionist Government. As President of the Majlis he was noted for the sincerity of his intentions.

All that is known of Ahmed Nassimi Bey, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, is that he was a bright-witted deputy, ardently supporting the Unionists in the Majlis, and a close friend of Javid Bey.

Ali Murad Bey, the new Minister of Public Works, was not known in the Turkish world of politics, and he may have come to the front only since the outbreak of war. As to Shukri Bey, the new Minister of Education, he was one of the leading Unionists, and had held the same portfolio before the war.

Reuter mentions Shereef Bey as the new Minister of Commerce. There is probably an error in the transmission of this name, as no leading Unionist is known by it, and probably Abdul Rahman Sharaf is meant. He was formerly a member of the Senate and Minister of Education. As to the portfolios of the Ministry of War and Marine, these are still held by Enver and Jemal respectively; and this may be taken as a clear indication that no change is contemplated in the foreign policy of the Empire.

Telegrams just received here from Athens say that the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Nassimi Bey, is a stout opponent and rival of Enver; and that political circles in Athens hold that the unequivocal declaration by the Allies of their intentions regarding the fate of Turkey has led to a deep agitation in Turkish political circles, and a strengthening of the party favouring overtures for compromise with the Allies.

The fact of the matter is that the Turks have had a rude awakening to the dire consequences of their anti-Arab policy, and, too late in the day, they are seeking to cover their fatal error.

Daninos Pasha claims to have discovered in Aboukir Bay the site of Canopus, which before the foundation of Alexandria was the commercial capital of the country and the most important religious centre in Lower Egypt. Among the finds is a great public bath of the Ptolemaic period.

Part 1 Now Ready.

4/-, Post Free.

A NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY QUR-ĀN,

With Arabic Text, Phonetic Transliteration and Explanatory Notes.

AHMADIA MOVEMENT, 41, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The capture of Baghdad has afforded me enormous satisfaction, as it must have done to every Briton who has been waiting for the good news ever since gallant Townshend's surrender at Kut. If it had only been delayed a day or two longer, I should have let myself go at length over the history of the city and a description of its appearance to-day. But the ground has been so fully covered by nearly every self-respecting paper in England that I am sure you would not thank me for going over it again in these notes. So I confine myself to advising you to check a great deal of what you have (doubtless) been reading in the papers by reference to the recognized authorities on the subject. Some of the statements that have appeared in certain journals certainly require very careful checking.

To me one of the most satisfactory things about the capture of the city is that it will provide—if necessary—comparatively decent hot-weather quarters for our hard-worked troops. The Baghdad climate is not ideal, as I have remarked more than once; but it is infinitely better than that of the lower reaches of the Tigris; and the buildings, which are more or less intelligently designed to afford some protection from the heat, will give welcome shelter to our men. A *serdâb*, even without a punkah going, is infinitely more comfortable than any tent or hut; and the chance of sleeping on the roofs, well above the plain level, should make a huge difference in the sick lists. For all that, the City of the Khalifs is not such a little Paradise that our soldiers there will turn up their noses at any comforts that may find their way out there. And the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund is still willing to accept donations!

Now, I suppose we are all wondering whether General Maude will sit tight in Baghdad or whether he will push on farther. Presumably he will go on at least to Samarra, or wherever the present railroad of the Baghdad north section of the great German railway may be at the present time. And I imagine that some line of defences will be thrown from that point westwards to the Euphrates. Possibly it may be necessary, for military reasons, to press forward to the foothills; and, of course, a good deal will depend upon what line is followed by the Turkish forces now falling back in haste before the Russians across the Persian border. But, as far as the "prestige" idea is concerned, it seems to me that we have done all that is necessary. Our flag now flies over Baghdad. Kut is amply avenged. As long as we hold Baghdad when peace terms are dictated to the Central Powers (and their dupes) the Arab world will not be likely to forget the lesson.

I read "Union Jack's" letter in last week's NEAR EAST with a good deal of satisfaction. It put a point of view which the Cypriot "flag-waggers" have studiously ignored. If the "Hellenic" enthusiasts were not allowed to sport the Greek flag in the days of Turkish rule, why should they be allowed to do so now? After all, the island has been definitely proclaimed a part of the British Empire; and, in view of its position and of the recent attitude of "official" (or "Royalist") Greece towards our enemies of late, it is unthinkable that it will ever be allowed to become anything else. That being so, would it not be wise for the Cypriot "Greeks" to recognize plain facts? And would it not be wisdom on the part of the powers that be if they took up a firm attitude in the matter once and for all, and made it clear that loyalty on the part of the island is expected, and will be exacted?

A friend recently lent me a batch of letters written from Egypt by one of the young officers of the "new" army, and I have read them with a good deal of interest. Though the writer has a quick eye, a nice appreciation of the glorious colouring of Egypt, and a well-developed sense of humour, it is not his description of scenes and peoples that interests me. It is the evidence they contain regarding the opportunities for "seeing the world" that the war has offered to a number of young men who in ordinary times would have been tied to office stools. The writer of these letters, I happen to know, had for some time had a hankering to "go East" and had been badly disappointed at failing to get an appointment he was after in Persia. Then came the war, and he—good man!—promptly threw up his position and enlisted. He was of the right type to go ahead, and he has risen steadily to captain's rank, and has now been some time in Egypt, where he has been revelling in the many opportunities he has had to try to get at the heart of the Orient. He has made the most of his good fortune, learning Arabic, and seeing as much of native life as he can. He is young; to him Egypt is a very

wonderland, and he writes of it with enthusiasm. If he stays there long enough he will modify his views; but in the meantime he is in luck. And I suppose there must be a great many more like him. In this direction the war must be proving a wonderful educational influence.

One point in the letters referred to illustrates rather well a feature of the Bedawi's character. Our captain and a brother officer had struck up a friendship with a certain sheikh, and on one occasion the latter invited them to go for a ride with him, placing horses at their disposal. As only one of them could be spared at a time the question arose: "Which shall it be?" and one of the officers produced a coin to toss up. "The Sheikh," says the writer of the letter, "looked as black as thunder. He thought for the minute that we were going to offer payment for the loan of the horses." But when he saw the coin spin in the air, the quick study of its uppermost side when it came down, he "tumbled to what was on, the frown disappeared, and he beamed delightedly."

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE RETURN FLOOD.*

Mr. Algernon Blackwood is master of an art which is peculiarly his own. He usually has uncommon things to say, and whether he is dealing with the occult, or with the fairy lore of childhood, he can always be certain of his readers' interest and attention. The first part of his new book is entirely charming, and quite up to the standard of imagination and style which he has led us to expect of him. We find a small boy obsessed by the idea of "a wave," which comes to him, sometimes in his dreams, sometimes in his waking hours, but always with the same nameless appeal of a force of destiny to his imagination. With the wave there comes also the "whiff," a subtle aroma that carries with it dreams of ages long past, and the vision of four eyes, one pair dark, sympathetic, and truthful, the other light and cunning. Here we have admirable material for the working out of a fantasy worthy of the writer.

We follow the boy into his manhood with no wavering of interest; we see him set on the road to achievement in keen anticipation of what is to follow, as the result of the ever-recurring vision of the "wave." While wintering abroad he meets the playmate of his childhood, and we know that one pair of eyes is accounted for. We follow them to Egypt, and there—either our own mood or that of the author failed us lamentably. Under the warm skies of the East each character returns to the instincts of his and her former incarnations, and we find many of the passages penned with all Mr. Blackwood's skill. But in fairness to the reputation of the author, no more can be said. The story is good enough as far as it goes, but it lacks the sign manual of Mr. Algernon Blackwood. For once we even venture to question his reasoning. Either his theory of reincarnation is insincere, in which case the book becomes bathos, or the ending is hopelessly at fault. As it stands, it is a very good ending for the book of a complaisant writer who cares little for anything but the sales of his work, but it is contrary to all that should have happened were Mr. Blackwood confident of his theme. We admit, however, one possibility in this regard. It may have been the author's intention to show that the moving spiral of time, which, at the beginning of the book had been exactly over the period, thousands of years before, when the three principal characters had played their parts in Egypt together, had risen into another plane ere the story was done, and left the characters to their normal lives again. This is quite possible, but if, indeed, it was Mr. Blackwood's intention to work upon this argument he has absolutely failed to make it convincing, or, indeed, to make the idea plain to his readers.

The book is interesting enough, but this author has given us so many exceptional things in the past that we are no longer content with mere interest. We want a great deal more. We want the conviction of his imagination, caring not a jot what the end might be. We want to thrill as we thrilled when we read "John Silence," or to soar as we soared when we read "Jimbo" and "The Education of Uncle Paul." We do not want a pleasant story from Mr. Blackwood; and that is what he has given us, in at least the last portion of his latest work.

BOOK NOTES.

Yet another book on that Jugoslavia of which we had barely heard in this country before the war, and of which we have heard and read so much of late, is now in the press. This is "A Bulwark Against Germany: The Fight

* "The Wave: An Egyptian Aftermath." By Algernon Blackwood. (London. Macmillan and Co. 4s.)

of the Slovenes, the Western Branch of the Jugoslavs, for National Existence." It is written by Bogumil Vosniak, and will be published by Messrs. Allen and Unwin.

Mr. Herbert Jenkins announces "The Tenth (Irish) Division) in Gallipoli: An Account of its Exploits at Anzac and Suvla Bay," by Major Bryan Cooper. General Sir Bryan Mahon writes an introduction to the book, and Mr. Redmond, Sir Edward Carson, and other prominent politicians contribute appreciations.

Mr. Murray has published "The Straits Impregnable," by Sydney de Loghe. The writer, an Australian, served in Egypt and at Gallipoli until his health broke down.

The American Book Supply Company has issued (1s. net) "Slav Achievement in Advanced Science," by Dr. B. Petrovitch, Professor at the University of Belgrade.

BOOK RECEIVED.

The Defences of the British Empire. By Archibald Hurd. Being Volume II. of the International Information Series. (London: The Athenæum Press. 1s. net.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

MARKO KRALJEVITCH AND THE SERBIAN SOLDIER.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—If the report of the lecture by Miss M. E. Durham before the Anglo-Russian Literary Society on March 6 is correctly given in your issue of March 9, may I be allowed to express the opinion that the characteristic of the Serbian national hero, Kraljevitch Marko, and, I am afraid I must add, of the whole Serbian national poetry alluded to in this lecture, is misleading. Kraljevitch Marko is not at all strange, but perhaps the most human of all legendary heroes. It is necessary to state this in order to render justice to the Serbian peasant, who is at the same time the Serbian soldier of to-day, of whom Kraljevitch Marko is the typical representative.

Both Kraljevitch Marko and the Serbian soldier are most kind-hearted and just by nature; far from being "blood-thirsty," they are excellent fighters in the same sense as one can now describe the British soldier as an excellent fighter, though we all know that the British soldier is most humane, kind-hearted, and generous.

As to the character of the Serbian soldier, we have the best chance to refer for particulars to the 600 and more British women who have been working in Serbia during the present war. In their few letters and articles already published there is more and better information about the Serbs than in all the books written before by Balkan travellers, who were always in a great hurry, and had just time enough to gain superficial impressions and particular sympathies or antipathies, but certainly never to understand or to appreciate thoroughly circumstances and conditions so complicated and so different from those in Western Europe.—I am, etc.,

(Dr.) M. CURCIN.

A NEW TRANSLATION OF THE KORAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mr. Q. Abdullah does not think it creditable to me merely to jeer at the "facts" relating to the advent of a Messiah. No facts were presented, Sir. The question of whether or not the Moslem faith recognises a Messiah did not even arise. The advent of a Messiah was not discussed. What I assailed was the attitude of the author in attempting to force upon readers by sheer iteration the belief that the Messiah, "whose advent was foretold by almost all the great prophets of the world," had already made his appearance, and that he was none other than a certain gentleman mentioned by name. To call this repulsive form of canvassing "facts," and to blame me for failing to consider them or for not judging them on the grounds alleged to have been presented, argues an audacity the like of which is to be found nowhere, save in the complacent offer held out to us by that obscure Asiatic mortal, that heavenly envoy. Mr. Abdullah is under a delusion if he thinks for a moment that anybody could take such fantastic notions seriously. Jeer! Indeed, what could anyone do but jeer at those empty platitudes, these fevered imaginations of an unbalanced mind? Mr. Q. Abdullah has grossly misread me. Else he is a hopeless specimen of dialectician. Nothing can be more irrelevant than his retort embodied in the truism that "if the Azharites resent the claims . . . of a Divine Messenger, this does not prove that his mission is not divine," the impli-

cation being that I inferred the non-divine character of the "Messiah" from the rejection of his claims by the Azharites. I did nothing of the kind. I merely made the statement that the Azharites would resent the "Messiah's" claims. I did not conclude therefrom that the theme was absurd. Absurdity had already been postulated of the idea. The assertion that the Azharites would be roused to indignation followed incidentally. Mr. Abdullah cannot achieve much by setting up supposititious arguments of his own and then setting out to destroy them.

I am said not to have judged the position fairly in most cases where I pointed out departures from the English translators. I cannot resist the impression that this is a grossly unfair indictment. It was the linguistic side of the publication I appreciated, and to which I devoted special attention. In several instances I acknowledged the superiority of the new version. In connection with the fourth verse of El Bakara, e.g., I stated explicitly that the new version was more faithful to the Arabic than either Rodwell's or Palmer's. I expressed the opinion that the view taken by the author in his comment upon the verse was broader and more enlightened. In connection with verse ten I emphatically endorsed the author's version as against that of previous translations, and mentioned approvingly that more than one authority were adduced in support of the alteration. The rendering of verse sixteen was described as ably explained. Where I did not agree with the author's rendering I not only gave reasons for my dissent, but I also used very guarded language.

Mr. Abdullah lays down what he styles principles of supreme importance which should be carefully followed in translating the Koran. He is presumably referring to the "Nasikh and Mansookh." Certain verses of the Koran modify or interpret others which are earlier in point of time. It is arguable that this makes it necessary in a commentary to interpret earlier verses in the light of later ones pertaining to the same theme. But by no stretch of the imagination can it be maintained that in a translation the same rule could be applied. Here is an instance in point. The verse enjoining Moslems in a state of intoxication not to partake of drink until that state is past may be, and, in fact, has been, taken (I admit, erroneously) to imply that it is not sinful to partake of drink. Now, it would be perfectly permissible for a Moslem as such, or a commentator, to judge the position in the light of the later categorical admonition. But it would savour of the ludicrous to extend the principle to the etymological side of the problem. The consistent application of such a rule would contort the version altogether out of shape. The objection taken to such rendering as that God is deceived by the people or that God mocks at the people is perfectly justified. But the condemnation of this form of rendering should not rest—and, indeed, does not rest—on its being inconsistent with the accepted attributes of the Deity. Mere inconsistency would not warrant placing a different construction on a word. If inconsistency existed, a faithful translation would have to reveal it. It is not the business of a translator to furnish apologia.

Having grandiloquently established this "principle of supreme importance," Mr. Abdullah commits a remarkable jump of thought by concluding that "this is why the Moslem authors have the right to say that the English translators of the Koran have failed to manifest the truth." From the importance of a principle, it surely does not follow that a certain group have erred of whose observance or non-observance of that principle nothing is affirmed. To state that the observance of a rule A is a condition of success, and then, without further ado, to adopt this as a basis for condemning X without taking the trouble to charge X with neglect of that rule, is a glaring instance of incoherent reasoning.—I am, etc.,

S. L.

It is reported in Rome, says the *Morning Post's* correspondent in that city, that 4,000 Italian troops have landed in Corfu. The troops are said to be commanded by an officer belonging to one of the other Allies.

From a trustworthy source the *Nederlander* learns that disturbances recently broke out in Serbia, and were "bloodily suppressed" by the Germans. The demonstrators were chiefly women.

MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF FEEDING STUFFS

SUCH AS BRAN, POLLARDS, COCKLES,
TARES, FENUGREEK, HUSKMEALS, &c.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.

Established over 50 Years. Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL.**CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.**Showing Concordance of the
Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)		Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. March. 16 17	1917. March. 3 4		1335. Jumada I. 22 23	5677. Adar. 22 23
18 19 20 21 22	5 6 7 8 9	Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday .. Thursday	24 25 26 27 28	24 25 26 27 28

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Victoria.

The Duke of Westminster has left London for Chester.

Lady Roper Parkinson, the hon. treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, has received a cheque for £2,500 from the New South Wales Government.

Sir W. E. Garstin has been elected an hon. member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Prince Bibesco, the first secretary of the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Paris on a brief visit.

M. Boeresco, secretary of the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London.

Lady d'Abernon has accepted the presidency of the newly created Kingston Division of the Red Cross Society, which embraces Kingston, Surbiton, Molesey, the Dittons, and Esher.

Mr. George Lloyd, M.P., who has lately been awarded the D.S.O., is Member of Parliament for West Staffordshire, and an authority on the Near and Middle East. About twelve years ago he conducted a special inquiry into the future of British trade in Asiatic Turkey and the Persian Gulf, and he has since taken much interest in that region. The D.S.O. has been bestowed upon him in recognition of his work as liaison officer, and the official announcement states that his duties were carried out "with the utmost skill," and were such as to place him in constant danger of his life.

Although dated January 1, the announcement that "The King has been graciously pleased to appoint General Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., to be his Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt; and Dayrell Eardley Montague Crackanthorpe, Esq., to be a Counsellor of Embassy in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service," has only just been published in the *London Gazette*.

Mr. William Frank Arthur Rattigan, who has just been promoted to be a First Secretary in the Diplomatic Service, has a good knowledge of Arabic. He has served in Tangier—where he acted as Chargé d'Affaires on several occasions—and in Cairo, as well as in Vienna, The Hague, and Berlin. On the outbreak of the war he was lent to the War Office for service with the General Staff, and was attached to the Sixth French Army and the Belgian Army for a short time.

An engagement is announced between Captain J. W. D. Cook, Army Service Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Cook, Chadhurst, Potters Bar, Middlesex, and Yvonne Marie Fernande Schaar, daughter of Mr. Julien C. Schaar, barrister, Cairo, and Mrs. Schaar (née Maria de Boek von Overloop).

The French Government has just conferred the Médaille des Epidémies in the varying degrees upon Dr. Frances Ivens, head of the Scottish Women's Hospital at Abbaye Royaumont, and other members of her staff as a mark of its appreciation of their unwearied

services to the French wounded during the war. Amongst the doctors who have received the decoration is Dr. Marian Wilson, assistant doctor of the Scottish Mission Hospital at Hebron, who has been working at Abbaye Royaumont for the past sixteen months. The hospital, which is entirely staffed and worked by women, began with 100 beds, but increased its numbers to 400 last year, in response to the special request of the French military authorities.

On Saturday last, in Holy Trinity Church, Eltham, a marriage was solemnised between Lieutenant H. H. Patchell, R.A., of the Canadian Field Artillery, and Miss Ethel May Simmons, of Eltham, daughter of Mr. George C. Simmons, of Constantinople.

The French Consulate at Salonika has published the banns of the forthcoming marriage of General Sarraill to Mlle. de Joannis, a member of the corps of French nurses in Macedonia.

Miralai Savile Bey, the recently appointed Governor of Darfur, had an enthusiastic reception upon his arrival at El Fashr. He was met by MacMichael Bey, Acting Governor MacLaine Bey, O.C. 13th Sudanese, and the majority of the Egyptian officers, native notables, and sheikhs, and large crowds lined the streets leading to the Mudiria.

A farewell party in honour of H.E. El Lewa Kelly Pasha, O.C. Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, was held at Shendi on February 4, before his departure for Egypt, which took place on the following morning.

Mr. J. G. Mathew, who has been transferred from the Sennar Province to the Red Sea Province, left Khartoum on February 16 for Port Sudan, with Mrs. Mathew, to assume his new duties.

M. Caclamanos, the representative of the Greek Provisional Government of M. Venizelos, has arrived in Petrograd from London to take up his duties.

Temporary Capt. Frank Fisher, K.R.R.C., has had the M.C. conferred upon him. The *London Gazette*, in notifying the appointment, says: "He went forward and rallied some men under very heavy fire. He set a splendid example of courage and coolness throughout." In civil life Captain Fisher is on the London staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University has been informed that the late Mrs. Louisa Logie, of St. Andrew's, Cambridge, has bequeathed £1,000 to the University as a memorial of her late brother-in-law, William Wright, formerly Professor of Arabic in the University and for the advancement of teaching Arabic, the accumulated income to be applied triennially to either a prize or scholarship for the benefit of graduates of the University born in the United Kingdom and not being Jews.

If you are willing to help The Serbian Army SEND YOUR DONATION FOR THE SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the Serbian Legation in London, which
is alone authorised to collect funds in Great
Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian
Red Cross Society."

There is a separate fund for the RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION

at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from
which money is sent where it is most urgently
needed. The address of the Serbian Legation
is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

An address will be given at the Overseas Club this afternoon, at 5 p.m., by Colonel Sir Thomas Holdich, on "Baghdad, Past and Present." Admission will be by tickets only, a limited number of which may be had on application to the Hon. Organizer, the Overseas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

It is stated that Mr. W. Bennett is to be appointed Chief Secretary to Government. Mr. Bennett served in the Chief Secretary's Office in Cyprus for four years, and subsequently held other Colonial appointments.

Mr. Moody, who has directed the detective department of the police, has accepted an appointment on the Gold Coast, and is leaving the island shortly.

The *Sudan Times* announces that the following transfers have been approved:—

Bimbashi A. W. D. Bentinck, 9th Sudanese, to Equatorial Battalion.

Bimbashi R. A. Colville, Sobat-Pibor District, to 15th Sudanese.

Bimbashi (temporary) A. F. Vingoe, Sobat-Pibor District, to 15th Sudanese.

Bimbashi (temporary) W. R. Barker, Khartoum District, to Equatorial Battalion.

Bimbashi (temporary) E. G. Warren, 4th Battalion, to 13th Sudanese.

Lieutenant E. T. N. Grove, Buckinghamshire Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer with the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the 9th Sudanese for duty.

Captain G. E. S. Woodyatt, Lancashire Fusiliers, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the 9th Sudanese for duty.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has granted permission to the following officers to wear the decorations (as mentioned against their names) conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt:—

ORDER OF THE NILE, GRAND CROSS (1st CLASS).

Lieut.-Gen. (temp. Gen.) Sir Archibald James Murray, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Col. R. Inniskilling Fus.

Lieut.-Gen. the Rt. Hon. Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Col. R. Highrs.

ORDER OF THE NILE, 2ND CLASS.

Maj.-Gen. John Adye, C.B.; Maj.-Gen. Arthur Lynden Lynden-Bell, C.B., C.M.G.; Maj.-Gen. William Eliot Peyton, C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., Col. 15th Hussars; Maj.-Gen. Alexander Wallace, C.B., Indian Army; Maj.-Gen. William Arthur Watson, C.B., C.I.E., I.A.; Maj.-Gen. Sir Alexander Wilson, K.C.B., Col. A. and S. Highrs.

ORDER OF THE NILE, 3RD CLASS.

Local Lieut.-Col. James William Barrett, C.M.G.; Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) Roger Courtenay Boyle, C.B.; Col. (temp. Maj.-Gen.) Henry George Chauvel, C.B., C.M.G., Australian I.F.; Lieut.-Col. and Brevet-Col. Skipton Hill Climo, C.B., D.S.O., Punjabis, I.A.; Col. Rudolph Robert Basil Aloysius Augustine, Earl of Denbigh and Desmond, C.V.O., A.D.C.; Col. James Fallon, A.M.S.; Col. William James Smyth Fergusson (retd. pay); Lieut.-Col. Stannus Geohagan, C.B., I.A.; Col. George Charles, Earl of Lucan (Res. of Off.); Brig.-Gen. (temp. Maj.-Gen.) Henry Timson Lukin, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., S. African Defence Forces; Lieut.-Col. and Brev. Col. (temp. Maj.-Gen.) Neill Malcolm, D.S.O., A. and S. Highrs.; Capt. (temp. Lieut.-Col.) Stephen Hungerford Pollen, C.M.G., (Res. of Off.), late Wilts. Reg.; Lieut.-Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) John Buchanan Pollok-McCall, C.M.G., retd. pay, R. Scots Fus. (Res. of Off.); Col. Edmund Ironside Ward; Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) Harry Davis Watson, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O., I.A.

ORDER OF THE NILE, 4TH CLASS.

Lieut.-Col. William Frank Bainbridge, C.M.G., D.S.O., I.A.; Capt. Ernest Herbert Campbell Bald, M.C., M.G.C., (Motor), Res. of Off., late 15th Hussars; Lieut. (temp.

Capt.) James Barber, R. Warwick Reg.; Capt. and Brev. Maj. Tarn Pritchard Bassett, D.S.O., R.E., attd. I.A.; Col. Guy Hudleston Boisragon, V.C., I.A.; Lieut. (temp. Capt.) Alfred Bryant, M.C., R.A.; Capt. Arthur John Herbert Chope, D.S.O., Gurkha Rifles; Temp. Capt. F. H. Colson, Special List; Capt. Alan Geoffrey Charles Dawnay, Coldstream Gds.; Temp. Maj. Maurice Gerald Holmes, A.S.C.; Lieut. (acting Capt.) Richard Francis Knight Gooch, M.C., Yeo.; Capt. Stuart Grant-Dalton, D.S.O., Yorks Reg. and R.F.C.; Lieut.-Col. Charles Levenax Haldane, C.M.G., Gurkha Rifles; Maj. (temp. Lieut.-Col.) Godfrey William Vanrenen Holdich, D.S.O., R.A.; Sec.-Lieut. Brainerd Arthur Robinson Jones, Cheshire Reg.; Capt. Patrick Lindsey Price Lang, K.O.S.B.; Temp. Maj. F. S. Lyster, Special List; Capt. James Douglas Macindoe, M.C., Scots Gds.; Sec.-Lieut. (temp. Capt.) Edgar James Merry, Welsh Reg.; Maj. Llewellyn Partridge, Yeo.; Capt. and Brev. Maj. George Forder Perkins, Hamps. Reg.; Lieut. (temp. Capt.) Stuart Keppel Reid, R. Sussex Reg.; Maj. Arthur Justin Ross, D.S.O., R.E. and R.F.C.; Temp. Capt. Helperus Andrias Van Ryneveld, M.C., R.F.C.; Temp. Lieut. (temp. Capt.) George Francis Scott-Elliot, K.O.S.B.; Capt. Harry Ben Le Despencer Tree, Inf., I.A.; Lieut. Christopher John Radcliffe Turner, Sikhs; Maj. (temp. Lieut.-Col.) Richard Lancelot Waller, R.E.; Sec.-Lieut. Claud Herbert Williams, Yeo.; Capt. John Henry Reginald Yardley, D.S.O., R. Inniskilling Fus., S.R.

OBITUARY.

OMAR PASHA SULTAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 27.

A familiar and distinguished figure has disappeared from Egyptian society in the person of Omar Pasha Sultan, who died suddenly last week at Minia. Omar Pasha, who was only thirty-five years of age, was the son of Sultan Pasha, first President of the National Council, and was an exceedingly wealthy man, owning large estates in Upper Egypt. At one time he was said to be an active supporter of the Egyptian Nationalist movement, but he never took any prominent part in politics, and will be best remembered for the great interest he took in Arab art, local industries, and horse-breeding, and for the generous support he always gave to all efforts to promote any of these objects.

MAJOR R. M. RICHARDSON.

The death occurred on March 6 at Offley Holes, Hitchin, of Major Robert Mervyn Richardson. Born in Edinburgh in 1857, the son of Mr. James Richardson, F.R.S.E., he was educated at the Edinburgh Academy, Loretto, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He joined the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders when they were in India in 1880, and served with them in 1882 in Egypt under Lord Wolseley. He was present at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and was awarded the medal with clasp and the Khedive's star. He afterwards joined the 20th Hussars, and took part with them in 1885 in the Battle of Ginniss. Later he served in the Camel Corps in the expedition for the relief of General Gordon. In 1890 he was transferred to the 14th (King's) Hussars, and served with them through the South African War. Major Richardson retired from the Army in 1903 with the rank of major, but in 1906-8 he acted as major and lieutenant-colonel of the Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry. He married, in 1898, Helen Charlotte, daughter of the late Mr. R. B. Croft, of Fanhams Hall, Herts.

MRS. HARLEY.

In a message dispatched from Salonika on the 7th inst. Reuter's correspondent announced:—"Mrs. Harley, a sister of Lord French, who was in charge of a motor-ambulance unit with the Serbian Army, was wounded this afternoon at Monastir, whither she had gone on duty. The enemy started to shell the town, and a shell burst near the ambulance in which she was seated." Unfortunately the wound proved fatal. Another Reuter's message, sent the following day from Serbian Headquarters, stated:—"Mrs. Harley died almost immediately as

the result of a wound in the head. Her body is being transferred to Florina, and thence to Salonika, where it will be deposited pending the completion of the funeral arrangements at the Scottish Women's Hospital, where Mrs. Harley's eldest daughter is working. Her youngest daughter will accompany the body to Salonika, but she has expressed her intention to return to Monastir to continue her work there."

In the autumn of 1914 Mrs. Harley went to Royaumont with a hospital unit, sent out from Edinburgh for the use of the French troops, and was subsequently appointed administrator of a second unit at Troyes, provided by the authorities of Newnham and Girtton Colleges. Subsequently she accompanied the French Expeditionary Force to Salonika, and in October, 1915, she went to Ghevgheli, where she remained until its evacuation by the Serbians. She then returned to Salonika, where she stayed till the summer of last year. In recognition of her splendid services with this unit she was presented by the French Government with the Croix de Guerre. Later in the year Mrs. Harley took out from England to Salonika a flying column of motor ambulances which was attached to the Serbian Army, and she worked with the American unit of the Scottish Women's Hospital. In December last she devoted herself to work in connection with the relief of Serbian civilian refugees in Monastir, where she was killed.

A special correspondent at Salonika, in a message dated March 8, says:—"The remembrance of this never-tiring, always-smiling, white-haired lady will long remain with those who have known the Monastir front during the present winter. She was satisfied with nothing but the hardest work as close up to the line as possible. I recall stopping to talk with her and one of the English girls who drove the cars of her ambulance one afternoon in the streets of Monastir during a bombardment, when a shell whistled loudly past overhead. Mrs. Harley only smiled quietly. Danger could deter her from the work she had taken up no more than the cold, exposure, and fatigue she met so constantly and so cheerfully while working for the Serbians, whose cause she had made her own, and for whom she has now given her life."

Another message, sent off on Saturday, reports:—"Though this was a bleak and windy day, the funeral of Mrs. Harley, sister of Viscount French, which took place at five o'clock this afternoon in the British Military Cemetery at Zeitinlik, was a most impressive ceremony. The coffin was preceded by British and Serbian bands, and by a Serbian guard of honour. It was followed to the grave by Prince George of Serbia, General Milne and all the staff, Earl Granville, Admiral Troubridge, the British Admiral commanding this station, all the members of the Serbian General Staff, all the Serbian Ministers and high officials now in Salonika, and by an immense crowd of officers of the French, Russian, Italian, and Serbian armies. Mrs. Harley's two daughters were present as chief mourners. A touching funeral oration was delivered over the grave by the Serbian Minister of the Interior, M. Yovanovitch. The Serbians are deeply affected by the loss of this heroic Englishwoman, whom they regarded as one of the greatest of foreign benefactors of their nation in this war."

Lieutenant William Frederick Waller Hills, Royal Flying Corps, who was killed in action on March 6, was the elder son of Colonel E. H. Hills, C.M.G., F.R.S., and of Mrs. Hills, 1, Campden Hill. Born in 1893, he was educated at Horris Hill and Eton, and at the outbreak of war he had just completed his second year as an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge. He obtained a commission as second lieutenant in the R.F.A., and was a member of the first Salonika Expeditionary Force, taking part in the advance into Serbia. He returned to England in May, 1916, in order to join the R.F.C. Immediately on completion of his training he was appointed instructor, and after a short period joined a service squadron and went to the Front in January last.

The death took place at Cairo on February 16 of Maitre Lusena Bey, one of the leading members of the Mixed Bar, Professor

of Procedure in the Sultanieh School of Law. Lusena Bey was born in Cairo in 1855, of Italian parents, and studied law in Italy, where he was admitted into the Italian parquet at the age of 19. Shortly after the mixed tribunals were established in Egypt he returned to that country, and had since been connected with its legal administration both as lawyer in the Mixed Court of Appeal, and subsequently as professor in the Sultanieh School of Law. Many of the leading members of the Courts in Egypt, and even some of the Ministers, were his students. He was the author of several legal works.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

DEATH.

WILSON.—On the 10th inst., at Clifton, the Reverend Charles Thomas Wilson, M.A., lately Rector of Hatch Beauchamp, and formerly of the Uganda and Palestine Missions and Vicar of Totland Bay, aged 65.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.

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

The only English Hotels in Alexandria.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), Alexandria.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20; Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

Glymenopoulo, Ramleh.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach.

Open all the Year. Bathing Cabins.

Terms from:

Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

Open all the Year Round—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

For Summer Season—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel: 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

TROODOS—Olympus Hotel: 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS,

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores." Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Office and Central Stores: LIMASSOL. All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1917.

THE DARDANELLES COMMISSION

Those who opposed the appointment during the war of a Commission to inquire into all the circumstances of the Dardanelles Expedition are entitled to urge on their own behalf that no one at the time could have anticipated the revelations which have actually been made in the Commission's First Report. It was generally accepted that an attempt to reach Constantinople was justified by the results which its success promised, and that the unsatisfactory way in which the enterprise was carried out was responsible for its failure; but inasmuch as the chapter had been closed by the withdrawal from Gallipoli, an inquiry into the conduct of the operations seemed hardly desirable while the war was still in progress. What was not realised by the public was that there was, perhaps, less need for inquiry into the military part of the expedition than for a rigorous examination of the circumstances in which the British Government came to undertake the venture. The first report of the Commission deals exclusively with the origin and inception of the attempt to force the Straits, and it reveals a tragic and almost incredible state of affairs. Its findings carry a lesson written for all time in letters of blood across the pages of British history. There can, therefore, be no doubt at this stage regarding the wisdom of instituting an inquiry; and, although the whole subject may be considered as the peculiar concern of the British people, their bitter experience is not without interest for the world at large. It is well for the nation to show that it has not shrunk from a frank investigation of its mistakes, and in the light of the fact that a new Government is now in power, it is possible to make known the results of the inquiry, however humiliating they may be, without affording encouragement to the enemy and disheartening our Allies.

The proposal to attack the Dardanelles, after Turkey's declaration of war, was first made at a War Council in November, 1914, by Mr. Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, who put forward the suggestion as "the ideal method" of defending Egypt. Considerations of transport at that time prevented the suggestion from being carried into effect. But when on January 2, 1915, the Petrograd Government asked that, if possible, a demonstration should be made against the Turks with a view to relieve the pressure on the Russian forces in the Caucasus, the project of an attack on the Dardanelles assumed a different aspect. It seemed to offer the only means of giving the Russians any practical assistance. We do not need to follow the report in its careful examination of the different phases through which the desire to help our Allies passed before it materialised in the actual operations at the Dardanelles. The leading personalities in the British War Council at that time were Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, and Mr. Churchill. The former was engaged upon the gigantic task of expanding the British Army to meet the needs of the Western Front; and in so far as he comes under the stricture of the Commissioners, it may be well to remember that he probably paid little heed to politicians and their councils, beyond accepting their endorsement of his decisions. Lord Kitchener held that not a man could be spared for any new enterprise. He recognised the obligation of doing what could be done to support the Russians, and, although not hopeful of the actual results, considered a naval demonstration at the Dardanelles as the only feasible course. Mr. Churchill, as we have seen, had entertained the idea of

a serious attempt to force the Straits some weeks previously. He had been obliged to abandon it; but in the opinion of the Commission he seized the proposal of a naval demonstration, and proceeded to expand it into his former scheme. Under the conditions which governed the conduct of affairs in Great Britain at that time Mr. Churchill experienced little difficulty in carrying the War Council with him, if, indeed, any such definite expression is applicable to the haphazard methods which supplied the motive power of the war. The picture drawn by the Commission may be briefly described. On the one hand, there was Mr. Churchill, enthusiastic for a venture which he had made particularly his own; his immediate influence was restricted to the Navy, and he was prepared to make the attempt to force the Straits with a naval force alone. Lord Kitchener, on the other hand, was content to let the Navy do what it could, and at first he was only concerned to see that the Army was not to be used in the scheme. Further consideration showed both Ministers that the employment of troops was inevitable, and before the initial bombardment took place Lord Kitchener had yielded reluctantly on this point. At the last moment, however, owing to the state of affairs in other theatres of war, he refused to allow troops to leave England for the purpose. They were liberated three weeks later; but by this time the naval attack had failed, the enemy had received full warning of what was intended, and was given time to strengthen his defences before the land operations could be begun. Great Britain was now committed to an enterprise from which it was felt she could not draw back, and the "legitimate gamble" was persisted in, under the impression that failure would entail a serious blow to British prestige, until at last the fruitless sacrifice of life compelled the gamblers to cut their losses by withdrawing the ill-fated and costly expedition.

A lurid light is thrown by the Report on the conditions under which the war was being conducted during the inception of the Dardanelles venture. Nominally the direction of the war was in the hands of a War Council, a Committee of the Cabinet with some experts added, "but the main responsibility rested on three members of the Council—namely, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for War, and the First Lord of the Admiralty." In reality there was no central control of war operations. Lord Kitchener's experience and his commanding personality left him supreme in regard to all military matters, and Mr. Churchill usurped the same rôle in naval affairs. For the rest, the War Council appears to have conceived its functions as being limited to an endorsement of the decisions arrived at by these two Ministers. Instead of a body of strong-minded men, co-ordinating expert advice and keeping in their hands all the wires along which they could radiate the necessary motive power to the various parts of the complicated machinery, we are introduced to a Council which assessed its own utility so low that it saw no need to meet for two whole months at a time. As three Ministers out of six left matters almost entirely in the hands of the other three, it is not difficult to gauge the value of their contribution to the conduct of the war. On their behalf, however, it may be urged that the combination of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for War, and the First Lord of the Admiralty seemed to provide all the mechanism necessary for the prosecution of the war. This would have been the case, if Mr. Asquith had been equal to the part he was called upon to play. Unfortunately, he does not seem to have taken an interest in the war in any way commensurate with his important position. The blight of amateurism and *laissez-faire* dominated the proceedings of the Council. Experts attended its discussions, but their continued silence passed unheeded by the Prime Minister; neither curiosity nor politeness prompted him at any time to inquire what their views might be in regard to the fateful decisions then being taken. He assured the Commission that there was "no operation in the whole of this war which promised better results than the Dardanelles operation"; yet, in the form in which the operation received the sanction of the War Council, it promised no results at all, for no sane man could have

imagined that Constantinople could be captured and held by a fleet alone. "None of the responsible authorities," say the Commissioners, "appears to have paid much attention to the course of action which it would be necessary to adopt after the passage of the Dardanelles had been forced." Nearly every page of the Report contains similar evidence of culpable negligence, ignorance, or indifference. There was no reason why a body of men who had persistently refused to believe in the possibility of war and to prepare for war should have shown themselves better qualified to conduct the war when it came; but honesty and patriotism ought to have prompted them to stand on one side before they brought the country to the verge of irreparable disaster. In spite of them, however, the British Empire stands firm and determined, and will yet win through. Out of the evil has come good—a people that has found itself and that is united as never before. Even the tragedy of the Dardanelles has produced an imperishable epic of national heroism; and with the knowledge that the past mistakes are not likely to be repeated in this war, the country turns from the contemplation of them full of confidence for the future.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The recent opening of the School of Oriental Languages by his Majesty the King set my mind humming to the tune of bygone memories. Of the larger sweep of the Far and Middle Orient I know nothing, but on reading the account of the ceremony in Finsbury Circus the other day I found that it revived the pleasant, half-forgotten lilt of tongues that was once so familiar to me in the Near East. And in some strange way it emphasises the fact of war. Of all those countries where in former days the dialects of the peoples rang in my ears with their quaint ring of the Orient but one remains beyond the fringes of Armageddon. Greece, the proudest of them all, full fed with glorious memories as she was, remains apart—her territories, violated, it is true—a fallen nation, drugged in dishonour to an inglorious peace.

All this is, however, beside the mark, because one does not include the Greek language with those of the Orient. But on the occasion of my last journey through the Near East I stayed among the Grecian hills, and the language of the peasants is tribute of a memory the flood of which is entirely Oriental. Egypt is, of course, predominant. Egypt with its sun and its splendour, its changeless memories, and its mosques and minarets from which the muezzin voices the long-drawn call to prayer. And here we have the true tongue of the Orient, rich and ancient. I do not know what the vocabulary of the Arabic language is, but I know that it is far beyond the knowledge of all but a very few scholars who have devoted years to its study. The ordinary "pigeon" Arabic is not difficult to learn. Englishmen frequently speak it fluently and well. When once the guttural sounds are mastered the rest is easy and does not present difficulties of pronunciation. The disheartening part of the affair is when, after a couple of years' practice in the language, the unhappy linguist attempts to extend his knowledge by attending a lecture or speech by any well-educated native. The odds are greatly against his being able to understand more than about 10 per cent. of the words used! Indeed, for the casual student of Arabic the way seems literally to gape with pitfalls. Try as he may, he always seems to be just short of the knowledge he wishes to acquire. I have given one instance—the same sort of thing will probably happen if a visit is paid to the theatre or music hall. The language used may be Arabic, but the singer may hail from Syria, in which case our student might just as well be listening to a singer from Mandalay. Dialects, of course, differ within the confines of the country just as much as they do in Europe. There is, for instance, quite a hard line drawn between the Arabic of Upper and Lower Egypt. The construction of some sentences—particularly in the use of the negative—is entirely different.

When one goes as far north as Berber, the province that

sends sailors and domestic servants to the uttermost ends of Egypt and the Sudan, one comes upon an altogether strange dialect. It is curious that this language should still remain the individual property of the Berber province alone, especially as the people are such wanderers. But I have never come across any native, not of Berber, who could talk in the Berber language with any claim to fluency. Farther south one comes to Arabic again—from Khartoum, roughly, to Kodok, no other tongue is heard. At the latter point, however, one meets for the first time with the quaint and stilted vocabulary of the pseudo-savage tribes. Of the Dinka and Shilluk languages there is, I think, little to choose as regards the number of words employed. It is certainly not large in either, but as far as one may speak from mere personal observation, and without any learning in the matter, I should say that the Dinka tongue was perhaps the richer in its vocabulary. The Shilluk certainly does not err on the side of pedantry. On most ordinary occasions it appears to be all-sufficient to his conversational desires if he may "click" to his neighbour at intervals of several minutes; his companion "clicks" back, and the conversation is at an end. I have written of "clicking" because I can think of no other suitable word. The sound uttered is, to uninitiated ears, for all the world like that uttered by a driver to his horse in England, difference in emphasis and intonation being sufficient to convey the desired meaning. I have heard monkeys conversing in much the same way a little further south.

But throughout the whole of the Sudan a knowledge of Arabic is gradually spreading as the natural result of our occupation with Arabic-speaking officials and troops. It is possible that here again the language may undergo strange transformation in the course of its grafting process, and that the future may find Sudan Arabic a very distinct dialect of the mother tongue.

I am inclined to think that it is rather a pity that the authorities do not make the study of English a compulsory class in the schools and colleges of the Sudan. The people are so quick to learn, and imparting a knowledge of English would be one of the very simplest methods of enabling the future generation of men to grasp and apply British measures of labour, education, and government. This, however, is a digression. But just as it is essential to the Englishman who hopes to deal successfully with Arabic-speaking natives, first to master their language, so, it would seem, we might equally apply the same reasoning on the other side.

The Arabic of the Near Eastern lands, though it is referred to loosely as "Arabic," varies enormously in different countries. Here and there, however, we find curious instances of similarity of pronunciation cropping up in the least expected quarters. The vowel sounds of Egypt, for instance, disappear in adjacent countries, but crop up again in far Baghdad. It is curious, too, that there are certain words of Arabic which are almost identical with those of pure Gaelic. *Sekkin* (knife) is, I have been informed, the word still in use among the Gaelic-speaking folk of Scotland, while other words also bear a closer family resemblance. It is probable, however, that this fact is due to coincidence or to the chance influence of an isolated traveller, rather than to any foundation of root. Words become altered in the most inexplicable way, as our own language bears witness, and only by exhaustive study can such points be determined beyond doubt. A school for the study of Oriental languages is one of the most excellent institutions which we could bestow upon the nation to-day, when, in the Near, the Middle, and the Far East there are signs of increasing necessity of a complete understanding with those nations which, after the war, will be more than ever closely in touch with British influence. The dream of the Esperantists was good, but it is better still to probe the hearts of the nations by learning to think in their own language. An international language might go far to rob the participating nations of their individuality, and that could never be good. Egypt, for instance, robbed of her individuality would be a nation lost, but a close study of her language enables us to understand the aspirations of her people and to apply our own knowledge where it is most needed and to her greatest benefit. A striking example of this is not wanting at the present moment when we look upon the work that is being so successfully accomplished in Egypt to-day by Sir Reginald Wingate, who knows her language almost as he knows his own.



WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.

GREAT AGE
AND
BOUQUET.



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Dardanelles Report. March 12.

Mr. ASQUITH asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the Report presented by the Dardanelles Commission had now been published and passed under review, and pronounced judgment upon, the conduct of servants of the Crown, living and dead, instructions would be given for the publication of the evidence upon which the findings of the Commission purported to be founded; and whether, as soon as might be thereafter, an opportunity would be afforded to the House for the discussion of the Report.

Mr. BONAR LAW: In their Report the Commissioners state that they do not recommend the publication of the evidence because parts of it, to give their exact words, "dealt either with naval and military considerations or with the relations between his Majesty's Government and their Allies, which could not without serious detriment to the public interest have been published." In these circumstances the Government are not prepared to give instructions for the publication.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Who was the Minister responsible for the excisions from the Report, or who is the Minister who accepts responsibility?

Mr. BONAR LAW: The excisions were made on the representations of three Departments—the Foreign Office, the Admiralty, and the War Office. The Cabinet is responsible for them.

The Capture of Baghdad.

Mr. ASQUITH asked for information about the recent operations in Mesopotamia.

Mr. BONAR LAW: As has already been announced, Baghdad was occupied early yesterday morning by the forces under the command of Sir Stanley Maude. This is the sequel to a series of brilliant operations which have been carried through by our British and Indian troops, with a dash and determination for which no praise can be too high. The House will remember that, after severe fighting, especially on the right bank of the Tigris, in which very heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, Lieutenant-General Maude crossed the Tigris above Kut-el-Amarah on the night of February 23-24, and by this operation imperilled the safety of the Turkish army in Mesopotamia. The enemy immediately retired on Baghdad, and was pursued by General Maude with the utmost energy. Not only were large numbers of prisoners and quantities of material of all kinds captured during the pursuit, but we have good reason to believe that nearly two-thirds of the whole of the enemy's artillery either fell into our hands or was thrown by him into the Tigris. On March 5 our cavalry came up with the Turkish rearguard at Lajj, twenty-seven miles from Baghdad, and after an action the Turks retreated during the night, abandoning the position which they had prepared at Ctesiphon. On March 7 the cavalry found the enemy in possession of the Diala River, eight miles from the outskirts of Baghdad. The Diala River, which is an affluent of the Tigris, is a formidable obstacle, over thirty yards in width and unfordable. General Maude, therefore, withdrew his cavalry and brought his infantry into action. The Turks had, in the meantime, received reinforcements from Baghdad, and both offered a stubborn resistance on the Diala, and occupied positions covering Baghdad from the south-west on the right bank of the Tigris. On the night of the 7th-8th General Maude threw a bridge across the Tigris below the junction of that river with the Diala, and crossed his cavalry, supported by other troops, to the right bank of the Tigris. In spite of great heat and dust, these troops made a brilliant march of eighteen miles towards Baghdad, and found the enemy strongly posted six miles south-west of that town. He was at once attacked and driven back to a second position two miles in rear. On the night of the 8th the troops fighting on the Diala had established a footing on the northern bank of that river. During the 9th and 10th our troops on the right bank, in spite of blinding duststorms, pressed their advantage, and drove the enemy on this side back to within three miles of the outskirts of Baghdad, while, at the same time, our troops on the Diala forced the passage of that river and drove the enemy back on the town, which was, as I stated, entered early on the morning of the 11th. General Maude's troops have in these operations completed the victory of Kut-el-Amarah by a pursuit of 110 miles in fifteen days, during which the River Tigris was crossed three times. This pursuit has been conducted in a country destitute of supplies and in spite of the commencement of the summer heats. Apart from the skill and vigour of the leadership and the valour and endurance of the troops, both British and Indian, which are self-evident, such operations could only be carried out in such country after careful and elaborate arrangements for the supply of the troops had been thoroughly and systematically prepared. The fact that General Maude has not only been able to feed his Army, provide it with ammunition, and to assure proper attendance of the sick and wounded, but is able to report that he is satisfied that he can provide for the necessities of his Army in Baghdad, reflects the greatest credit upon all who have been concerned for the due provision of his needs.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER added: This statement was given to me by the General Staff. Perhaps I might say, what I know is the opinion of the House, that the whole operation reflects the greatest credit on our General Staff.

The Force at Salonika.

March 13.

Mr. KING asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether, as stated in the House, the numbers of the Salonika expedition were about 500,000; and, if this number was widely divergent from fact, whether it represented more or less than the actual figure.

Colonel ARCHER-SHEE: Before the question is answered I wish to ask whether information of this character, if given, can only be of use to the enemy.

Mr. MACPHERSON: No authoritative statement as to the strength of our forces at Salonika has been made in this House. It is obviously undesirable that such a statement should be made.

Mr. TENNANT: Is it possible to tell the House without danger to the public interests whether there has been an accretion to that force in recent months?

Mr. MACPHERSON: I am afraid I cannot volunteer any further statement.

The Dardanelles Report.

March 14.

Mr. G. LAMBERT asked Mr. Bonar Law if he would consider the possibility of placing the House in possession of the purport of the passages excised from the Dardanelles report so far as it could do without detriment to the public interest.

Mr. BONAR LAW: I discussed this matter with my colleagues. We have every desire that the House should be put in possession of all the information that we can give, and I think it would be reasonable that the examination of this matter should be made from that point of view. If the late Prime Minister would undertake to act with a small Committee of the Cabinet we should be very glad to have it done.

Mr. ASQUITH: I wish to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Government will afford an opportunity on which I can make a statement with reference to the Dardanelles operations?

Mr. BONAR LAW: Yes, sir; the Government will be quite ready to afford such an opportunity, and I suggest that it should be on Monday or Tuesday next.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. HOPE, in a written answer to a question by Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS, says: The Turkish Government persist in their refusal to allow prisoners of war camps to be visited by representatives of the United States Embassy. Delegates of the International Red Cross Society, however, visited in November and December last seven of the camps, two hospitals at Constantinople, and the island of Prinkipo, where General Townshend is interned. The British prisoners at the camps visited numbered 182 European and 211 Indian officers, and 658 European and 417 Indian non-commissioned officers and men. From the information obtained through the Red Cross delegates it appears that, although the condition of the officers is on the whole not unsatisfactory, that of the rank and file leaves much to be desired, and gives cause for some anxiety. There remained unvisited fourteen camps and three hospitals, containing, according to figures furnished by the Turkish authorities, 131 European officers, and 1,086 European and 8,115 Indian non-commissioned officers and men. The information available respecting the camps unvisited is scanty and in general unsatisfactory, but has recently been somewhat more reassuring, at least as regards the transmission of the relief in money and kind which is continuously being issued by the United States Embassy, and for which his Majesty's Government are profoundly grateful.

THE YOUNG TURK REVOLUTION.

Last Wednesday Dr. Pember Reeves concluded his course of lectures at the London School of Economics on the Historical Causes of Problems of the Near East with one describing the events which led Turkey up to revolution and the present situation. Of the Young Turk Revolution, he said it was not fair to say that it was a mere military conspiracy, for large numbers of those who were concerned in it wanted a better governed Turkey, and these reformers were very often Turks. But a military conspiracy had effected the revolution, and the military party were resolved to keep power in their hands. Moreover, the ideals of the really determined and ruthless members of this party were not high. All they sought was to assert the Osmanli system more strongly than ever, while making it better organised. From the first, external difficulties for the Young Turks were added to internal ones. Austria seized Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bulgaria declared itself independent, and there were troubles in Crete which resulted in the Turks withdrawing practically from any sort of interference in the island. In Arabia there were revolts, and the miserable business was resumed of sending troops into a country from which only one in ten came back. Then came the war of 1912, and the sequence of events which brought things up to the point where they stand to-day. Dealing with the rise of the Christian States, Dr. Reeves detailed some of the principal events in the establishment of independent Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece, notably the heroic defence of Missolonghi and the massacre of Chios. Of the Armenians, who were the last of whom he treated, he said they were not popular with travellers nor in Western Europe. They had not the dignified and impressive manner of the Turk, nor his reputation as a stubborn soldier. But those who knew them well spoke very highly of certain solid qualities that they had—their great industry, their thrift, their perseverance, and their unquenchable national spirit and devotion to their church.

In the Prize Court on Tuesday Sir Samuel Evans disposed of a suit by the Crown asking for the condemnation of three Turkish motor gunboats which had been seized at the yard of the builders, Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Company, of Woolston, Southampton, where they had just been completed. The vessels were the undelivered portion of an order for twenty-two gunboats for the Ottoman Empire. They were built under contracts of 1910 and 1911, and when seized on the slips on November 17, 1914, they had been examined, tried, and inspected by or on behalf of the Turkish Government. The President condemned the three gunboats as good and lawful prize.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Reorganising the Roumanian Army.

On Saturday *The Times* published an article from its correspondent with the Roumanian Army. The "forced quasi-armistice" brought about by the intense cold, says the writer, "facilitates the quiet reorganization of the Roumanian Army behind the first lines." As to that reorganization, we are told:—

The commanders of the divisions are all young men. The greater part of the generals who took part in the autumn campaign have been removed. Some have been pensioned, some given insignificant commands in towns, and some tried. The new divisional commanders have given proof of their ability during the campaign, and some of them who had at the outbreak of war only the command of a regiment successfully lead a division to-day. The same procedure has been used with the Staff officers. Those who owed their situation only to seniority have been replaced by younger officers who have given proof of their capacity.

All these changes have had a wholesome effect on the spirit of the troops, who feel that they are led by worthy officers. Naturally, there are to a certain extent gaps among the junior officers. The reserve officers, however, among whom the necessary selection has been made after six months' campaign, have proved themselves reliable leaders.

While groups of this army are in the trenches, other groups are behind to be reorganised. The new recruits, which have been drilled for several months, are brought and incorporated in the old units. Two or three weeks of war-drilling with the men of the old army are sufficient for the new recruits; and the units re-formed in this way are sent to the front, to replace other groups which are brought behind the lines and reorganised in the same way.

Changes at Salonika.

An interesting article on Salonika appears in the *Christian Science Monitor* (Boston) of February 21. Says the writer, whose article is written in Salonika itself:—

Only the man who has seen the growth of the Allied effort since its inception can have any conception of how Salonika has become the most important port in Greece to-day. Yet even to-day, if Tommy is asked what he thinks of Salonika, he usually expresses fervent gratitude at the fact that he is a Britisher—which, of course, is not quite complimentary to those who had the administering of Salonika before the Allied forces took root and began to set the house in order. For Salonika is one of those places to which distance lends enchantment. Its setting is picturesque. Seen from the entrance to its useful harbour, it is a strip of red and white running from the foot of "the everlasting hills." It is dimly reminiscent of Madeira in this respect, only that Madeira clusters in green, and Salonika is not clothed in luxuriant and semi-tropical verdure.

But the disillusionment is as complete as with the Portuguese port. Salonika wasn't planned; it just grew. A cynical person might say that it was jumbled together like dice and thrown down. It wears an Eastern garb and adopts Western manners. Its streets are narrow and tortuous, they lead anywhere, and are cobbled. Walking along them in wet weather is a fine art. They possess an extraordinary capacity for collecting mud. Possibly that is why some of the shopkeepers in some of the streets rarely clean their windows. The architecture is heterogeneous, and so are the shops, with a penchant for eating houses and hairdressing saloons.

By the time the Allies are done Salonika will not know itself. Not only will it be the first port in Greece, but it will very likely be the best administered and most up-to-date town in the country. Modern warfare may be, and is, destructive, but it is also constructive. . . . Of the permanent monuments which the Allies will bequeath to Salonika none will be more enduring than the great white roads leading out through the hills. The Allies came to Salonika and found mule tracks; they have been and are bridging distance in metal. What part those roads play in the Balkan drama need not be stated here; "lines of communication" to a layman is a technical and little understood phrase, but they are of an army.

The Capture of Baghdad.

The British victory at Baghdad and the entry into that famous city of Sir Stanley Maude and his troops naturally gave rise to the greatest enthusiasm in this country. The following extracts from leading London and provincial journals are typical of the Press comments upon this event:—

The German route to the East is blocked, and the existing terminus of the Baghdad Railway has passed into our hands. Great though this achievement may well be reckoned from the military point of view, the moral effect will be even greater. To the watching East it will seem to sound the knell of German aspirations. To the Germans themselves it will mean the ignominious collapse of a scheme to which they devoted infinite subtle and secret labour, and the frustration of one of the principal objects for which they wantonly set the world ablaze.

One very great and immediate consequence of the British occupation of Baghdad is that it will have a steadying influence upon the whole situation in the Middle East. There can be no doubt that our repeated misfortunes a year or more ago in Mesopotamia very seriously diminished British prestige in Asia, but the fall of Baghdad restores the balance. In Oriental eyes the capture of Baghdad will count for much more than the rout of a Turkish army, for, though the city has been shorn of much of its former greatness, it is venerated because of its "dead past, which cannot die." . . . Its fall will bring more renown to British arms in the East than many battles.—*The Times*.

British troops are in occupation of Baghdad. That is the signal event of which the news will resound to-day through the East, from Cairo to Calcutta, and presently will percolate even to Constantinople. And well may the news resound, for it records a very considerable achievement to the credit of British arms—an achievement which goes far to wipe out the blunders and disasters that darkened the earlier story of the British Expeditionary Army in Mesopotamia. We now see what our troops can do even in such a remote and difficult theatre of war, with thorough organisation and good generalship; and from Sir Stanley Maude's swift success we can gather how much one or both of those essential conditions were previously lacking.—*The Morning Post*.

The capture of this famous city is one of the few possible achievements in a secondary theatre of war which is likely to have results on the whole campaign. It re-establishes in the most striking manner possible the prestige of this country, which had been temporarily damaged by the blunders and mishaps of the first Mesopotamian campaign; it deals the Turks a heavy blow in a region where they are most vulnerable; it threatens with extinction the most costly and ambitious of all Pan-German designs. It must by this time be evident to the Turks that their great German Ally is unable to save them or to send them any substantial assistance.—*The Westminster Gazette*.

Clearly, Sir Stanley Maude's success is one of the critical operations of the war, as, indeed, French and Italian commentators have at once realised. It may be too early as yet to estimate the results of this splendid enterprise, which has given us control practically of the whole of Mesopotamia; but inasmuch as the Turkish army seems to have lost all its consistency as a fighting force, we may assume there is little or no likelihood that Sir Stanley Maude will have any difficulty in defending himself in his new position. On the contrary, it seems that he has already sent his cavalry in pursuit of the enemy, who is retiring northwards on Mosul—at least 200 miles off. No doubt, also, the British Commander hopes to give a helping hand to the Russian Army of General Baratoff, which is advancing from the north-east. Thus the pressure on Turkey is daily getting greater, and her Asiatic dominions are menaced from four different quarters.—*The Daily Telegraph*.

This advance has been no heroic knight-errantry like the enterprise of Townshend and his little army. It has been a large and carefully-planned undertaking, very deliberate while the enemy was still effective, swift, and fierce when he had been smashed into ineffectiveness. The Turks, we can now see, were thoroughly beaten and demoralised in the Kut battle. If it had been possible for them to rally, they would have rallied before Baghdad had been reached, for the preservation of the city was a fundamental thing for them and for their German masters. General Maude has left nothing to chance, and is not likely to leave anything to chance in the future.—*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*.

It is to the political rather than to the military results of the capture of Baghdad that one turns. It writes the failure for all the world to read of Germany's project for a railway from Berlin to the Persian Gulf. That railway, in which millions of German funds had been invested, was to be the spinal cord of a nervous system dominating the East, which, to one school of German thought, was a war aim vastly more important than any that could be gained in Europe. Our tenure of Lower Mesopotamia even as far as Kut spelt ruin to that project. Our occupation of Baghdad kills it. To the more moderate of German statesmen, who hoped for their country a great commercial future in the East through amicable arrangements with Britain as to the railway, there could be nothing more bitter than the fall of Baghdad. It is, moreover, the coping-stone to the policy, which the accident of war has forced upon us, of helping in the recrudescence of Arab nationalism—a policy that should have the widest results, not only for ourselves but for the Arab people.—*Manchester Guardian*.

The loss of Baghdad has been directly hastened by Enver Pasha's subservience to his German masters, who diverted divisions to the Roumanian front which were essential for the defence of the Turkish Empire. It would be difficult to find a more cynical instance of treachery to an ally, and if there be still neutrals who incline to Germany, the fate of the Turk should warn them in time against the inevitable penalties of trusting to Prussian faith. We should be much surprised if, after this blow, Turkey herself consents to be treated longer as a pawn in the German game.—*Evening Standard*.

Turkey and Peace.

The Daily Graphic, in a note in its issue of Tuesday, calls attention to a point that must not be lost to sight. "One little ray of hope," it says, "has been created for Germany by the fall of Baghdad, that event having revived in some quarters the idea of a separate peace with Turkey." The writer goes on to say:—

Germany tried her hand at a little plot of that type early last year, when Turkish agents assembled in Switzerland and allowed it to be known that the Ottoman Government was not averse to concluding a separate peace. Then, as now, such an event would favour Germany's forward-looking plans, inasmuch as the separate peace she has in view is one which would preserve the integrity of Turkey in Europe, and so enable her to resume her old intrigues. If the Young Turks have learnt wisdom from their experience of German perfidy and arrogance, and are willing to accept a peace which is based upon the expulsion of the Ottoman Empire from Europe, the detachment of the Turkish troops from the Central Powers would be a distinct gain to the Allies. It is extremely unlikely that Enver Pasha and his confederates have reached that stage of repentance. If not, a separate peace with Turkey is impossible. The Allies have agreed that Russia is to be established at Constantinople, and that pledge seals the fate of Turkey in Europe. . . . Besides.

there is the principle of nationalities to be considered, which involves the freeing from Turkish misrule of Arabs, Armenians, etc. No peace is possible with the Ottoman Government which, by leaving Turkish influence in Europe, would provide Germany with an opportunity to revive her Eastern ambitions.

"Lord Kitchener and the Dardanelles."

In a leading article with the above title, the *Morning Post* (March 10) deals with the position of Lord Kitchener in relation to the Dardanelles campaign, as revealed in the Report of the Dardanelles Commission. "The account of the share taken by Lord Kitchener in the transaction so concisely analysed by the Commission, being chiefly based upon the recollections of various witnesses, is necessarily somewhat conjectural," says the writer. "It was no part of the duties of the Commission to deal with a variety of circumstances whose recital would have made much clearer the position in which Lord Kitchener was placed; and for that very reason it is incumbent upon those who are acquainted with them to do what justice they may to his memory." After summarising the evidence presented by the Commission, the article concludes:—

So far as it goes, the description of the position of Lord Kitchener is scrupulously accurate. But there is a great deal more which requires to be said. Upon Lord Kitchener was laid a burden heavier than mortal man could support, and it was laid upon him by his Majesty's Government. Ministers required Lord Kitchener to raise, equip, and train a new army of millions of men; they required him at the same time to provide the vast supply of guns and munitions which Lord Kitchener told them would be requisite, long before the Government believed him. And, in addition, Lord Kitchener was required to supervise the military operations in every theatre of war. What help did he receive from the Prime Minister? At the very time, in January, 1915, when the new and appalling project for the capture of Constantinople was pressed upon him, Lord Kitchener, besides raising the army for home defence and providing troops for abroad, failed to receive the supplies of equipment, rifles and munitions which the Government had promised to furnish. At that time, for a week together, Lord Kitchener did not get two consecutive hours of sleep. Owing to arrangements made before the war the staff at the War Office had been changed. It does not appear that in the execution of his gigantic labours Lord Kitchener was helped in any substantial way by any member of the Government. And in spite of all, Lord Kitchener succeeded. He made the new army, he forced the Government to provide it with guns and munitions. He was a great man, with big ideas. He did the utmost that lay in him to do. And it is by these things that he will be remembered.

DARDANELLES COMMISSION REPORT.

The subject of the interim Report of the Dardanelles Commission is dealt with elsewhere. For convenience of reference, we reproduce the general conclusions of the Committee:—

(a) The question of attacking the Dardanelles . . . was, on the initiation of Mr. Churchill, brought under the consideration of the War Council on November 2, 1914, as "the ideal method" for defending Egypt.

(b) It may reasonably be assumed that, inasmuch as all the authorities concerned were, *prima facie*, in favour of a joint naval and military rather than a purely naval attack, such attack, if undertaken at all, would have been of the former rather than of the latter character had not other circumstances led to a modification of the programme.

(c) The communication from the Russian Government on January 2, 1915 [expressing the hope that a demonstration would be made against the Turks to relieve the pressure in the Caucasus] introduced a fresh element into the case. The British Government considered that something must be done in response to it, and in this connection the question of attacking the Dardanelles was again raised. The Secretary for War declared that there were no troops immediately available for operations in the East. This statement was accepted by the War Council, who took no steps to satisfy themselves by reports or estimates as to what troops were available then or in the near future. Had this been done we think that it would have been ascertained that sufficient troops would have been available for a joint naval and military operation at an earlier date than was supposed. But this matter was not adequately investigated by the War Council. Thus the question before the War Council on January 13 was whether no action of any kind should, for the time being, be undertaken, or whether action should be taken by the Fleet alone, the Navy being held to be the only force available.

(d) The political arguments which were adduced to the War Council in favour of prompt and effective action, if such were practicable, were valid and of the highest importance, but the practicability of whatever action was proposed was of equal importance.

(e) Mr. Churchill appears to have advocated the attack by ships alone before the War Council, on a certain amount of half-hearted and hesitating expert opinion which favoured a tentative or progressive scheme, beginning with an attack upon the outer forts. This attack, if successful, was to be followed

by further operations against the main defences of the Narrows. There does not appear to have been direct support or direct opposition from the responsible naval and military advisers, Lord Fisher and Sir James Wolfe Murray, as to the practicability of carrying on the operation as approved by the War Council—viz., "To bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula, with Constantinople as its objective."

(f) The First Sea Lord and Sir Arthur Wilson, who was the only other Naval Adviser present at the War Council, expressed no dissent, Lord Kitchener, who occupied a commanding position at the time the decision was taken, was in favour of the project. Both Lord Fisher and Sir Arthur Wilson would have preferred a joint naval and military attack, but they did not express to the War Council and were not asked to express any opinion on the subject, and offered no objection to the naval operations, as they considered them experimental and such as could be discontinued if the first results obtained were not satisfactory. Moreover, such objections as they entertained were mainly based on their preference for the adoption of other plans in other theatres of war.

(g) We think that there was an obligation, first, on the First Lord, secondly, on the Prime Minister, and, thirdly, on the other members of the War Council, to see that the views of the Naval Advisers were clearly put before the Council; we also think that the Naval Advisers should have expressed their views to the Council, whether asked or not, if they considered that the project which the Council was about to adopt was impracticable from a naval point of view.

(h) Looking at the position which existed on January 13, we do not think the War Council were justified in coming to a decision without much fuller investigation of the proposition which had been suggested to them that "the Admiralty should prepare for a naval expedition in February to bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula with Constantinople as its objective." We do not consider that the urgency was such as to preclude a short adjournment to enable the naval and military advisers of the Government to make a thorough examination of the question. We hold that the possibility of making a surprise amphibious attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula offered such great military and political advantages that it was mistaken and ill-advised to sacrifice this possibility by hastily deciding to undertake a purely naval attack which, from its nature, could not attain completely the objects set out in the terms of the decision.

(i) We are led to the conclusion that the decisions taken on February 16 to mass troops in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles marked a very critical stage of the whole operation. It ought to have been clear at the time that, when this was once done, although the troops might not have been actually landed, it would become apparent to all the world that a really serious attack was intended, and that withdrawal could no longer be effected without running a serious risk of loss of prestige. We consider that at that moment, inasmuch as time was all-important, no compromise was possible between making an immediate and vigorous effort to ensure success at the Dardanelles by a joint naval and military occupation, or falling back on the original intention of desisting from the naval attack if the experiences gained during the bombardment were not satisfactory.

(j) On February 20 Lord Kitchener decided that the 29th Division, part of the troops which, by the decision of February 16, were to have been sent to the East, should not be sent at that time, and Colonel Fitzgerald, by his order, instructed the Director of Naval Transports that the transports for that division and the rest of the Expeditionary Force would not be required. This was done without informing the First Lord, and the despatch of the troops was thus delayed for three weeks. This delay gravely compromised the probability of success of the original attack made by the land forces, and materially increased the difficulties encountered in the final attack some months later.

(k) We consider that, in view of the opinions expressed by the naval and military authorities on the spot, the decision to abandon the naval attack after the bombardment of March 18 was inevitable.

(l) There was no meeting of the War Council between March 19 and May 14. Meanwhile, important land operations were undertaken. We think that before such operations were commenced the War Council should have carefully reconsidered the whole position. In our opinion, the Prime Minister ought to have summoned a meeting of the War Council for that purpose, and, if not summoned, the other members of the War Council should have pressed for such a meeting. We think this was a serious omission.

(m) We consider that the responsibility of those members of the Cabinet who did not attend the meetings of the War Council was limited to the fact that they had delegated their authority to their colleagues who attended those meetings.

(n) We are of opinion that Lord Kitchener did not sufficiently avail himself of the services of his General Staff, with the result that more work was undertaken by him than was possible for one man to do, and confusion and want of efficiency resulted.

(o) We are unable to concur in the view set forth by Lord Fisher that it was his duty, if he differed from the Chief of his Department, to maintain silence at the Council or to resign. We think that the adoption of any such principle generally would impair the efficiency of the public service.

(p) We think that, although the main object was not attained, certain important political advantages were secured by the Dardanelles Expedition. Whether those advantages were worth the loss of life and treasure involved is, and must always remain, a matter of opinion.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Hun aspirations to a great expansion in the East and in the West have never been so thoroughly given away as they were in a speech by the Radical leader in the recent debate in the German House on the Main Danube Canal Bill. "Somebody coined the phrase, 'Berlin-Baghdad'; why shall we not say 'Antwerp-Baghdad?'" demanded Dr. Günther. "I consider it utterly impossible that we should ever hand back Antwerp to the mad Ministers of King Albert. Why should not Antwerp be connected with the Rhine? What we still have to do is to prolong the great waterway into Austria-Hungary and the Balkans. Mackensen has seen to it that the guns of Belgrade and Semendria can never again menace our Danube shipping. As for Roumania, that criminal State will never recover the position which she had before." Then as regards the East. "For communication with the East," this all-out Radical declares, "We have two roads—the Baghdad Railway and this great waterway. Precisely on the Danube we have great German tasks to perform; a beginning has already been made at Sofia by the establishment of a German newspaper. We will not abandon oversea trade, but we will thank our enemies for having directed our attention to the East." In a word, Europe and Asia are to disappear. The future has only room for a Germany! Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof, however.

In the meantime there has been a slight change in the situation. Baghdad has been removed—I hope for good—from the German vision. The famous city and all it contains is in British hands, and, according to my reckoning, the true description of one of "the two great roads" to which the fiery Hun Radical referred should now be "Berlin—to somewhere in the Eastern desert," and we may take it for granted that the Asiatic railhead, from the German-Turkish point of view, will be a continually shifting one. We can safely leave the matter where it stands at the moment—Berlin has "no further interest," as the player with a poor hand would remark.

Mr. S. M. Crabtree, writing to a contemporary from Cairo, says:—"When I was in England last I was greatly interested in the penny shops—shops in which everything on sale was priced 'One penny.' I do not know or remember exactly what name they traded under, but it has struck me that here in Egypt a tremendous sale could easily be made of goods of this description, and it is my intention to try to set the idea going. I should think—but I may be wrong—that there must be some central agency to supply the innumerable articles which they sell in these wonderful shops." I know the class of goods very well—cheap and nasty—and they might possibly find a ready sale to the peasants. The Germans never found difficulty in securing a market for trash of the sort, but I fear there will be little chance of developing the idea during the period of the war, owing to the all-sufficient reason that, given the goods, there is no shipping to carry them.

I take the following interesting paragraph, dealing with the British Industries Fair now being held in London, from the Board of Trade *Journal* of March 8:—"Admission to the fair has, as in former years, been confined to trade buyers, and during the first six days over 8,000 different visitors have attended the fair. Owing to the restrictions in force at the present time regarding foreign travelling, it was to be anticipated that the number of buyers from oversea countries would be comparatively small, but it is gratifying to be able to record that buyers from France, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Greece, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Dutch East Indies, Canada, South Africa, South Australia, and Egypt have paid visits."

Considerable results, I understand, have already accrued from the fair, although it has not been in progress for long. I hear that several Near Eastern buyers have satisfied themselves that in future they can safely and profitably rely on British makers of fancy goods to supply all their needs. So far the war will prove a blessing to trade, bought at a great price, it is true; but a blessing none the less. The glass exhibits are said to be particularly fine, and were a revelation to those who believed that Austria held the monopoly in cheap lines of this sort.

For the actual truth regarding the treatment accorded to British prisoners by the Turk we have to accept the reports published in an Arabic paper so far afield as Mecca. The *Kibla* declares, on the evidence of an eye-witness, that the Turkish Government last year destroyed the railway lines between Homs and Tripoli (in Syria) and between Jaffa and Jerusalem, and used the rails to build a line between Ras-el-Ain and Diarbekir. This action was in accordance with orders from the German General Staff. British, French, and Russian prisoners were employed on the construction of the line, and were very roughly treated by the Germans and Turks. As a result, a large number of them fell sick with dysentery, and they literally filled the military hospitals at Aleppo. Those who were not attacked by dysentery fell victims to other diseases, brought on by the bad food given to them and the rough treatment and overwork to which they were subjected.

The paper continues:—"One of the tricks which the Germans and the Turks used in order to throw dust in the eyes of the British regarding their treatment of the prisoners was to pay honour to General Townshend. They returned his sword to him and accorded him the best and most respectful treatment possible. They sent him to Aleppo and thence to Constantinople, and there the General wrote a letter of thanks for the good treatment he and his men received at the hands of the Turks. Did General Townshend know, at the time he wrote that letter, what misery and hardship were awaiting his unhappy troops?" It is not possible that he could know, for he, of all men, would not have taken the line of least resistance to evil.

I learn that arrangements are being made to extend the scheme to requisition British ships in the South and East African trades. The arrangements pro-

vide for the hire of the ships to the Government at Blue-book rates, the payment to the State of the profits earned above those terms, and the setting-up of a committee of management on which owners of ships and the Controller will be represented. The work of the committee will be to ensure that all the tonnage available is utilised to the best possible advantage, and that there is none of the inept handling of ships of which we heard so much last year.

The trades in which the preliminary arrangements for the initiation of the scheme have already been instituted include the Indian, Persian Gulf, Burma, and the Straits Settlements, and it is believed that the scheme will, before long, be applied to all shipping within the Empire. Shipowners have displayed a proper and patriotic attitude towards this drastic change, and there would appear to be some hope that, at last, British shipping is to be used to the advantage of the State and according to the exigencies of the time. Let us hope so, at any rate.

A correspondent writes:—"The Customs authorities in Egypt collect a duty, additional to the ordinary duty, of two piastres per kilogramme on all tobacco imported into Egypt from countries not having a commercial treaty with the Egyptian Government. This differential duty is still levied, although Egypt has been a British Protectorate since December 18, 1914. No tobacco is grown in Egypt, so that there can be no question of protecting the native grower. Although the extra duty does not seem very large, I am informed that it gives a very considerable advantage to the countries which do not have to pay it. For example, before the commercial treaty between Russia and the Egyptian Government was concluded, the tobacco imported into Egypt from Russia amounted to between 60,000 and 70,000 kilogrammes, while after the treaty it rose to between 700,000 and 800,000 kilogrammes. The duty bears especially hard on low grade tobaccos.

"Now that the Egyptian sources of supply from Russia, Turkey, Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Herzegovina have been cut off by the war, Greece is the only country that enjoys the preferential tariff; prices have risen enormously, and Egyptian importers are suffering, while the Egyptian Government obtains very little benefit from the extra duty by the exclusion of imports." It certainly seems strange that Greece should be benefiting at the expense of other countries."

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

American Trade Energy in the Middle East.

Cotton Goods and Goat Skins in Aden and Arabia.

Reference has frequently been made in THE NEAR EAST to the spirited endeavours which American manufacturers are making to capture various markets in the Near and Middle East. Even before the war broke out our friends had put on a brisk spurt; the opportunities presented by the fact that two-thirds of the manufacturing world are in the vortex have led them to redouble their efforts. And if we are to judge by the voluminous Consular reports which are sent regularly to the Washington Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, they are making real progress.

The latest field of industry is Aden. As we pointed out the other day, in itself Aden has no great trade importance; but it is an *entrepôt*, a great distributing centre for the east coast of Africa, the Yemen and Arabia generally, and for the Persian Gulf. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that American houses have been established there, and that they have already achieved a considerable standing.

Piecegoods.

One of the directions in which American energy is employed is in cotton goods. The Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison Southard, has been to the trouble to prepare an elaborate review of the market position, and while, perhaps, the mass of figures he has compiled would not be of great interest to our readers, some of the statistics and facts which he gives will go to show the thoroughness of his work. He writes:—

"Cotton manufactures (excluding twist, yarn, thread, etc.) are the largest single item of import into Aden. For the past five years they have formed 18 per cent. of the total incoming cargo of the port, and have approximated £700,000 in value annually. Drills and jeans, longcloth and shirtings, and sheetings, classified as gray (unbleached) cotton piece-goods, make up the bulk of this trade, Aden's imports having averaged for the five-year period under review £11,670, £37,780, and £447,170 for these three classes respectively.

"The United States supplied directly during the fiscal year 1915-16 unbleached longcloth and shirtings to the value of £16,075, or approximately 35 per cent. of the total imports of these fabrics. The year shows for this item a total gain of £29,817, more than half of it represented by increased imports from the United States.

"The United States also supplied £16,770 worth of unbleached drills and jeans, or nearly 80 per cent. of the total imports of this class, the year's gain of £11,185 being more than accounted for by increased purchases of American goods. Unbleached sheetings to the value of £506,600 were imported into Aden in 1915-16, an increase of £143,140, but the share of the United States in this trade—£393,100—was nearly £200,000 greater than in 1914-15.

Rise in Prices.

"As is well known, American unbleached cotton piece-goods enjoy the good name and the resulting universal demand which, among the conservative merchants and primitive ultimate consumers in this consular district, constitute an enormous advantage. In fact, the advantage has been regarded by many local merchants as such as to make absolutely unassailable the position occupied by 'Americani'—the local trade name for American unbleached cottons. However, faith in the deep-rooted and general demand for 'Americani' has been somewhat shaken by recent developments in this market.

"Everyone is familiar with the fact that for some time past American cottons have been climbing in price. It seems that previous to the beginning of this advance large stocks of 'Americani' had been bought and stored here. This is possibly an explanation of the increase in the import figures for 1915-16. Be that as it may, the Aden wholesale merchants with large stocks of cotton goods on hand have been able to manipulate present conditions very much to their own advantage.

"This has continued until Indian merchants who have offices in Bombay have responded to the efforts of a large Japanese firm to have them try Japanese unbleached sheetings. It is understood that 20,000 bales have been contracted for to be delivered in Bombay. Of this amount it is estimated that 12,000 bales will have been brought into the Aden market within a year, while the remainder will go mostly to Muskat and the Persian Gulf, where Aden merchants have built up a trade in 'Americani'.

Japanese Gain Ground.

"While the average Aden merchant, appreciating the superior quality and established popularity of American cottons, is desirous of continuing to sell them, he finds himself losing old customers who can no longer meet the rising prices for the American cottons. He thinks that by buying the best available substitute for 'Americani'—that is, the Japanese goods—he can hold his customers until American cottons are again within reach. No one here believes that the Japanese product will permanently replace the American, although Aden dealers are becoming apprehensive that the higher prices of 'Americani' will force them to handle more and more of the Japanese product.

"Local business people have it that Japanese competition has also affected the sale of the Indian unbleached piece-goods. It is said that considerable stocks of Indian cotton goods are at this time stored in Bombay awaiting a market which is bound to come as prices of 'Americani' continue to soar.

"There are large stocks of American cottons held in Aden. This is considered favourable for the American trade, inasmuch as the holders thereof may find it necessary to unload, and if the Japanese competition is felt they can offer their stock at attractive prices, since it was purchased on a lower market than the one at present prevailing. One Aden dealer is said to be holding 15,000 bales of 'Americani' in his godowns.

Arabian Difficulties.

"Another factor in this year's sales of American cottons will be the practical closing of the Arabian hinterland and the Turkish Yemen to trade on account of political troubles. These regions use a considerable quantity. Perhaps the largest amount of cotton goods imported for the Aden market is sold in Abyssinia and Somaliland. The rainy season in that district has just closed, and goods are beginning to move. The possibility of renewed political disturbances in Abyssinia is to be considered, as in the event of disturbed conditions the movement of trade would be hampered."

It will be seen that while the American is confident in the quality and output of his goods, he is wise enough to take in consideration all the factors in the market. He speaks rather contemptuously, perhaps, of his Eastern rivals, particularly of the Bombay mills, but the Consul, it is to be noted, emphasises the need there is to watch the situation in the market in connection with Japanese competition, high prices, war risks, and disturbed political conditions in Arabia and Abyssinia.

HIDES AND SKINS.

Another direction in which the American is busying himself is in buying hides and skins. In this market his activities have sent the prices for Arabian goat skins to an unparalleled level. The local buyer in Aden, who controls this market, is purchasing exclusively for American clients, and the result is that normal prices of from 27s. 1d. to 31s. 3d. had by the end of last year risen to about 57s. 5d. per score skins.

It is said, indeed, that 60s. per score has been offered for Arabian skins, but so far there is no record of sales at that price. So keen is the demand for goat skins that sellers dispose of their goods without having to sub-

mit them to the usual examination or engage in the usual bickering about prices.

Reason for High Prices.

The bull market in Aden skins was started in about July, 1916, by the arrival of representatives of a firm that had done a large business in Red Sea ports. This firm announced that it was in the market for an unlimited supply of goat skins, and would pay top prices. This firm and the local one above mentioned soon monopolised the skin market, the two older and most prominent American firms in the business in Aden ceasing temporarily to be active buyers.

It is natural that the market should eventually break, but so long as the American tanners directly represented here find it necessary to control the Aden goat skin export for the reason, it is said, that they have fixed contracts to fill, prices will continue high. Aden markets supplied last year an average of 300,000 goat skins per month.

Sources of Supplies.

With the wet season just closed in Abyssinia, which country is the source of many of the best skins marketed in Aden, increased shipments are expected from there. Political troubles in Abyssinia and some interruption to the railroad traffic from Jibuti inland has delayed skins coming to the coast, but the resumption of considerable shipments has already begun.

The principal sources of goat skins in the Aden market are Arabia and Africa. From Arabia large shipments normally originate at Mocha, Jidda, Konfidah, Hodeida, and Ghizan, while the places of shipment of considerable quantities to Aden from Africa are Somaliland, Jibuti, and Obok, Abyssinia and Massaua, Dunkali coast, independent Somali ports, and Italian East Africa.

Normally, Arabian and African ports supply each about one-half. Most of the African skins are sun-dried, known to the trade as flints, while Arabian skins are brine-cured. Due to expertness in skinning, the Abyssinians send skins that are regarded as the best. Somali skins are also highly regarded as being free from knife-cuts and as containing the largest number of primes. The Abyssinian skins are generally of superior weight and condition, although a season either too dry or too wet affects the quality.

Most of the Arabian skins are exported from Aden as "Mochas," but are bought by local buyers under trade names taken from the place of origin, such as Ghizans, Jiddas, Konfidahs, etc. The principal African skins are classified as Mogadiscios, Berberas, Somalis, Massauas, Harrars, Abyssinians, Gallahs, and Dunkalis.

RE-INSURANCE IN ALGERIA.

The French *Journal Officiel* of February 16 last publishes the text of a Law relative to the supervision of re-insurance business effected in France and Algeria.

The Law provides, *inter alia*, that all insurance businesses, French or foreign, carrying out re-insurance in France and Algeria of risks already insured, must inform the authorised agents of the Ministry of Labour and Social Foresight of these transactions, at the same time furnishing them with all documents relative thereto. Every underwriter must enter into an undertaking with the Ministry of Labour not to re-insure any risk concerning a person or property or responsibility in France or Algeria of specific businesses, or belonging to specific countries, such businesses or countries being notified in the *Journal Officiel*. Underwriters are equally required to observe this undertaking in respect of successive re-transferences by their immediate transferor.

Foreign concerns and underwriters operating in France and Algeria must appoint a person resident in France to receive all notifications under this Law, and to furnish all information and documents required. They will further be required, by a Decree to be published thereafter, to give such security of guarantees as may be determined by a consultative committee set up by the Law (under recital), should the Governments of their own countries have taken analogous measures towards French companies.

The consultative committee is to be composed of sixteen members representative of various interests, including foreign insurance concerns.

PRODUCE REPORT.**Currants.**

LONDON, March 15.

There has been a general demand for all qualities, with considerable business done at further advanced prices. It is evident now that before long there will be a scarcity of currants, and the remaining available stocks are sparingly offered, with the expectation of much higher prices in the near future. Amalias are quoted 88s. to 92s., Patras 90s. to 95s., Gulf 91s. to 96s., Vostizza 92s. to 98s., while some Australian fruit is quoted at 85s. to 90s.

Sultanas.

The demand continues at firm rates.

Dates and Figs.

Both kinds are in good demand and steady at recent rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is nominally steady, but in poor demand; Calcutta to London afloat and Feb.-March is quoted 111s., while March-April is offered at 108s., and Bombay Feb.-March and March-April at 110s. Rape-seed is firm for brown Cawnpore-to-London prompt at 98s., and Guzerat prompt at 102s.

Cotton seed has been quiet in all positions. Egyptian-to-London, f.a.q. spot, being offered at £19 5s., and Sakelarides, spot, at £18 10s.; to Hull, f.a.q. spot and prompt, £19 17s. 6d., and Sakelarides, spot, £18 10s.

Rangoon beans, being in narrow compass, are strongly held at the current high prices, while for near and later shipments quotations are higher.

Canary seed is in fair demand, with recent prices well maintained.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been firm during the week, with spot pipes at £52, and barrels at £52 10s.; May-Aug., £54 10s., and Sept.-Dec. at £55 10s.

Rape oil had a better demand, refined English, in barrels, spot, selling at £65 10s. Cotton oil is firmer; crude pipes, spot, £53; refined pale, pipes, £54; and sweet, barrels, £60 to £62, as to make. Olive oil is not offered.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes have been in a rather small demand during the week, but owing to the limited production from the home mills and the very small quantities that arrive from abroad, prices generally are steady. London-made, best, sells at £19 10s. to £20, and Western American at £18 to £18 5s. per ton.

Cotton Cakes.

Egyptian are in more or less plentiful supply, spot parcels selling at £15 7s. 6d. to £15 10s., with considerable business done in afloat at £15 2s. 6d. to £15 5s. ex ship, while English-made remains at £15 10s. to £15 12s. 6d. per ton.

Decorticated cotton cakes are selling well at £18 10s. to £18 15s.

TURKISH GUNBOATS CONDEMNED.

In the Prize Court on Tuesday the President, Sir Samuel Evans, disposed of a suit by the Crown asking for the condemnation of three Turkish motor gunboats which had been seized at the yard of the builders, Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Company (Limited), Woolston, Southampton, where they had just been completed. The vessels were the undelivered portion of an order for 22 gunboats for the Ottoman Empire. They were built under contracts of 1910 and 1911, and when seized on the slips on November 17, 1914, they had been examined, tried, and inspected by or on behalf of the Turkish Government. The whole of the purchase money had been paid except a sum of £3,000. The writ in the action was served by advertisement.

The President condemned the three gunboats as good and lawful prize.

Creditors of the ill-starred Russian Chamber of Commerce met in London yesterday for the first time.

Russian subjects possessing passports for use abroad and certificates for returning to Russia are required to present these to the Russian Consuls to be exchanged for new passes issued under the new regulations.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The market during the past week has been full of discussions relating to the Indian import duties question, and developments in the situation have been followed very closely. Although success of the agitation of Lancashire spinners and manufacturers is not in sight at the time of writing, the opposition to the duties will not be in any way slackened until justice has been obtained for the home country. The general prospects in the market are really no better. Raw cotton prices have continued to advance, and nothing is occurring which is likely to check the upward movement. There is considerable disappointment at the falling off in the forward movement of the Egyptian cotton crop. Up to date the receipts at Alexandria are 4,496,205 cantars against 4,317,012 cantars last year. It is thought in some quarters that the total output will be very little more than 5,000,000 cantars. Rather irregular reports have been received as to the amount of business passing in piece goods for Egypt. Occasional buying has occurred in sized goods, but many of the offers have been impracticable. There is much uncertainty as to the facilities during the next few months for sending goods abroad. A few more offers have been met with in light fabrics for India, but not much has been done. Transactions in shirtings have been few and far between. During the last week or two a little more activity has occurred for China, but demand now seems to be falling off. Some special business has been done for certain of the Near Eastern outlets, chiefly as a result of the success of our troops in Persia. Numerous manufacturers of cloth are feeling the depression very acutely, and some firms are getting ready to stop looms. The yarn market has continued generally flat, but a little more inquiry has been reported in Egyptian spinnings. There are now plenty of easy sellers of American qualities, and there is a marked difference in the prices between ring beams and cop twist.

EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

Information has been received by the Liverpool Cotton Association from the Foreign Office that the export and re-export of raw cotton from this country is to be prohibited. The object aimed at is economy of tonnage. Some doubt prevails at Liverpool whether the prohibition will be absolute or whether export will be allowed under licence and until definite information on this point has been secured, the Cotton Association is refraining from issuing an official notice to members. Although small in comparison with the bulk of the trade done, cotton exports from this country are fairly large in volume. They include supplies of raw material to Allied countries, chiefly Russia and France, and the shipment of Egyptian cotton to the United States, a trade which is done via Liverpool. During the ten weeks ended March 8 the total cotton exports amounted to close on 96,000 bales, of which slightly over two-thirds were Egyptian. The Foreign Office letter makes it clear that the re-export of Egyptian cotton to America will not be permitted.

RESOURCES BOARD IN THE SUDAN.

A Resources Board has been created in the Sudan consisting of Mr. H. P. Hewins, Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, as President, and Lieut.-Col. F. U. Carr, Director, Veterinary Department, and Mr. R. Hewison, Assistant Director, Sub-Department of Agriculture, as members.

The duties of the Board are:—

1. To advise as to the manner in which the food resources of the Sudan may be utilised to the greatest advantage in the circumstances arising from the war.
2. To prepare and submit such schemes in this connection as they consider necessary for the development of and the proper utilisation of their resources.
3. To carry into effect the schemes approved by the Acting Governor-General.

CEREALS IN EGYPT.**Important Proclamation Regarding Irrigation.**

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief his Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt has made a proclamation dealing with those areas in Upper Egypt which do not ordinarily enjoy irrigation from the Nile or public canals between March 20 and the arrival of the Nile flood.

(1) Until the arrival of Nile flood water in the Basins in 1917, the Irrigation Service shall have the power to take possession of any land, and to make and maintain thereon such canals, channels, banks, and other works as may be necessary for the irrigation of the areas mentioned in the preceding article or any part thereof. Compensation for any land so taken shall in default of agreement be determined by a Board to be appointed under my hand.

(2) No water from the Nile or public canals supplied during the period mentioned in Article 1 shall be used for the irrigation either in whole or part of a crop other than a cereal crop. Any crop irrigated in contravention of the provisions of this article is liable to be torn up or otherwise destroyed by the agents of the Ministries of Public Works and Agriculture.

(3) No person shall take water from a canal or channel made under the provisions of this Proclamation at a time other than that authorised by the Irrigation Service or for the irrigation of land other than that for which it is destined.

(4) No person shall destroy, damage, obstruct, or in any other way tamper with any canal, channel, bank, or other work, whether public or private used for the distribution of water from the Nile or public canals during the period set forth in Article 1.

(5) Every pump-owner to whom a temporary permit has been accorded by the Irrigation Service for the period mentioned in Article 1 shall comply with the provisions of such permit. Any pump used in contravening the provisions of such permit is liable to be stopped.

(6) Every Omdah within whose jurisdiction water from the Nile or public canals is supplied during the period mentioned in Article 1 shall be informed by the Inspector of Irrigation of the exact areas for which such water is destined, and shall inform the Inspector of Irrigation or Agriculture of the commission of any offence under this Proclamation. Every Omdah must, when called upon, furnish to the Inspector of Irrigation or to the Inspector of Agriculture the name of the owner or tenant of any plot within his jurisdiction.

(7) Any person who, either as principal or accessory, contravenes the provisions of this Proclamation shall, upon conviction by a Military Court, be liable to imprisonment not exceeding two months, or to a fine not exceeding £20, or to both of these penalties.

Following on Mr. McKillip's recent tour of inspection in Upper Egypt in connection with the extension of the cultivation of wheat and other cereals, the Public Works Ministry has decided to allow the cultivators in the inspected area abundant water for the Seif cultivation (summer), and to authorise those who possess water-pump licences for Nile and winter cultivation only to use them in their summer cultivation as well. It is considered that the good flood of 1916 will allow of sufficient water to be given to the usual summer crops as well as to the increased cereals areas.

The Ministry has also decided that water should only be withheld for Sharaki irrigation only during the month of June, thus enabling cultivators to start their dura cultivation early.

Lord Stamfordham, Private Secretary to the King, has written to Sir Adolph Tuck, Bt., Managing Director of Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons: "I write to inform you that the King is graciously pleased to give his permission for you to quote the words contained in my communication of the 8th inst. in connection with your specimens of Art productions shown at the British Industries Fair:—'The King regards with appreciation and satisfaction these examples of British Industrial Art.'"

BANNED FIRMS.**Another List Issued in Egypt.**

The following additions to, and removals from, the schedule of firms in neutral countries, with whom firms in Egypt are not permitted to trade, have been published in the *Egyptian Journal Officiel* of various dates:—

BRAZIL.

Bayer, Federico, and Company, Casilla Setembro 1, Rio de Janeiro.

Cooperativa Brasil, Limitada, Rio de Janeiro.

Gomes, Luiz (Cooperativa Brasil), Rio de Janeiro.

Miranda, Agenor, Rua Senador Nabuco 19, Rio de Janeiro.

CHILE.

Bayer, Federico, and Company, Casilla 1267, Santiago; Becker, A. and F., and Company, Concepcion and Bandera 615, Santiago; Brenner, Jorge, Iquique.

Faerber, Gustav, Valparaiso.

Giron Basilio, and Company, Arica.

Hepp and Becker, Talcahuano; Hinch and Company, Valparaiso; Hubenbecker, Teodoro, Bandera 86, Santiago; Huckle Hermanos, Valparaiso.

Pinnau, Carlos, and Company, Suere 295, Antofagasta.

Sombrereria Alemana à Jorge Brenner, Iquique; Spoerer, Oscar, and Company, Concepcion.

Visscher, Alejandro, Hijo and Company, Iquique and Arica.

COLOMBIA.

Acero, Delfin, Cúcuta.

Ramirez, Luis Alberto, Bucaramanga.

DENMARK.

Jeppesen, K. T., Prinsesse Maries Allé 17 (formerly of Jernbanegade 4, and Vodrofs-plads 13), Copenhagen.

EQUADOR.

Hermann, Wilhelm, Quito.

GREECE.

Export Society, Piræus.

Herzog, M. L., and Co., Salonika.

Savopoulos, Sfyris and Co., Rua Notara 67, Piræus; Senegalia, A., Patras.

JAPAN.

Kee Sang, 150, Sakaemachi, Itchome, Kobe; Kojiro Yayama, Shimo Yamate-Dori, 2, Chome, Kobe.

LIBERIA.

Ahlften, V.

Birkenheuer, W.; Busch, A.

Decker, I.; Dinkela, H.

Gaede, W.; Gebhardt, Richard.

Hansen, C.; Heyn, E.; Hoffmann, Jul.

Huber, Oscar.

Jager, Ed. C.

Klinge, Alberico J.; Koch, N.; Kroell, K.; Kuhrmann, Carl.

Labe, H.; Lange, P.

Maier, Eugen; Medicke, W.; Muller, Max;

Munch, N.

Petersen, W.; Preuss, E.

Quickenedt, H.

Richter, N.; Roggenbau, H.

Schaumburg, R.; Scholls, J.; Seifer, A.

Thorade, K.; Tobeck, Louis.

Uckert, Richard.

Vagts, Arthur; Vormeyer, H. Walter.

Wagner, E.; Wiebers, V.; Wursburg, W.

Zschorper, M.

MOROCCO.

Lordjman, Haim (Jaime) V., Tangier.

NETHERLANDS.

Koekkoek, M. A., Nieuwendam, near Amsterdam.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES.

Hout, J., van, Weltevreden, Batavia.

PERSIA.

Hosseinyeh, Magasin, Tehran.

PERU.

Moreno, David G., Lima.

Roedinger, H., and Co., Ica.

SPAIN.

Deutsche Sudamerikanische Telegraphen Gesellschaft, Tenerife (see German Cable Company)

Ferrer, José Ballester (see José Ballester, Hijo); Fuchs, Siegfried, Villa Alemana, Malaga.

Grube, Werner, Calle Conde de Benomar 11, Seville.

Lecube, Juan, Bilbao; Lopez Guerra, Manuel, Las Palmas, Grand Canary.

"Provincia, La," Las Palmas, Grand Canary.

Soria and Co., Grao de Valencia; Specht (of Deutsche Sudamerikanische Telegraphen Gesellschaft or German Cable Company), Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

Welsch, Richard, Plaza de Cataluna 19, Barcelona.

VENEZUELA.

Quinters, Carracciolo, Santa Ana.

Removals.**BRAZIL.**

Guimaraes, N., and Co., Rua Luiz de Camoes 16, Rio de Janeiro.

Martins, Manoel, and Co., Rio de Janeiro.

ECUADOR.

Guzman, L., and Hijos, Malecón 100, Guayaquil.

MOROCCO.

Benchetrit, Moses, Tangier.

Cohen, Aaron S., Tangier.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES.

Oei Boen Soei.

PERSIA.

Kaikhosrow, Rustam and Sons, Kerman.

Serushian, Kerman.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Bettman and Kupfer (East African Agency), Lourenço Marques.

SECOND LIST.**Additions to List.****ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY.**

Behr and Ott, Calle Defensa 435, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Barowsky and Company, Calle Sgo. Cabral 172, Rosario, Argentina.

Hermann, Edmundo, c/o Banco Germanico de la America del Sud, Calle O'Higgins 2030, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Iglesias, Justo A., Piedras 338 and Dom. Agraciada 2114, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Koester, Nicolaus, Rua 25 de Mayo 294, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Luaces, Leandro, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Müller, Hermanos, San Julian, Patagonia, Argentina.

Olach and Ohlmsted, San Martin 452, Rosario, Argentina.

Plaut and Company, Calle Alsina 902, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Roma and Company, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Wulff, Otto, Calle Peru 362; Calle Terrero 109 and Rivadavia 6245, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

BOLIVIA.

Burgoa Teran, Arturo, Oruro.

"Cerveceria Calacala" (see Heimbarto Hinze and Company).

Franco, José, La Paz.

"Gallo, El," La Paz; Gunther, Pablo, Oruro.

Harrison and Bottiger, La Paz; Hinze, Heimbarto, and Company, Oruro.

BRAZIL.

Baasch, Hermann, Rua Sao Bento 22, Rio de Janeiro; Bahlmann, John, Rua Sachet 83, Rio de Janeiro.

Gomez, Candido, Rio de Janeiro.

Israel, Simon, and Company, Rua General Camara 23, Rio de Janeiro.

CHILE.

Aguilar, Rudolf, Talcahuano; Arevalo, Manuel, Coquimbo, and Avenida Brasil 169, Valparaiso.

Barrios, Francisco, Iquique; Bermudez, Guillermo, Calle Esmeralda 85, Valparaiso.

Carstens, F., and Company, Concepcion, San Francisco, Valdivia and Temuco; Contreras, Pablo, Calle Esmeraldas 85, Valparaiso.

Länger, Federico, Calle Estada 142, and Casilla 607, Santiago.

Robles, Eduardo, Casilla 607, Santiago.

Saavedra, Pedro (of F. Carstens and Company); Schacht and Wyneken, Valparaiso and Coronel.

COLOMBIA.

Fehrmann, G., and Company, Apartado 140, Barranquilla.

Loos, Pablo, Cartagena.

GREECE.

Jenny, Fridolin (see Jenny and Vock).

Papathodorou, Athanasios (see Alexandre Zachariou and Company); Pfister, Rudolph Von (see Pfister and Assael).

Vock, Emil (see Jenny and Vock).

Zachariou, Alexandre (see Alexandre Zachariou and Company).

MOROCCO.

Allal Ben Brahim Ben Hima, Tangier; Arevalo, A., Tangier.

Bakkali, Si Abdellah El, Tetuan; Belghiti, Abderaham, Tangier; Belghiti, Hadj Mohammed, Tangier; Boumeghait, Hadj Mohammed, Tangier.

Calduch Gila, F., Tangier.

Guerrero, Carlos Massa, Tangier; Gumpert, Antonio, Tangier; Gumpert, Francisco, Tangier; Gumpert, Luis, Tangier; Gumpert, Manuel, Tangier.

Haessner and Company, Tangier.

Jahn and Toledano, Tangier and Laraiche.

Lauffer, E., Tangier.

Mannesmann Brothers, Tangier; Marakko, Mannesmann and Company, Tangier.

Schiller and Company, Tangier.

Villa Valentino, Tangier.

NETHERLANDS.

Algemeene Handelsvereeniging (late De Ruyter and Company), Voorschoterlaan 145, and Linker Rottekade 145, Rotterdam; American Bicycle Company, Prinsengracht 657, Amsterdam.

Beit and Company, Prins Hendrikkade 66-67, Amsterdam.

Catz Gebroeders, Coolsingel 51-53 and Nieuwehaven 141, Rotterdam; and Kloverburgwal 31, Amsterdam; Cohen, Felix, Leuvehaven 86a, Rotterdam; Cohen-Donnay and Company, K. Hoogstr. 1, Rotterdam.

Deutsche Dampffischerei Gesellschaft "Nordsee," Rijksvischhal, Ymuiden; Deutsche Vereinigte Schuhmaschinenfabriek, Boschveldweg, S'Hertogenbosch.

Eiffe and Company, Reederijst, 5, Rotterdam; Englebrecht, W., Heerengracht 125, Amsterdam.

Hagen and Company, Boompjes 84, Rotterdam; Hoorebeke, André van, Zuidblaak 48, Rotterdam.

International Overzeesche Handelsvereeniging, Keizersgr. 318, Amsterdam.

Jibben, D. H. (of Jibben and Van Reysen), Blauwburgwal 6, Amsterdam.

Koenneker, Wm., Prinsengracht 657, Amsterdam; Koenneker's Kabel Bureau, Prinsengracht 657, Amsterdam; Kroon (de) Stoomzeepfabriek, Houtmarkt 19/21, Haarlem.

Levy, Bernard, Witsenkade 14, Amsterdam.

"Nordsee," Deutsche Dampffischerei Gesellschaft, Rijksvischhal, Ymuiden.

Oosterman and Lomans Zeepziederij de Kroon, Houtmarkt 19/21, Haarlem.

Roose, Friederich, Junior, N. Spiegelstr. 26, Amsterdam; Ruff, G., Leuvehaven, 85, Rotterdam.

Schuhmaschinenfabriek, Deutsche Vereinigte, Boschveldweg, S'Hertogenbosch; Spits (H.) and Zoon, Keizershofkade 14-16, Dordrecht; Stern, Albert, Valeriusstraat 159, Amsterdam; Syndicaatvrije Kolenvereeniging, Heemraadssingel 337, Rotterdam.

Tragbar, C. W. Oudeschans 13, Amsterdam.

Vries, Gebroeders De, Heerengracht 545-549, Amsterdam.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES.

Aequator, Mijnbouw Maatschappij, Sumatra.

Bakker, W. J., Sourabaya.

Continental Tyre and Rubber Company, Sourabaya.

Dietzold, W., Pematang Siantar.

Everts, J. T., Sourabaya.

Gronert, J. C. N., Batavia.

Hassan, Haji, Batavia.

Jones, Arthur, Samarang.

Kielich, W., Batavia.

Lio oe Kiong, Menado.

Maatschappij Voor Industriële Unterne-ningen op Java.

Olzen, William, Sourabaya.

Persijn, C., Batavia.

Riebschlaeger, F. W., Sourabaya.

Schultz, Ph. H. E., Medan.

Wagner, Hans, Sourabaya.

Zande, J. Van Der, Palem Laan 37, Sourabaya.

NORWAY.

Schioldborg, J., Dronningensgate 28, Christiania.

(To be continued.)

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Motor Ploughing by Night.

The successful experiments by British agriculturists of ploughing throughout the night with the aid of a powerful motor-car acetylene headlight will undoubtedly interest Oriental agriculturists, who, with the present scarcity of farm labour, cannot, during the short autumn and winter days, cultivate as much land as they require. In the farm where the experiments were made the motor-tractor had been at work for five days and three nights, and the whole 40 acres (160 stemmata) were ploughed in that time. To plough the same acreage with a horse-plough would take fifty-six days—and with such small and weak horses or oxen as are used in the East, perhaps one hundred days; while with a motor-tractor working the average eight-hour day it would have taken twelve days. Acetylene apparatus and motor lamps are easily obtained in all towns in the Near East, and the experiment is worth trying.

Sudan Cotton.

During the recent tour in the Sudan of Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, the Minister of Public Works and War, his first visit after leaving Khartoum was to the experimental farms at Tayiba and Barakat, where he saw the cotton crops in a prosperous condition. He estimated the produce of cotton per feddan as equal to that of similar land in Egypt. Though the grade of the cotton was slightly inferior to that of the Egyptian, still it was almost equal to that of the best Egyptian varieties. The next place the Minister visited was Makwar, where he inspected the site selected for the erection of the barrage across the Blue Nile. There is no doubt but that the site selected is the best one adapted for the purpose. This project, which was put forth by Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Sir Arthur Webb, was exclusively for the benefit of the Sudan. It was intended to facilitate the irrigation, during the flood season, of the lands of the Gezira, which is the most fertile region in the Sudan, and upon which the future of the Sudan as an agricultural country chiefly depends.

The White Nile Dam.

The next project which Sirry Pasha studied was that of a dam across the White Nile. Two localities were suggested for this dam—one at Gebelein above Kosti, and the other at Gebel Aulia. The explorations hitherto made are in favour of the selection of the latter place for the purpose. It is probable that it will be found advisable to divert a portion of the Blue Nile, during the seasons of unusually high floods, into the White Nile above the projected dam, through a canal cut across the Gezira from Makwar. This scheme would help to mitigate or avert any harm that might be done to Egypt during too high floods, as well as to conserve an additional quantity of water to be used for irrigation later on in the year. The other irrigation projects which the Minister has studied are the Basins of Wad Bennaga and Wad Hamid in Berber province.

Evidences of Prosperity.

In an interview with a representative of the *Sudan Times*, Sirry Pasha said he was greatly impressed with the progress achieved during the past few years. He considered himself in a better position to make a correct estimate of this progress than those who had resided in the Sudan all this time and witnessed the various stages of progress gradually developing. He was particularly impressed with the large number of children whom he saw at every town or village he visited. This was an unmistakable sign of prosperity of the population. It was also a great promise for the future of the country, for the increase of its population would mean the increase of the number of hands working on its development.

THE ROADS OF EGYPT.

Link between Port Said and Cairo Completed.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PORT SAID, February 17.

Now that the road from Port Said to Cairo is finished, the question of its use by the general public for commercial purposes is under consideration, and should the military exigencies permit, it will probably be open to the public under a system of military control.

The construction, of course, has been hurried forward by the military authorities with a view to affording relief to the railway and providing a reliable alternative means of communication to and from and in the Canal zone. It will be taken over after the war by the Egyptian Government, who will then be responsible for its upkeep.

It is understood to be the intention of the Government to improve the many existing roads or tracks in the Delta, thus forming a network of communications between the two main roads, Cairo-Port Said and Cairo-Alexandria. That the scheme in its maturity will prove of benefit to the populace will depend largely on the introduction to the country of suitable commercial motor traction and carriage. Here an opening is at once apparent for the manufacturers of motor lorries, cars and cycles, and our home firms would do well to inquire into the probable needs of Egypt in this respect.

Those who cater for the sporting rider will find a ready market, when things settle down, for motor-cars and cycles, particularly of the light variety so much in vogue nowadays; these, besides being economical in price and consumption of fuel, are eminently suitable in a flat country like Egypt.

Considerable development may also be expected in the Sinai Peninsula, where the military roads and light railways will doubtless be put to useful productive work in peaceful times. Here, however, the problem of water has first to be solved.

PETROLEUM PANIC IN EGYPT.

"There still continues to be a good deal of apprehension among a considerable section of the public of Cairo that Egypt is on the verge of a stringent petroleum famine," the *Egyptian Gazette* wrote recently. "We have made inquiries on the matter from the most reliable sources of information, and we find that there is no justification of any sort or kind for the alarmist reports that have of late been rampant throughout the capital. For the purpose of allaying this baseless panic we append the figures for the stocks of petroleum now held in this country:—

The interior, about 3,000 tons.
At Alexandria, 14,000 tons.
At Suez, 6,000 tons.
On the way to Egypt, 8,000 tons.

"Thus it will be seen that we are assured of 31,000 tons, and it must be borne in mind that this figure does not include the constant supply from the Egyptian oilfields in the Gulf of Suez, nor does it include the supply that we obtain by sea from Persia from time to time. The total consumption of petroleum weekly throughout Egypt is about 2,000 tons.

"The panic appears to be in a great measure due to a few people having bought up far more petroleum than they have any need of and storing it. It is anticipated that the demand will drop to normal soon."

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
March 10 and 11.....	520,000	490,000

COMPANY NOTES.

Eastern Bank, Limited.

The seventh annual report, for the year ended December 31, of the directors of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., to be presented at the seventh annual general meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 1917, is as follows:—The gross profits to December 31, 1916, after providing for contingencies and including the balance brought forward from the last account, as shown by the annexed statements, amount to £108,118 9s. 4d., and, after deducting expenses of management, directors' and auditors' fees, there remains a balance of £60,545 10s. Out of this sum the directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, absorbing £36,000, placing £15,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £70,000, and carrying forward the balance of £9,545 10s. to the next account. A branch has been opened at Amara, where the bank has been appointed bankers to the Government of India. The directors record with deep regret the loss of their colleague, Sir Jacob Sassoon, Bart., whose death occurred in Bombay towards the end of the year. His successor, Sir Edward Sassoon, Bart., has been invited to and has accepted a seat on the board. The Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., Sir Edward Sassoon, Bart., and Mr. J. S. Haskell, the directors who retire on this occasion in accordance with the articles of association, are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co., and Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews also retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment. The dividend will be payable on and after Monday, March 26, 1917.

Sudan Gold Field Co., Ltd.

The report of the Sudan Gold Field Co., Ltd., for 1916 states that 26,297 tons of quartz were milled, yielding 14,180 ozs. of bar gold, or an average of 10 dwts. 19 grs. per ton. From 18,840 tons of tailings treated were recovered 1,438 ozs. of bar gold, an average of 1 dwt. 13 grs. per ton. The total production was 15,618 ozs. (or 14,007,720 standard ounces) of a realised value of £54,521. The disposable balance is £25,053. Out of this £2,880 has been set aside for depreciation of buildings, machinery and plant, etc., £579 for income-tax, £1,000 for mining and general expenditure, £4,475 has been deposited on account of excess profits duty for 1914, and the amount, provisionally, in respect of excess profits duty for 1915 (partly paid) is £4,011. The directors have declared a dividend of 1s. per share, or 10 per cent. (less tax at the rate of 4s. 6d. in the £), payable 28th instant, and £5,721—subject to royalty to the Sudan Government, remuneration to directors and managers, and to a further claim for excess profits duty in relation to the year 1916—will be carried forward. The liquid assets at December 31 last, after providing for sundry creditors, amounted to £15,314.

Dividends, Payments, Etc.

Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway Company.—The coupon No. 10—4 per cent. bonds, due January 15, 1917, will be paid at the London office of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.—The dividend for the first half-year of 1916, amounting to Dr.2 per share, will be paid against surrender of coupon No. 56 at the offices of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah 19 tons (last week 19 tons), Hurghada 1,259 tons (last week 1,296 tons).

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAE."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,

ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLI-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR
SWITZERLAND

Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniform Engines, Boiler and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system).
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O.B. 117. Tel.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MACHRABY
P.O. B. 1005. Tel.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.,
Thursday.

Business continues very quiet, although there are, here and there, signs of a re-awakening of interest.

Telegraphic communication with Egypt is still slow and irregular, and this also interferes with business. Another thing which is probably responsible in part for the recent inactivity is the fact that Egypt has been subscribing largely to the various War Loans of the Entente Powers, and this has naturally diverted a good deal of money from the ordinary channels of investment.

Some small business has been done in National Banks on the basis of 13½-13¾, but there were no transactions to record in Agricultural, which remain firm at about 5½.

There has been some inquiry for Delta Lands at 8s., with a few shares offering at 8s. 6d. A small transaction has taken place in Gharbieh Land at 17s.

In New Egyptian, a thousand shares were done at 8s. 6d. United Egyptian Lands are slightly harder at about 1-32, some few thousand shares having changed hands.

Egyptian Markets have been a firm spot round 25s., and Salt and Sodas, after changing hands at 19s. 6d., are firmer again round 20s. Some business has been done in Khedivial Mails at 26s., at which price there are further buyers to-night.

In Greek securities the same firm tone has continued, but very little business has been done owing to the absence of sellers. Some Greek Rails have changed hands at 62, and to-day Current Bonds came to business at 87½; but otherwise the transactions effected have been of a trivial nature.

Oil Shares.

There is a slight improvement to record in this market. Spies have been in fair request, and at the close had hardened to 14s. 9d. North Caucasians were quiet, and Urals fell back to 30s. Russian Generals have been in some request at about 33s. 6d., while Constantines were also in demand and improved 6d. to 7s. 6d.

Small declines have been shown by Anglo-Maikops, now at 5s. 1½d., Bakus 2s. 6d., and Premier Pipes at 1s. 9d.

The Paris Bourse.

There has been a fine rally in Suez Canals which, yesterday, sprang 50 francs to 4,300. Turkish securities have continued to harden. Otherwise there is little of interest to report.

AN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT.

"Some interest was aroused by the announcement of the result of the Committee's investigations into certain dealings in General Oilfields shares," says the *Financial Times*. "In consequence of what occurred a broker has been suspended from entering the Stock Exchange for three years, while a firm of dealers is suspended for one month and two others have incurred severe censure."

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, March 15.

Little change has occurred in the conditions in the money market. Short loans have not been quite so easy as was the case previously, owing to the somewhat improved demand for accommodation. Nevertheless, at the close money commanded nothing better than 4 per cent., and some business has been put through at an even lower rate.

In weekly loans, most of the lines transacted were put through at 4½ per cent., although there have been acceptances at ½ less.

Exchange in Alexandria at sight is from 97 to 97½ piastres to the pound sterling.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended March 2.	1917. Week ended March 1.
Cattle markets	1,672	1,725
General markets	350	415
Cattle markets closed	1	10
Receipts (£)	1,422	1,740
Total from commencement of year (£)	12,640	14,652

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK
EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	28	67	67
Greek 5%, 1881	57	51	51
Do. 5%, 1884	56	46½	46½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	45	41	41
Do. 4% Renten, 1889	49	50	50
Do. 5% 1890	56	49	49½
Do. 5% Fin. G. Ln., 1893	77	62	62
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	71½	71½
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	87½	87½
Do. 5% Current	82½	50½	50½
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	72½	—
Persia 5% 1911	92	67½	67½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., 460p.	67	—	—
Serbian 4% United Bonds	67	72½	73
Turkish 4%, 1891	84	66	66
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	79	52	52
Do. 4% United	—	—	—

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	6½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Athens	22	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	3½	3½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	5	5
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	13½	13½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	—

RAILWAYS.

Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5	5
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	9½	9½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% ..	80	74	74½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	2½	2½	2½
Béhéra Co.	8½	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. Do. and Foreign Trust	9/-	8/3	8/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	13	18	18½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/9	8/6
Sidi Saleh Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/6	-/6

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	25/3	25/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	20/-	20/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	1½	26/3	26/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

OIL.

	Price on Feb. 15.	Feb. 22.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/3	10/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21/-	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6
Roumanian Consolidated	9/3	8/9

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON FEBRUARY 24.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E. 13½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	L.E. 12	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E. 12	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 12	—	—
Do. priv.	L.E. 12	—	—
Lots Turos, oblig.	L.E. 12	—	—
Bons de Panama	L.E. 12	—	—
Cassa di sconto e di Risparmio (New) " Privilegiée	L.E. 68	—	—
Cheikh Fadi	L.E. 73	—	—
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E. 12	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte ..	L.E. 12	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	L.E. 12	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. 12	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 12	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 81	—	—
Unifiée	L.E. 69½	—	—
Privilegiée	L.E. 4½	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt	L.E. 2	—	—
Do. Fondateur	L.E. 2	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	L.E. 2½	—	—
Nungovich Hotels	L.E. 5½	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	L.E. 26/9	—	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	L.E. 6½	—	—
Ord.	L.E. 4½	—	—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	L.E. 5	—	—
Alex. and Ramlah Railway	L.E. 101	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways ..	L.E. 160	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Cairo	L.E. 280	—	—
Jouissance	L.E. 220	—	—
Egyptian Markets	L.E. 175	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv. ..	L.E. 20/3	—	—
Div.	L.E. 635	—	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	L.E. 325	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	L.E. 260	—	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	L.E. 258	—	—
" 1886 Oblig.	L.E. 2	—	—
" 1903 "	L.E. 2	—	—
" 1911 "	L.E. 2	—	—
Delta Lands	L.E. 1½	—	—
Port Said Salt	L.E. 1½	—	—
Cotton Spinners	L.E. P.T.	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	L.E. 1½	—	—
United Lands	L.E. 1½	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	L.E. 1½	—	—
Fond	L.E. 1½	—	—

NOTICE.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Saturday, the 7th April, 1917, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report.
- Receiving the Auditors' Report.
- Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1916.
- Declaring a dividend.
- Electing Directors.
- Electing Auditors for the year 1917 and fixing their remuneration.

All shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting, providing the Shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:

In Egypt, at the latest, the 2nd April, 1917.

At the Head Office, Cairo.

At the Branch of Alexandria.

At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiout, Assouan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom,

Damanhour, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod el Farag,

Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and Mousky (Cairo).

At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

Bank of Athens,

Banque Belge pour l'Etranger,

Imperial Ottoman Bank,

Banque d'Orient,

Banco di Roma,

Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio,

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris,

Crédit Lyonnais.

In the Soudan, at the latest, the 28th March,

1917, at the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt, at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakim.

In Europe, at the latest, the 16th March, 1917.

In Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise.

In Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

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

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.

Cairo, the 27th February, 1917.

MORATORIUM IN TURKEY.

The Austrian journal *Volkszeitung* of February 3 announces that the Turkish Chamber has extended the moratorium until November 30 next. Debtors must pay off five per cent. of their arrears each quarter, so that by the expiry of the moratorium they will have cancelled one-fifth of their debt.

A minimum of £10 may be withdrawn by each holder of a bank deposit on the first day of each quarter, even though this amount exceeds five per cent. of his balance. Rent is no longer subject to the moratorium, and five per cent. of the arrears must be paid off quarterly. Debts, contracts, and other obligations incurred after the moratorium was declared are not subject to the moratorium.

DEFAULTING STATES.

In the annual report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders are included some interesting tables showing the position at the beginning of 1917 of the various debts quoted on the Stock Exchange under the heading of "Foreign Stocks, Bonds, etc." The countries and States paying their obligations in full, except in the case of belligerent nations to enemies, are:—Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Norway, Persia, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States and Venezuela.

PARIS BOURSE.

	Feb. 29.	Mar. 1.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	4236	437
Canal de Suez	620	635
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	89.50	89.50
Serbian, 1895	67.50	67.50
Egyptian Unified	—	—
Turkish Unified	—	—

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Truck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packing), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester, Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc. Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 307.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	477	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	483	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Notes and News	491
Cairo	479	About Roumania	483	Administration of the Greek	
Khartoum	479	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	484	and Turkish Debt	492
Cyprus	480	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	489	An Important Railway	492
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST ..	488	Substitute for Coal	493
A War-time Departure from		LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Produce Report	493
Roumania	480	The Serbs as Seen in their		Lancashire Cotton Market ..	493
The Russian Campaign in		Ballads (Miss M. Edith		Trade Notes	493
Nearer Asia	481	Durham)	482	Trading with the Enemy ..	494
Official Visits in Persia ..	482			Banned Firms	494
The Proposed State Univer-				Company Meeting	495
sity in Egypt.. ..	487			Company Notes	495
LEADING ARTICLE—				On 'Change	496
The Future of Mesopotamia	486			Stock and Share List	496

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In the revolution in Russia Armageddon continues to live up to its reputation. No result of the war is likely to have more far-reaching effects than this dramatic movement, provided it can be carried through on the moderate lines to which the prime movers are committed. As the European struggle continued, the shortcomings of the Russian bureaucracy became more and more pronounced. Those in authority took alarm at the awakening of the forces of New Russia, and persuaded themselves—and, it is to be feared, the Court, too—that the danger to autocracy from this quarter was greater than any that could threaten from an inconclusive peace with Germany. There could be no compromise with this attitude, and the situation brooked no delay. When the actual outbreak came, although starting by chance in food riots in a single district of Petrograd, the long-drawn antagonism between the rival forces stood at once revealed, and the Duma, as representatives of the people, took charge. There is no need to include the Tsar in the ranks of the reactionaries; but he was powerless to control the dangerous system that centred round the Court. The course he took was the right one, but the few days' delay played into the hands of the revolutionary extremists, and has complicated the position for the Moderates. Accordingly, for the present, New Russia is not yet out of the wood; for until it is assured that the great change is to follow a middle course, clear of all taint of reaction, but responsive to the traditional spirit of the Russian people, there can be no guarantee that the country will not find its attention distracted from the prosecution of the war by its internal differences.

Whatever course the Russian Revolution pursues, there can be no doubt that it will exercise a profound influence upon the minds of the people of the Central Alliance. Already the Germans have realized that the change in their Eastern neighbour completes the democratic ring by which their own virtually autocratic institutions are surrounded. Revolution is apt to be epidemic. Events in Russia will familiarize the peoples of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey with the fact that, where rulers fail to reflect the national will, the

people have the remedy in their own hands; and, further, that where the people are for the most part united a revolution can be carried out more or less peaceably, without elaborate preparations by means of secret societies or through underground channels. To the four countries of the Central Europe block the details of the Russian Revolution are particularly instructive. Its net result, moreover, can hardly fail to lead German public opinion to a new orientation of international politics, with increased emphasis on the question *Quo Vadis?* addressed to itself. The success of the Government in capturing Social Democracy for the purposes of the war was largely due to the fact that autocratic Russia was regarded by the bulk of the party as a natural enemy; a minority only would be affected by commercial and industrial jealousy of Great Britain. But if Russia is suddenly to become more democratic than Germany, the confidence of the Majority Wing of the Social Democrats will be severely shaken. For the rest, the certainty the Allied Powers have of the changes in Russia making for the more vigorous prosecution of the war will be the measure of Germany's disappointed hope of dislodging Russia from the Grand Alliance.

General Maude's Proclamation to the people of the Baghdad vilayet is a document of paramount importance. On the one hand, it is, as we have termed it elsewhere, a charter of Arab liberty; on the other hand, it removes all doubt as to the intentions of the British Government in regard to this region. Any fears whatsoever on this point were unfair to those now in authority; but that they should have been entertained is not surprising in view of all that has happened in the past and of the promptings from various quarters as recently as last month that the Mesopotamia Expedition should be restricted to the re-capture of Kut. There is no need to force the political pace in Mesopotamia now, or to require the British Government to translate generalities into paper constitutions. The promise of what is in store for them has been given to the Arabs; but, as the Proclamation suggests, one of the first duties imposed upon them is to adjust their own dissensions, and under the ægis of a Power which is anxious to do all it can to promote their well-being and national solidarity to prepare for a revival of the days when the lands of the Eastern Khalifate were one of the world's most favoured portions.

The hardships of the Mesopotamia Expedition and the present condition of this region make it difficult to conjure up the glories of Irak a thousand years ago, when owing to its great fertility it was reckoned throughout the East as one of the four earthly paradises. Ctesiphon was the capital of the province at the time of the Arab conquest. The newcomers, however, required cities of their own, and Kufah, Busreh, and Wasit became the chief centres. But numerous other towns dotted the banks of the Tigris, which then took the course of the Shatt-el-Hai, while a series of canals between the Euphrates and the Tigris, with others on the east bank of the latter, made the whole region a Garden of Eden. Of Wasit we learn that the lands around it were extremely fertile, and their crops provisioned Baghdad in time of scarcity; the town markets were magnificent and well stocked, and visitors praise the fine buildings of the city. Baghdad in due course eclipsed all the other cities, and at one time is said to have had two million inhabitants. Since those days the vagaries of the rivers have changed the physical conditions of the country and the population has materially diminished. Irrigation, however, and improved methods of cultivation may do much to revive the fertility of the past. The civilizing influence of steel rails has already entered the land from the south, and in due course, we may hope, a British railway from Baghdad to the coast by way of Damascus will not only open up the country through which it passes, but will prove an important factor in consolidating the Arabs into a strong and prosperous kingdom.

The pursuit of the Turks is being continued towards Samarra, which is railhead of this section of the Baghdad Railway. Only one attempt at a stand seems to have been made by the enemy, at a point covering the railway station at Mushaidie. But a night attack drove the Turks from their strong position, and they were once more in full flight. General Maude reports that on March 16 the whole enemy force, consisting of the remnants of three divisions, was straggling over a distance of twenty miles, the rear being some forty miles north of Baghdad. In the meantime a portion of the Turkish army, which made the stand at the Diala River south of Baghdad, and, when the position was turned by General Maude throwing troops across the Tigris, seems to have been prevented from rejoining the main force, is being pursued up the Diala. Bakuba, a town thirty-three miles north-east of Baghdad, has already been occupied, and the Turks are in flight towards Khanikin, some sixty miles beyond.

Last week in these pages it was pointed out that the capture of Baghdad would exercise an immediate influence on the fortunes of the Turkish force falling back before the Russians in Western Persia. The interest attaching to this theatre has been increased by the fact that a section of the Turkish army defeated at Kut is now being driven towards Khanikin by the British. Russian columns are operating about a hundred miles south of Lake Urmiah, and again on a wider front a hundred and fifty miles farther south on the main road connecting Baghdad with Hamadan by way of Khanikin. In the former operations a series of successful engagements has brought our Allies into Turkish territory, not far from the road which commands the natural way of escape for the Turks from Hamadan. The Russians have already occupied Harunabad, a hundred miles short of Khanikin, and the enemy in front of them now runs the risk of finding his path barred at Khanikin by the British or to the north by a second Russian force. In the last resort the Turks can probably disperse and take to the mountains in small groups, trusting to being able to win through towards Mosul by tracks which an army could not use. They are, however, in a parlous plight, and by the time they reach Mosul, if they should do so, they would offer, even with the remnants of the three divisions retreating from Baghdad, very poor material as a nucleus for any reinforcements the Turks may have hurried there.

The announcement that the spring campaign in Macedonia may be said to have begun is likely to be received with some scepticism after the disappointments of the last twelve months. The British Commander-in-Chief's feelings on the subject seem to find expression in the complete cessation of all official reports. Fighting, however, is in progress, and in due course Macedonia will welcome the spring. Perhaps it would be more surprising, in view of the events in other theatres, if the spring campaign had not begun; so we may accept the strange message at its face value. The operations opened with the British advancing their line a thousand yards on a two-mile front south-west of Doiran. This move was effected by night and without opposition. Immediately afterwards the Italians became active in the Tcherina loop, and the French took up the fighting even more successfully west and north-west of Monastir. Within three days they had taken fourteen hundred Bulgarian prisoners, and had captured an important hill a few miles north of the town, which served the Bulgarians as a valuable observation post. The ejection of the enemy from the positions which enabled him to shell Monastir had become an urgent necessity; but, as was suggested in our last issue, the task requires the co-operation of the whole Allied line, if it is to be accomplished without heavy sacrifices. This probably supplies the explanation of the "spring campaign." A considerable amount of activity is being shown from Lake Ochrida to the Struma river. The phenomenon is not a new one on the Macedonian front; but this time the conditions under which it is repeated are entirely new.

The Ministers of the Entente Powers have taken up their residence again in Athens, and the first cargo of wheat has reached the inhabitants of the capital. In the absence of further information with regard to the way in which the Greek Government is carrying out the terms imposed by the Allies' Notes, we must infer from the return of the Ministers that they are now satisfied that Greece is no longer in a position to translate any nefarious designs into action. It is more than probable that King Constantine, in view of the course of events in Europe and Asia, is congratulating himself on not having pushed things to further extremes. For him, too, the revolution in Russia will seem to bear a very personal message, and there is no reason why its far-reaching effects should not extend even to Greece.

The debate in the House of Commons on the Report of the Dardanelles Commission left the subject where the Report itself had left it. Mr. Asquith failed to realize that the public set less store on individual points in the narrative than on the confirmation which the Commissioners supplied of the verdict already passed on his administration as a whole. The Dardanelles fiasco was symptomatic of the whole conduct of the war during his premiership; it failed primarily because the country lacked leadership, for there was no one at the head of affairs to correlate with a master mind and forceful hand the good work which Lord Kitchener was doing at the War Office and the Navy was doing at sea.

The reference to the Czecho-Slovaks in the statement of the Allies' war aims sent to President Wilson has revealed the fact that some uncertainty exists with regard to the geographical distribution of the nationalities concerned. Briefly expressed, it may be said that the term is meant to include the Czechs of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, together with the Slovaks of Northern Hungary. The territory comprised amounts to nearly 40,000 square miles, with a population estimated at about twelve millions. But as three millions of these are Germans, it may be inferred that when actual boundaries come to be settled an attempt will have to be made to incorporate as many of the latter as possible in one of the neighbouring German States. Fortunately, as the war continues any hesitation that may have been felt in certain quarters regarding the break-up of the Central European block is being removed by the actions of the Central Powers.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 27.

The Foodstuffs Problem.

During the past month or so Messrs. McKillop and Ireland, the Inspectors-General of Agriculture and Irrigation, have been touring Upper Egypt with a view to studying the possibilities of increasing the production of foodstuffs. Incidentally they have attended meetings of the provincial authorities and cultivators, and have discussed with them what they should do and what use the Government intends to make of the extra supply of summer water which will be available this year. They have just returned, and the result of their visit is now evident from a proclamation which has been promulgated this week by General Murray. The preamble of this proclamation states that the Irrigation Service considers it possible to supply water from the Nile for the irrigation from March to the arrival of the new flood, which should take place at the end of July, of certain lands which do not ordinarily enjoy Nile water for irrigation during that period. In view of this fact and of the great need for the encouragement of the cultivation of cereals, powers are given to the irrigation authorities to take possession of any land and to make and maintain thereon such canals, channels, banks, or other works as may be necessary for the irrigation of the areas mentioned above. It is laid down that compensation for any land thus taken will, in default of any agreement, be determined by a special board, and that any cultivator using any of the water supplied in the manner mentioned for any other than a cereal crop will be liable not only to have the crop which he is growing destroyed, but also to very heavy penalties at the hands of a military court.

The area which will be specially irrigated by the Nile water in the manner mentioned is the basin land, which is usually only watered at flood time, and on which crops can only be grown after the flood has subsided, i.e., during the winter. It is expected that by giving this area water during the next four months it will be possible to obtain an extra millet crop of about 30,000 tons. It is understood that arrangements have also been made to give water to a larger rice area than usual, on condition that this rice is grown only as a food and not as a reclamation crop. All these measures show that the responsible authorities are fully alive to the situation, and that they are doing all in their power to increase the production of foodstuffs in the country. The prospects of the maize and rice crops are excellent, and there is reason to believe that the area under wheat will turn out to be normal, notwithstanding the fact that the area under cotton has not been restricted. All these factors should combine to alleviate to a certain extent the stringency in foodstuffs which is anticipated during the ensuing twelve months, though it is to be feared that nothing the local authorities may do in the direction of encouraging the cultivation of food-crops will entirely ward off that stringency.

The Somme Film.

This week the "Battle of the Somme" film was exhibited for the first time in Egypt at an entertainment given at the American Cosmograph in aid of the funds of the British Red Cross and the United Services Welfare Committee. The film, already considerably censured at home, had, according to those who had seen parts of it in London, undergone further excisions out here, but what has been retained is full of interest, and certainly quite gruesome enough to satisfy the most morbid-minded. The audience on this occasion was almost entirely British and Allied, and it will be interesting to see how the film is received by the local cosmopolitan and especially the Egyptian population, to whom it will, I understand, be exhibited in the ordinary way later on at one of the leading cinemas.

According to a Constantinople telegram, the life of Parliament has been prolonged to March 31 in order to enable the Chamber to deal with the Budget. The Chamber has adopted a Bill authorising the advance of £10,000,000 from an Austro-Hungarian banking group.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, February 24.

The annual lawn tennis tournament has taken place during the last week. The men's doubles were finished on Thursday the 22nd, when Messrs. Wedd and Forster beat Captain Pattison and Mr. Field. The winners had a considerable handicap in their favour, and the losers were not able to overcome it. On the same date was the final of the men's singles, the winner of which should meet the holder of the cup, Mr. Job, on the following day. The match was between Mr. Davidson, who was the runner up last year, and Mr. Field, and resulted in a fairly easy win for Mr. Field. On the following day were decided the finals of the Mixed Doubles Handicap and the singles. Mrs. Davidson and Major Bally won the doubles from Mrs. Burnett and Mr. Pelham, after losing the first set. In the singles there was some very good play to watch, and a very close match. Mr. Job finally won in the third set.

All the matches were played on the grounds of the Sudan Club, which was open to the players and their friends for the tournament.

The Skating Rink is to come into use once more, this time for a cinema show, and the first performance is to be on the evening of Sunday the 25th. The programme is in French and Greek, and gives evidence of the cosmopolitan character of the population of Khartoum.

It is reported from the upper reaches of the Nile, the Zeraf, that the water, instead of falling, is positively rising. This is quite unprecedented, and it is to be hoped is only a temporary wonder, as the natives with their herds in those parts will be hard put to it to find a means of living, if the water does not clear off their usual grazing grounds.

Mohammed Allam Pasha, the Governor of Assiut, has arrived on a visit to Khartoum. He went to Wad Medani for a few days, and has returned to Khartoum. He expresses great enthusiasm and admiration for the development of the Sudan.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. U. Carr, the Director of the Veterinary Department, has been seriously ill in Cairo, and all his friends have been most anxious to hear news of improvement in his health, and express the greatest sympathy for his indisposition.

Major Fail, who has been buying camels for the British Army, had an unfortunate accident recently at Señnar, where he slipped on the bank of the river and fell a considerable distance and hurt his back, and was compelled to lie up for some days.

MOSLEMS AND TURKS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Under the above heading, one who signs himself an "Arab Townsman" discusses in *Al-Kawkab* (Cairo), of February 20, the reasons why the Arabs and Moslems have acquiesced for so many centuries in Turkish rule. He argues that one of the reasons could be found in the persistent hope that sooner or later the Turks would follow the lead of European Constitutional Powers and adopt their system of government. Another reason was that Turkey was the only great Mohammedan Power which represented Islam in the face of the world. It was considered that the downfall of the Turkish Empire would be detrimental to Islam. Mohammedans in Turkey bowed their heads to Turkish tyranny for the sake of their religion, while Moslems who lived under the equitable rule of a foreign Power and those who had gained their independence, like the peoples of North Africa, the Persians and the Afghans, did not realise the iniquity of Turkish rule.

When the Revolution of 1908 broke out and the Constitution was proclaimed, all the races of the Turkish Empire welcomed the event and celebrated the occasion as the dawn of a new era. Their enthusiasm was soon to change to bitter disappointment. They found that the Unionist programme was to establish the supremacy of the Turks over the other races of the Empire, especially the Arabs. During the present war the Turks cast off the last simulacrum of restraint and decided to turkify, degrade, and crush all other elements under their rule. The evil culminated in their endeavour to destroy Islam and induce their Mohammedan subjects to revert to paganism and the worship of the White Wolf, as is amply proved by their books and sundry publications. Having failed to subjugate the Arabs to their evil designs, and having no European Power to stay their hands, they inaugurated a regime of terror, spoliation, and murder.

A telegram has been received at the Red Cross Headquarters from Sir Arthur Lawley, British Red Cross Commissioner in Mesopotamia, stating that he witnessed the entire evacuation of the wounded from some of the recent actions of Sir Stanley Maude's troops, and that the arrangements, which were admirable, were carried out without the slightest hitch. Sir Arthur adds, with reference to the motor ambulance boats provided by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John: "Our launches did splendid work."

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Work of the Holy Synod.

The Holy Synod is dealing with an extensive programme of work, and its meetings will be continued till Easter. Perhaps the principal problem before it is that relating to the better education of the parish priesthood. It has been decided to select twenty students from the Pan-Cypriot college, or the gymnasium, who, after a probationary course, will enter the ranks of the married clergy, and will be appointed to serve in the different dioceses; eight in that of the Archbishop, and four in those of the Metropolitans of Kition, Papho, and Kyrenia respectively. It has been decided, very wisely, to enclose and protect Greek ecclesiastic monuments of archaeological value throughout the island. The constitution of ecclesiastical courts is also under discussion. Respecting these, there has been consultation with leading Greek advocates as regards jurisdiction, procedure, etc. The members have received the warm thanks of the new Archbishop for the services rendered by the Synod to the Church of Cyprus, and to the invaluable help which it has given to himself since his election.

Relief for the Papho District.

Poverty has always pressed more heavily on villagers in the west of the island than on those of most other parts; and the "Paphites," or men of Papho, has in the past been generally reputed as the most backward, as well as the least prosperous. People of this district seek work away from home more largely than others. Recently the employment offered at Salonika has provided relief for a great many, and the villagers who went there in large numbers send home their wages to their families weekly, or whenever opportunity is offered. Work is also now provided by the Government on the public roads in the Papho and Limassol districts, with wages at the rate of 15 piastres (1s. 8d.) a day for men, and less for women and boys. It is not many years ago that half of this rate was considered as adequate pay for road and other work. There is also a prospect that there may be some mining work at the Papho village of Philonsa, near which some prospecting has been recently carried out by a member of the American Mining Company. The condition of the district is thus distinctly improved as regards unemployment. Lands are being now prepared in the Papho and some other districts for summer produce, which includes cotton, sesame, and water-melons.

The Electrical Company.

A meeting of shareholders at Nicosia has decided that the company should continue work, provided that the municipal Council will agree to cancel or modify certain stipulations under the existing contract during the war and for six months afterwards. It is proposed that the number of lamps to be lighted at night be reduced from 730 to 350, and during full moon week that no lamps be lighted; the Municipality to increase its payments by 25 per cent., and the company to be authorised to increase its charges by 50 per cent. for supply of light to private houses, shops, etc. Three members of the Greek community have been requested to draft a letter to this effect, a copy of which is to be sent to the Chief Secretary and the Provost-Marshal of Nicosia, with a notification that if these conditions are not accepted by the Municipality by April 22 the company will be compelled to cut off all supply of electric light to the city.

General News.

The Legislative Council is to meet earlier than was anticipated, as the estimates have already been received back from England.

The Nicosia Assizes have begun. The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, being indisposed, his place has been taken by Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge, pending his absence. Several cases of serious crime have been dealt with.

Crime of a serious nature is still too frequent, murder for trivial causes being too common. A few days ago, in a Nicosia village, during a quarrel over a game of cards between two Moslems, one Ahmet Khalil, struck the other, Ismail Murad, with a chair. The latter drew a knife and stabbed the other to death. He was arrested and taken to Nicosia. In another case a Greek, infuriated by the fact that a girl had transferred her affections to a rival, stabbed her as she sat out of doors with other women, leaving her dangerously wounded. In the present assizes a Turk has been condemned to five years' imprisonment for the attempted murder of a fellow villager.

At the request of the Ministers of the Entente, the Turkish Consuls at Yanina and Prevesa have left Greek territory for Switzerland.

A WAR-TIME DEPARTURE FROM ROUMANIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

For some time before the outbreak of the war—as far as Roumania was concerned—my business kept me fully occupied and practically tied to Galatz. With the beginning of the war our town became perhaps the most important point for the care of the wounded of both Russians and Roumanians, developing into a kind of huge clearing house.

At first, when the storm broke, we were dreadfully short of surgeons and ambulances, and thousands of the poor soldiers had to be transported from station to hospital on springless carts drawn by bullocks. It will, therefore, be easily understood that the arrival of the British Red Cross was hailed with joy. This unit, fully equipped with splendid motors, did invaluable work and treated the worst cases. After the first retreat of the Russo-Roumanians in the Dobruja we had a visit from part of the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit, and these courageous ladies caused a veritable sensation. The Roumanians had no conception of what a woman could do, and the sight of these young women, covered with oil, cleaning and "fixing up" their motors fairly stunned the people. No words of mine, I am afraid, can convey the value of the work done by these self-sacrificing and courageous people. The Boy Scouts, too, were splendid. The little fellows took on the jobs of men, carrying wounded, feeding them, and doing all sorts of work with the greatest devotion.

There was, of course, great suffering in our town as many refugees from the Dobruja and other parts of Roumania flocked to Galatz, which, instead of 70,000, had in December 200,000 souls to house and feed. The Prefect was simply splendid. He looked after the town and county of Covurlin, of which Galatz is the capital, with tact, zeal and intelligence that were beyond all praise.

We had a fair share of excitement in the shape of bombardment by a Zeppelin on Christmas night, though the damage done was insignificant, and no lives were lost. We were visited also by aeroplanes, which were beaten off by anti-aircraft guns; and from the Dobruja side of the river came the rumble of cannon; and at night could be seen the flashes of the guns.

On January 3 I left Galatz with my family for Odessa, which we were lucky enough to reach in three days, en route for England. At Odessa, however, I regret to say, the British Consulate insisted on keeping the Russian Christmas holidays in Russian style, which fact made it impossible for me to interview the Consul or any of his staff until Wednesday, January 10, when I was informed that I must go immediately to Petrograd to go through the formalities necessary to enable me to leave Russia. I rushed off to the station, and it was with great difficulty, and only with the assistance of a friend, that I secured tickets for a train leaving Odessa for Petrograd on January 14—a loss of nine days at least, four of which might have been saved had it been possible for me to get the proper information at the Consulate earlier. Of course, the Consulates were overburdened with work; but this is wartime, when everybody has a share of extra work and worry to bear; and I cannot help feeling that it was a mistake to take such a long holiday.

From Odessa to Petrograd the journey was uneventful and fairly long (three days and nights). The Russian railway cars are very comfortable and clean. Each carriage has two attendants, who supply the passengers with any amount of tea; in fact, I do not know how many glasses we drank every day! Petrograd was very full, so we felt lucky in getting rooms at an hotel on our arrival. It took us nine days to get through our formalities and make a start for our port. We left Petrograd on Friday, January 13/26, and if we had been superstitious we could have put down to the fact of the day and date our subsequent troubles of having to change railway carriages owing to a defective brake, missing our connection, and finally arriving on January 31 at the port of embarkation, only to be informed the next morning that the s.s. ——— was not going to leave for Great Britain. This news, as will be easily understood, was received with a chorus of lamentations by hundreds of subjects of all the Allied nationalities. The town was very short of hotel accommodation, so we were very thankful to receive accommodation on the s.s. ———, whose captain was most kind, and did all he could to make things comfortable for some eighty refugees. After a stay of over three weeks we were offered a passage on a cargo steamer, and so we came, eventually, safely to a British port. We felt proud of the power of our Navy, and had proofs of its vigilance. It was a great relief, however, that we found ourselves at last at our journey's end, after a journey of over two months.

THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN IN NEARER ASIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The first sphere of warfare to waken into activity on a great scale after the long winter period of quiescence has been the East; and the brilliant success of recent operations in Mesopotamia has attracted to that distant front the attention not only of England, but of the world. Our Russian Allies farther north have been content to rest on their laurels during the off-season; and in Persia, notwithstanding the indirect support afforded by the movements of the column under Sir Percy Sykes, they seem hardly to have been able to hold their own against the superior forces of the Turks, who were in all probability aided by restless sections of the local population. But once more they are on the move, and it may be of interest, in view of coming developments, to note the scanty information that has been given by the *communiqués* during winter as to the positions which their troops occupy.

An attempt was made in THE NEAR EAST in the autumn* to explain the movements of the Russian troops in Armenia with reference to geographical conditions. Spring finds those troops in much the same positions as the beginning of winter left them. Difficulties of supply and munitionment on a long line of communications over miserable roads and the severity of the climate probably forebode further advance till fresh provision could be made for the next onset, when climatic conditions became more favourable. But the time has not been lost; the metalling of roads has been energetically pushed on; the towns have been cleaned and elementary principles of sanitation enforced; the cantonments have been made more comfortable for the troops; and supplies have doubtless at the same time been accumulated. It seems to fix the Armenian theatre of operations nearer to know that the Somme films were shown to the Russian soldiery in their principal winter quarters.

The main Russian advance was by the valley of the Phrat—the northern branch of the Euphrates—with linking posts thrown out over the hills of Pontus, to the Trebizond-Erzoroum road, and on thence to the coast. On the north, the extreme right, the Russians, before the campaigning season closed, had advanced as far as the line of the Karshut, which flows into the Black Sea near Tireboli, and recent messages, reporting the repulse of Turkish attacks on Petra-Kale, a fort or fortified village a few miles up the river, show that the Karshut still forms the extreme limit of the Russian advance on the right. In the hills that stretch from there to Erzincan posts of vantage are held by both sides, and the fighting during the winter has been confined to encounters of patrols and scouting parties and to attacks on isolated posts, success inclining now to one side and now to the other. Rarely was a force so large as a company employed. The life of the soldier in these remote posts among the mountains, throughout a terribly severe winter, when frequent snowstorms swept the country, must have been well-nigh unendurable, and the Turks claimed that desertions from the Russian ranks were numerous—a statement not inherently improbable, and possibly made on that account.

Farther south, beyond the rugged Pontus mountains, in the valleys of the rivers the main Russian forces were cantoned at Kelkid Chiftlik and Erzincan. Petty encounters were numerous in the neighbourhood, and there was one more important collision in January near Kemakh, a town on the Phrat, 30 miles below Erzincan, where a Russian column repulsed a Turkish force of a strength of two battalions—the largest force of which mention is made in the *communiqués* of the winter months. Beyond Kemakh the country along the river is believed to be extraordinarily difficult, but there are routes over the hills by which a light force might threaten the communications between Kharput and Sivas; and a menace to these communications might make the Turks apprehensive for the safety of their troops in the next zone of operations.

This zone extends from the high mountain ranges south of Erzincan to the valley of the other branch of the Euphrates—the Murad—and in it lie the villages of Oghnut and Kighi, frequently referred to in the reports. Here the Turks made their most determined thrust in July and August last, and here they were checked, though not without prolonged and sanguinary fighting, till winter set in and the passes by which they might have reached Erzoroum became impracticable. In the autumn the Turks were in great force here, but the bulk of their troops seem to have been withdrawn during the winter, and no serious attempt at attack on the Russian posts has been reported since the first half of November. Farther south still the extreme left wing of the Grand Duke's Army at the end of the autumn campaign had recaptured Mush and pushed forward to the crest of the pass on the Diarbekr road. It

had also closed in on Bitlis, near the western end of Lake Van, and Mr. Buchan, in the last volume of his history, assumes that this place also had fallen. No claim has, however, so far as the present writer is aware, been made by the Russians to the capture of this town, which is a post of great importance, situated as it is at the head of a pass that gives the most direct and convenient access from the highlands of Armenia to the plains of Mesopotamia and to the present railhead of the line to Constantinople. If Bitlis is still, as seems probable, in the hands of the Turks, they will hold on to it to the last in order to prevent the possibility of Russian interference with the communications of their forces operating in Persia.

There has been little news of military activity in the Bitlis-Mush sector during the winter. Such operations as have been reported indicate an intention on the part of the Russians to bring under control the country between Mush and Oghnut on the one hand, and between Bitlis and Van on the other.

The immediate interest, indeed, in the war in the Middle East has shifted from Armenia to Persia, and from the Russian armies to our own, as a result of the transformation caused by the brilliant operations of General Maude. The days of decisive victories have come back to us as in a flash, and the secondary character of the theatre in which these operations have taken place need not detract from our admiration of the skill and energy with which the failures of the previous campaign in Mesopotamia have been retrieved. Such a victory has results that extend far beyond the immediate field of operations. The Turkish armies, for a distance of 200 miles to the north, are now in retreat, and the Russians are following as closely as the difficulties of the country allow; but the situation has been fully discussed in the daily Press, and need not here be dealt with in detail. The Turks in Persia, cut off from Baghdad, must apparently attempt to fall back on Mosul, 200 miles from Khanikin, if, indeed, their most southerly troops succeed in gaining that place. Their route will lie either by rough tracks through the foothills, or by the road which passes through Kerkuk and Erbil (Arbela)—the track along which Xenophon retreated and Alexander advanced. Two considerable rivers have to be crossed, and the line of retreat would not be out of striking distance of the British forces. Even should Mosul be reached and a concentration be effected there with the troops retreating from the directions of Lakes Urmia and Van, the position of the Turks would not be enviable. The railhead, if it has reached Nisibin, will still be 130 miles distant by the shortest route across the desert, and a much greater distance, if the usual route following the Tigris is taken. At Bitlis the Russians are only 100 miles from the point on the Tigris at which the Mosul road diverges to Nisibin, some sixty miles further on, and their position, if they have taken or should take that place, will not only threaten disaster to the Turkish troops further east, but will be a standing menace to any attempt to send reinforcements from the west to Mosul. At last, after many vicissitudes, the English and Russian operations in the East have been coordinated by the victory of Sir Stanley Maude, and in the future the Allies may look to reap all the advantages of concerted action.

AN INCIDENT IN SINAI.

The Secretary of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund writes: At the present moment when all eyes are turned to the East, the following incident related in a private letter from Cairo throws a lurid light upon the distressing condition of the people of the Sinai Peninsula, until lately under Turkish rule:—

"One day out in the desert some of our troops saw a queer bundle on the sand. It turned out to be an old Bedawi, nearly dead, and all skin and bone. They did all they could to make him happy, but his one thought was his wife. So the officers asked for volunteers, and a party started out into the desert to hunt for his wife. Not far from where they had found him they found an old, old woman, all skin and bone. They brought her in and prepared her a bed, etc., but she would do nothing but sit by the old man's side all the time. They were brought into one of the towns, and there they both died on the same day."

It is such people as these that the Syria and Palestine Fund, of Church House, Westminster, S.W., is doing its best to relieve. Their need is very great, and every help will be gratefully received.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

* See "The Russian Advance in the Caucasus," in THE NEAR EAST of Oct. 20 and 27, 1916.

OFFICIAL VISITS IN PERSIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Since my arrival at Kerman, I have been busily engaged in returning visits from men of mark. It may amuse your readers to learn how I spent an afternoon in conforming to the rigid etiquette which governs social intercourse in Persia. I left my residence on horseback, with an escort of four lancers, and preceded by two *ferrashes*—answering to the Indian *chaprassi*—on foot. My pace was almost that of the common or garden snail, anything like bustle being abhorrent to the Persian soul. In the corner of the street in which my first "callee" lived, I was waylaid by two servants and escorted to his door. Dismounting, I was marched in a sort of procession to the *mihmankhana*, or reception-room, where my host, with the males of his family, stood ready to receive me. Before exchanging salutations I had leisure to examine this apartment surreptitiously. It was quite small; beautiful old carpets covered the floor, and hung like tapestry on the walls. The domed ceiling of pure white gypsum was scalloped in elaborate geometrical design, including fan-work such as is seen in Henry VII.'s Chapel at home. How uneducated craftsmen can produce such lovely things without the aid of mathematical instruments passes my comprehension. The only furniture was half a dozen chairs and a table piled high with fruit, biscuits, and sweetmeats, which latter were as toothsome as the products of Bond Street or the Avenue de l'Opéra.

Meanwhile my host was greeting me with a salutation never vouchsafed to Christians by the orthodox Sunnis of India, "Allah's peace be with you," to which I responded: "And with you be Allah's peace." He then led me to a chair, and on taking my seat I made a circular bow, asking "How fares your noble condition?" to which the stereotyped reply is: "Praise be to Allah, and by the favour of the lofty doorstep, I am well." A permissible variant would be: "I pray to Allah that the much-to-be-congratulated Presence is not fatigued," answered by: "Praise be to Him, I am not so." After these formalities, the host called for tea, which was offered in small glasses standing in pretty filigree holders on a silver tray. It was, of course, milkless and sugarless, although slices of lemon are sometimes provided. As soon as one glass is emptied another takes its place, and good form enjoins one to nibble a few sweets or biscuits. This light repast over, my host offered a cigarette, on taking which I must bow before he lights it for me. Conversation then became general; and as most good-class Persians are excellent company, the time passed quickly enough. But the visitor's path is strewn with pitfalls. On pain of giving dire offence, he must address a gentleman in the third person, and as "the lofty threshold," and in conversation with a Prince of the Blood must remember to style him "The mighty (or sacred) Presence."

Such personages excepted, all Persians qualify themselves as "your slave" in conversation; but this is not expected from Europeans. It is considered the acme of discourtesy to begin a remark "I tell you," the correct form being "A petition to the congratulated Presence."

After half-an-hour spent in this fashion, coffee, resembling the Turkish but not so thick, was offered as a signal that my host would not be offended if I took my leave. I rose, and said, deprecatingly: "I have caused you much weariness; please give me permission to depart"; whereat he bowed and answered: "You have been very welcome." Then I shook hands with him and his relatives, saying, "The favour of the lofty doorstep is too great." A murmur to the same effect followed me as I left the house, bent on another visit. Your readers will realise that a European has much to learn ere he becomes versed in Persian etiquette. Personally, I rather like all this old-world ceremony. My friends generally have something amusing to relate, if it be only a piece of Court or city gossip; and one picks up more Persian in an afternoon spent in calling than could be acquired by a week's work in office. C. P. S.

Italian troops have reoccupied El Assa, in Western Tripoli.

A regiment of Algerian Spahis has arrived at Salonika, where it was inspected by General Sarraill, in the presence of M. Venizelos.

The Anglo-Hellenic League learns from Salonika that on March 5 a further batch of Greek troops left for the front. The presidents or vice-presidents of thirteen workmen's trade unions who have reached Salonika from Athens or Piræus have addressed a memorandum to the Provisional Government and the representatives of the Allied and neutral Powers. They declare their complete confidence in the Greek Provisional Government, and point out that the resolutions which appear from time to time in the Athenian Press professing to emanate from various labour organisations are fictitious, and do not represent the real feeling of the Greek working classes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE SERBS AS SEEN IN THEIR BALLADS.
TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Dr. Curcin's criticism of a lecture he has not heard is amusing. I did not mention the Serbian soldier, my lecture concerned ballads entirely. As to cruelty—it is, of course, a matter of opinion, and Western opinion differs much on this subject from Balkan opinion. I made my study of Serb ballads during many years of travel. I agree with Dr. Curcin that books written in a hurry, after merely superficial impressions, are useless. I, therefore, during the fourteen years over which my travels have extended made a point always of living for many weeks at a time in various native huts and houses, just as the people did. I took down many songs and ballads, both with phonograph and by writing, from various singers, and heard them discussed in long evenings round the fire.

Marko Kralyevitch's character is clearly delineated. The human Marko stands out distinct from his superhuman attributes. He is certainly bloodthirsty. When the fair Rok-sanda refused to marry Marko or either of his *pobratims*, Milosh and Relye, Marko was furious: "He siezed the maiden by the hand, he drew a sharp dagger from his sash, and he cut off her right arm at the shoulder, and shoved it in her left hand. He cut out her eyes and wrapped them in a silken handkerchief, and thrust them into her breast, and thus said Marko to her: 'Choose, now, oh, Roksanda, which thou wilt have!'"

In another song he cuts off the hand of a smith to prevent him from ever forging so fine a sword again as the one he has made for Marko. This certainly seems slightly cruel and bloodthirsty? Other instances can be found. Ballads such as these, I found to be popular, and to have had a decidedly bad effect on peasants, who have no other literature. I have heard acts of, what seemed to me, hideous cruelty justified by "Marko Kralyevitch did so." Marko was a very faithful friend and servant of the Sultan, and addresses him as "dear father"; and prefers to fight for him rather than to go, when invited, to Christian Princes. This certainly makes him a "strange national hero."

Those interested in the Balkan point of view will find much detail and local colour in the poems of Veliki Voyvoda Mirko, father of H.M. King Nikola of Montenegro. He describes the cutting off of heads, the fixing of them on stakes around a village, and the carrying of others to the tower above the monastery at Cetinje as lately as 1857. And how the Turks had to carry their dead away quickly, "that the Serbs might not cut off their heads." And much to similar effect.

I agree with Dr. Curcin that a great deal of truth about a nation can be learned when doing hospital work—if one knows the language. When nursing wounded and enteric during the first Balkan war (1912-13) I obtained a great deal of information as to their methods of warfare. The long series of ballads from early times to the present day gives an incomparable picture of Balkan beliefs, customs, and history, and I cordially recommend it to the student, for it is the Serbs as seen by themselves, and free from foreign prejudice.—I am, etc., M. E. DURHAM.

Owing to lack of coal, gas lighting has been given up in Athens and the Piræus.

Sir Stanley Maude, replying to congratulations from the Liverpool Exchange, says Lancashire men bore themselves most bravely at the passage of Dila River.

Compulsory service as agricultural labourers for all Turks who are not actually in the Army has been adopted. It is stated in an official Turkish *communiqué* that this will increase this year's harvests by 40 per cent.

In a message dated March 16, the *Times* correspondent in Athens reports:—According to information which has reached here from Turkey, an irade for a general mobilization of the male population was prepared a month ago, but the Government did not dare to publish it, fearing a rising. But in view of the fall of Baghdad the Sheikh-ul-Islam has declared a holy war and the Government has issued the irade, taking every precaution against a rising.

"A Serbian officer whom I met yesterday related to me a striking example of the bravery animating, not only the men, but the women of his country," says a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—"A young Serbian girl named Mile. Milonuka Sarich has been serving as a volunteer in the army, and has been five times wounded. She was first wounded in 1915, and was sent to Bizerta for treatment. Last year she was twice wounded. On recovering, she again went to the front, and is now once more in hospital."

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A friend who has a brother imprisoned at Yuzgat tells me that he writes cheerfully, and that he and his fellow captives appear to be well treated by the Turks. Their chief complaint is that parcels seldom reach them; and next to that they find lack of amusements a severe trial. The particular officer referred to writes: "At least, I shall be a perfect Godsend to all the old maiden ladies at home when I return. I believe I have learned and become more or less expert at every form of 'Patience' that was ever invented." Poor fellow! Patience is, after all, not a wildly exhilarating pastime.

.

At the Bengal Club, Calcutta, it is—or used to be—the custom when anyone told a particularly "tall" story in the dining-room for other members to place their forks on their glasses. The rite, always solemnly performed, was regarded as a polite way of saying: "I am a bit of a liar myself." It seems to me that the Allies—and the neutrals—would be grateful if some equally simple method could be devised for the reception of the German, Turkish, and Bulgarian official announcements regarding their military movements. In regard to these announcements at least the Turks and Bulgars always pay their German "Allies" the compliment of the sincerest flattery. The "withdrawal" from Kut and that from Baghdad, for instance, were, we are gravely told, merely carried out "in accordance with our pre-arranged plans." Tut, tut! A fork and a glass, please!

.

As an admirer of Mr. Gerard Fienness, I read his notes in last Sunday's *Observer* with pleasure. But when I found him writing: "With one Army beyond Baghdad, another on the southern border of Palestine, and blue water in between the two," I must admit that I was puzzled. Would that there were "blue water" on the line referred to. But all my maps show desert—and of the most "deserty" description at that, so to say—and I am afraid that our most dashing naval commander would find it hard to take his ship over the course indicated.

.

I have read somewhere—just where I cannot recall, for I have read so much on the subject during the past fortnight—that the British force has now pushed on so far north of Baghdad that we shall be able to control the floods, or, at least, to prevent the city from being flooded by anything the enemy may be able to do to the Tigris. Though it may be correct, this strikes me as a strange statement. For one thing, the Tigris floods are too big a thing for the Turks or their German "friends" to play about with successfully, even if they should be buoyed up by the agreeable prospect of flooding out the British invaders. For another, if Sir Stanley Maude has to protect the city against floods—as he may have to do, of course—I imagine he would do it by throwing up an embankment just north and east of the city and strengthening the river bank wherever that had to be done. I remember that, when I first entered Baghdad, there was much anxiety about the flood, which was quite exceptionally high that year. The gauge at the British Residency was a subject of close scrutiny and gave some alarming readings, and the Vali instituted a *corvée* for the purpose of strengthening the embankments, and for once in a way, the citizens gave their services cheerfully enough. Happily, our worst fears were not realised, the flood ceasing to rise when about a foot below the top of the embankment. Sir William Willcocks, I believe, estimated the cost of an embankment from Mathum (north of the city) to Gerrara (south) at under £T10,000. It looks as if it would be a good investment at the price.

.

Our entry into Baghdad has revived the discussion of the question how sufficient labour is to be found for the proper cultivation of the country when it has been provided with an efficient system of irrigation. It seems to me to be early days to think of such things yet; but, for my own part, I am inclined to believe that the problem will work itself out in due time. The whole of Lower Mesopotamia cannot, I am convinced, be brought under cultivation at once. Selected areas will have to be provided with irrigation first, and others will be added as time and finances allow. And I believe that for the areas first made available it will be possible to find plenty of labour in the country. The Arabs are not so hopelessly unable to settle to work as certain picturesque writers would have us believe. Hundreds of them worked steadily and well under the Americans at Nippur and the Germans at Babylon and elsewhere, and settled work was what they most desired.

Then, too, we must remember that the "town" Arabs of Baghdad, Mosul, and other places are in many cases the descendants of Bedouin. Is not Mosul peopled largely by descendants of the Shammar, one of the greatest "wandering" tribes? And apart from these sources, there are the "Tel Kaifis" and other "Assyrians," who now make excellent sailors and servants, and even some of the Kurds. My impression is that the local supply of "labour" will prove ample, and far better than many people believe.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ABOUT ROUMANIA.*

It is a charming though pathetic picture of Roumania which Queen Marie draws in "My Country," the profits from the sale of which are to go to the British Red Cross Society for work in Roumania. She makes no mention of the war, but as "Queen of a small country" she writes of its people and customs as one who, at first a stranger, has now come to love, and be loved, therein. She says on the first page:—

This [Roumania] is a small country, a new country, but it is a country I love. I want others to love it also; therefore to listen to a few words about it. Let me paint a few pictures, draw a few sketches as I have seen them, first with my eyes, then with my heart.

In these few lines, and especially in the last words, you have the whole book. Queen Marie, indeed, draws with her eyes and describes with her heart the picture of the almost primitive Roumanians, surely as simple as any of the European nations, and in reading her book it is impossible not to sympathise and feel as the author does. But though Queen Marie makes no direct allusion to the war, there is something in her description of the Roumanian peasantry which helps the reader to understand in a small part the reason why they failed to stand up against the tougher Bulgar-German hordes:—

"From the beginning of time," writes the Queen, "Roumania was a land subject to invasions. One tyrannical master after another laid heavy hand upon its people; it was accustomed to be dominated, crushed, maltreated. Seldom was it allowed to affirm itself, to raise its head, to be independent, happy or free; nevertheless, in spite of struggles and slavery, it was not a people destined to disappear. It overcame every hardship, endured every subjugation, could not be crushed out of being; but the result is that the Roumanian folk are not gay."

Queen Marie has a happy power of description, and she certainly makes very picturesque reading out of her many experiences among the simple Roumanian peasants. The book is finely illustrated from a number of excellently reproduced photographs, and, bearing in mind the cause for which it is published, it is to be hoped that its sale will be a large one.

W. D. M.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Fisher Unwin has published "Lord Kitchener: His Work and His Prestige," by M. Henry D. Davray, the well-known French author, who has done so much to make England and English questions better understood in France. M. Paul Cambon writes a Prefatory Letter to the book, which is published at 2s. 6d. net.

Major H. M. Alexander's "On Two Fronts" (Heinemann, 3s. 6d. net) is concerned with the adventures and achievements of an Indian Mule Corps in Gallipoli and in France, and provides excellent reading.

"A Ride Through the Balkans" describes a journey made by two ladies shortly before the war. They set out originally to secure photographs of archaeological interest, but found the life of to-day more interesting than the relics of the past.

M. Vladimir Jabotinsky, a Russian newspaper correspondent, has written, and Mr. Fisher Unwin will publish very shortly, "Turkey and the War."

Messrs. Constable will publish in the near future "With the Turks in Palestine," by Mr. A. Aaronsohn. The author was in the Holy Land on the outbreak of the war, engaged in taking cinematograph pictures for use in the United States; and, as he had been born in the country, he was conscripted for the Turkish Army, with which he had to serve some time before he was able to make his escape.

The latest pamphlet issued by the Anglo-Hellenic League is "The Anglo-Hellenic Hansard." It is described in its sub-title as "A Reprint from the Official Parliamentary Reports of some Questions and Debates on Greek Affairs in the House of Commons, November 27-December 22, 1916."

* "My Country." By H.M. the Queen of Roumania. (Published for The Times by Hodder and Stoughton. 5s.)

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style.)	Julian (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. March. 23	1917. March. 10	Friday	1335 Jumada I. 29	5677. Adar. 29 Nisan.
24	11	Saturday	30 Jumada II.	1
25	12	Sunday	1	2
26	13	Monday	2	3
27	14	Tuesday	3	4
28	15	Wednesday	4	5
29	16	Thursday	5	6

To-day Viscount Milner enters his sixty-fourth year.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has telegraphed to the King conveying his congratulations on the brilliant capture of Baghdad.

Prince Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, left Paris at the beginning of the week for Cadiz to meet his brother, arriving there from America.

The Duchess of Wellington will shortly issue invitations for an entertainment at Apsley House, on Tuesday afternoon, May 15, for the benefit of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund.

Wednesday being the Persian New Year, H.E. the Persian Minister was at home, at the Legation, in the afternoon to members of the Persian colony and friends.

Lieutenant-General Sir John and Lady Maxwell were unavoidably prevented from attending the funeral of the Duchess of Connaught at the Chapel Royal, Windsor, owing to an unfortunate delay in the reception (at York) of his Majesty's command to attend the ceremony.

The *Times'* correspondent at Athens telegraphs that the British and Russian Legations were reinstalled in the city on Sunday afternoon, and that the French Legation is expected to return within a week.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Norton-Griffiths, M.P., King Edward's Horse, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday morning, when his Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Civil Division).

It is announced that the King has been pleased to approve of the promotion to the rank of Field-Marshal of General Sir Charles Comyn Egerton, G.C.B., D.S.O., retired pay, late Indian Army, in succession to the late Field-Marshal the Right Hon. Earl Roberts, V.C. In addition to much distinguished service in India and on the frontier, Sir Charles, in 1903-1904, was in command of the operations in Somaliland from June, 1903, to May, 1904, when the "Mad Mullah" was so badly defeated at Jidballi.

The Rev. H. J. Hoare, formerly principal of Edwards College, and C.M.S. missionary at Peshawar, India, has been appointed chaplain of All Saints', Ramleh, Alexandria.

The engagement is announced between Second Lieutenant Harold Rodocanachi, R.F.A., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Pandia Rodocanachi, of 34, Pont Street, and Dunchurch, Rugby, and Melita, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Constantine Vassiliadi, of 64, Westbourne Terrace.

St. Peter's, Eaton Square, was the scene of a quiet but pretty wedding on Tuesday last, when Major Theodore Beal Pritchett, R.F.A., M.C., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Pritchett, of King's Norton, Warwickshire, was married to Irène, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria and the Hotel Rubens, London. The Rev. Canon Barnard performed the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Austin Thompson, vicar of St. Peter's, and the Rev. A. Cameron Ross, uncle of the bride, the service being fully choral. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a simple and charming gown of white charmeuse, relieved with crêpe nylon and soft silver lace, affixed to the train of charmeuse being a lover's knot of lace edged with white heather and orange blossom. On one corner of her veil was embroidered the R.F.A. regimental badge in white silk. She carried a sheaf bouquet of white roses and heather. Miss Rosamond Anthony, niece of the bridegroom, in a soft white frock, with a garland of white heather encircling her hair, and Master Alister Ross, cousin of the bride, in full dress Ross tartan kilt, made a pretty pair of tiny attendants, there being no bridesmaids. The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. Malcolm Graham, R.N.V.R., as best man. In spite of the fact that the wedding was postponed at the last moment from the 7th inst., owing to the bride's sudden indisposition, there was a large gathering of friends at the church, the altar of which was beautifully decorated with white flowers, standing out among which were two hearts, formed of red carnations. No reception was held after the ceremony, but a few rela-

tives and friends afterwards proceeded to the Hotel Rubens, whence Major and Mrs. Pritchett later left on a short honeymoon, the bridegroom being due to return to the front in a few days. The bride's travelling dress was of grey gabardine and Georgette, with a large silver tissue picture hat. Among the numerous gifts received were a silver rose-bowl from the officers of the 3rd S. Midland Brigade, a silver coffee tray from the officers of the bridegroom's Battery, and a cheque from the staff of Messrs. John Ross and Co., Alexandria.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of the 3rd inst. states: During his recent ten days' visit to the Desert Column, the Bishop in Jerusalem confirmed 365 men at some ten different places between Ismailia and El Arish. He was accompanied on the tour by the Rev. W. W. Cash, Senior Chaplain of the Eastern Force, who had made all the arrangements with the chaplains concerned. The *Gazette* adds that the Bishop was to start on the 5th inst. with Mrs. MacInnes for visits to the British residents at various places in Upper Egypt and expected to be absent from Cairo for about a week.

The following message from the King of the Hejaz has been received by his Majesty's High Commissioner in Egypt:—With all my heart I congratulate your Excellency over the occupation of Baghdad by your valiant troops. It is only meet that this city should thank God Almighty for its liberation from the criminal hands of the Turanians. We shall hear, if God wills, of similar good news from the Western front. I pray the Almighty to grant victory and success to all those who are defending justice, civilisation, and the liberty of nations, which has been transgressed upon." Sir Reginald Wingate has returned a suitable reply warmly thanking the King of the Hejaz.

Our Cyprus Correspondent informs us that the sum raised by means of the theatrical performance given by the English Field Club at the Papadopoulos Theatre on behalf of the fund for soldiers blinded during the war amounted to £105.

General Sir Stanley Maude has sent a letter of thanks to the Indian Soldiers' Fund for the gifts sent to the troops in Mesopotamia, who "realize the immense amount of labour, time, and money which is necessarily entailed in order to enable such good results to be achieved."

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that the auction sale held in Cairo on February 23, of some of the late Lord Kitchener's effects, drew an eager crowd of bidders, anxious to secure something—however trifling—which had previously belonged to the great administrator. The lots put up comprised furniture, engravings, carriages, hangings, brassware, and china, and the prices realized were on the high grade. This was due in some measure to the large number of Egyptian gentlemen present, who bid against each other in their desire to secure the various articles on sale.

A memorial service for the late Mrs. Harley, sister of Field-Marshal Viscount French (who was killed at Monastir on March 7), has been arranged by the Serbian Legation, representing the Serbian Red Cross Society, in co-operation with the London units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.), and will be held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, next Wednesday, at 12.30 p.m.

As an abiding memorial of the great services rendered to the Serbian nation by Mrs. Harley and of her noble death, the municipality of Monastir has unanimously passed a resolution that the street in which she was killed should be renamed the Rue de Madame Harley.

Many friends of H.H. the Aga Khan will be glad to learn that his mother, H.H. Lady Ali Shah, who was indisposed, is now progressing satisfactorily, says the *World*. She is under the treatment of Lieut.-Colonel Meyer and Major Liston. H.E. the Governor of Bombay and his son paid a visit to Lady Ali Shah to make personal inquiries after her health, and were informed that she was slowly improving.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held on Monday evening, the President (Mr. Douglas Freshfield) announced that the King had approved of the award of the Founders' Medal to Commander D. G. Hogarth, R.N.V.R., for his explorations and other geographical work in Asiatic Turkey, 1887-1911.

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

On Sunday last, the anniversary of the assassination of King George at Salonika in 1913, a solemn Requiem was celebrated there in the Cathedral of Saint Sophia, in the presence of the Provisional Government and the Ministers and representatives of the Allied Powers.

"The Limassol Race Meeting is to take place during the latter half of April, says our Cyprus Correspondent.

In the second annual report of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund it is stated that £4,146 was received during the year, bringing the total up to £8,917 at the end of 1916, and an appeal is made to sympathisers not to relax their efforts. Donations should be addressed to Miss E. J. Robinson, hon. secretary, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W., and cheques should be made payable to Mrs. Lydia Chambers, hon. treasurer.

In Syria and Palestine the chemists' shops have exhausted their stocks of drugs and medicines. The honorary secretary of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, Church House, Westminster, will gladly receive any medicines and drugs, or money to buy them, as the dearth of all medicinal requirements, coming on the top of starvation and disease, has made still worse the pitiable condition of the inhabitants of the Holy Land.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes that the rumours regarding the impending appointment of Mr. W. Bennett as Chief Secretary to the island Government were incorrect. Mr. C. S. Stevenson, Colonial Secretary in Ceylon, has been appointed to the position.

Captain E. O. Newcombe, Reserve of Officers, Traffic Manager Sudan Government Railways, has been granted the Distinguished Service Order for eminent services rendered in the field, and Captain A. G. Cummins, M.B., of the Egyptian Army Medical Corps, has been granted the Military Cross. Captain Cummins was Senior Medical Officer in the Darfur campaign.

Mr. G. E. Seabright, Sudan Government, has relinquished his temporary rank of Bimbashi.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant the undermentioned gentlemen authority to wear Decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them :

Third Class of the Order of the Nile.

Arthur Norman Wilkinson, Esq., late of the Sudan Government Service.

Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile.

Charles Wiseman, Esq., Department of Ordnance, Egyptian Army.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces:—Bimbashi A. W. D. Bentinck, 9th Sudanese, and Bimbashi W. R. Barker, Khartoum District, have been transferred to the Equatorial Battalion; Bimbashi R. A. Colville and A. F. Kingoe, of the Sobat Tibor District, have been transferred to the 15th Sudanese; and Bimbashi E. G. Warren, 4th Battalion, has been transferred to the 13th Sudanese.

OBITUARY.

Captain the Hon. Ivan Campbell died at a nursing home in London last Friday. He was in his fifty-eighth year, and was formerly a Lieutenant in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, and later a Captain in the 3rd Battalion Royal Scots. He served with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, and was present at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and later took part in the South African Campaign of 1900-1. In 1914 he was appointed a General Staff Officer. Captain Campbell, who was a brother of the Marquess of Breadalbane, married in 1884 Lady Margaret Elizabeth Diana Agar, daughter of the third Earl of Normanton.

Friends of Captain and Mrs. Cuthbert E. Binns, formerly of Constantinople, will be grieved to learn of the death of their eldest daughter, Beryl Elizabeth. She was taken ill suddenly on Sunday, the 11th, and passed away peacefully at St. Anthony's Hospital, North Cheam, on Friday, the 16th. The funeral service was held on Monday, the 19th, at St. John the Baptist's Church, at Old Malden, Surrey.

Major Theodore Stephen Fox-Strangways, late Royal Irish Rifles, who has died at Taunton in the fifth-fifth year of his age, was a graduate of the Staff College. He entered the Service in 1884 and retired in 1905. In 1888 Major Fox-Strangways took part in the Sudan Expedition from Suakin (medal with clasp and bronze star), and in the South African War he was on the Staff as assistant provost-marshal and intelligence officer. He had the Queen's and the King's medals with five bars. Major Fox-Strangways was a kinsman of the Earl of Ilchester, he was educated at Winchester, and married in 1893 Rosamund Cleere, daughter of the late Charles Edmund Newton, of Mickleover Manor, near Derby.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for announcements under this heading is 8s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

TESTER.—On March 14, at Old Court, N. Ealing, to Charlotte (née Blofeld), wife of Ernest W. Tester—a daughter.

TOMBAZIS.—On the 24th inst., at 6, Bute Gardens, Glasgow, to Mr. and Mrs. George Tombazis—a son.

MARRIAGE.

PRITCHETT-ROSS.—On the 20th inst., at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, by the Rev. Canon Barnard, assisted by the Rev. Austin Thompson (vicar of St. Peter's), and the Rev. A. Cameron Ross (uncle of the bride), Major T. B. Pritchett, R.F.A., M.C., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Pritchett, King's Norton, Warwickshire, to Irène, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria.

DEATHS.

COSTA.—On March 15, Triantaphyllos C. Costa, for forty-two years Sacristan of the Greek Church, London.

ELDRIDGE.—On March 17, of cerebro-spinal meningitis, Cedric George, only child of the late Edmund J. Eldridge, of the British Consulate, Smyrna, and Mrs. E. Eldridge, Berkhamsted, and grandson of Mrs. Eldridge, L'Incontro, Bournemouth, aged 12½.

O'BRIEN.—On the 17th inst., at a nursing home, Christopher W. O'Brien, of 20, Avenue Bosmans, Antwerp, late partner of Messrs. Gellatly, Hankey, and Co., aged 65.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,

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

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.

Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

FOR SUMMER SEASON—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel. TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.

4,000 feet above sea level. 6,000 feet above sea level.

Open from May till October. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS YAGHOURT

may be obtained at

SELFRIDGE'S, Ltd., Oxford St., W.,

W. WHITELEY, Ltd., Queen's Rd., W.,

or direct from the makers,

MANOLI-CORBETTI,

22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1917.

THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA.

Couched in the language of the East, but free from all Oriental hyperbole and obviously breathing sincerity in every line, the British Proclamation to the people of the Baghdad vilayet is worthy of the place that will be reserved for it in history as the charter of Arab liberty. For twenty years, the inhabitants of Baghdad are reminded, the city has been a centre from which the power of the British and their Allies has been assailed in Persia and Arabia. For that reason alone the rule of the Turks must come to an end, and their capacity to reinforce the Germans as the breakers of the world's peace must be restricted. It has been necessary to defeat the enemy and to drive him from these territories; but the British troops have come not as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators. Great Britain remembers that for more than seven centuries the Arabs of these parts have been subject to the tyranny of strangers. Their palaces have fallen into ruins, their gardens have sunk in desolation, their forefathers and they themselves have groaned in bondage. Their sons have been carried off to wars not of their seeking, their wealth has been stripped from them by unjust men and squandered in distant places. For the last four centuries their oppressors have been the Turks. These have talked, indeed, of reforms, yet the ruins and wastes of to-day testify the vanity of their promises. Now that the Turks have at last been expelled, there is no thought of imposing again upon the Arabs alien institutions. Great Britain cannot remain indifferent as to what takes place in the country now or in the future, but "it is the hope of the British Government that the aspirations of your philosophers and writers shall be realized, and that once again the people of Baghdad shall flourish, enjoying their wealth and substance under institutions which are in consonance with their sacred laws and their racial ideals. . . . It is the hope and desire of the British people and the nations in alliance with them that the Arab race may rise once more to greatness and renown among the peoples of the earth, and that it shall bind itself together to this end in unity and concord." In the name of the British Government, therefore, General Maude has invited the people of Baghdad through their nobles and elders and representatives to participate in the management of their civil affairs in collaboration with the political representatives of Great Britain who accompany the British Army.

No hopes that the Proclamation can raise in the Arab world are likely to exceed the wishes and intentions of the British people in regard to this historic race. There has been a close bond of interest between the two, and among the Baghdadis who welcomed the arrival of General Maude's war-stained troops will have been some who are in a position to compare Turkish and British rule from their personal experience. For two centuries the merchants of the "Queen of Cities" and of Great Britain have traded together, while pilgrims from India have extended their stay in Mesopotamia over a number of years. Terms of friendship have for

some time linked the Sheikhs of Koweit and Mohammerah and the Emir Ibn Saoud with the British Government, and it was to Great Britain that the King of the Hejaz instinctively turned when the moment came to throw off the Turkish yoke. British interest in the Arabs, therefore, is of no sudden growth, although so long as they belonged to the Ottoman Empire and friendly relations subsisted between Great Britain and Turkey there could be no question of differentiation between Turks and Arabs. The British people have believed in the Turk just so long as belief was possible. They admired his individual qualities, and they clung to the hope that his Government would ultimately prove susceptible of reform. The substitution of Young Turkey for the old régime of Abdul Hamid prolonged the period of hope; but the declaration of war provided "the last straw" in the political sphere, and the massacres in Armenia and Syria completed the disillusionment in the social and moral sphere. From the Turks Great Britain turns to the Arabs, whose simultaneous revolt against the Constantinople Government represented the culmination of a movement extending over several years. The Arabs have never lost their sense of nationality under Turkish rule. Religious considerations bound them to the Sultan, and might long have continued to ensure their loyalty, subject to a spirit of temporal independence, had not the Committee of Union and Progress embarked on a policy of trying to "turkify" the subject races. The process was directed particularly against the Arabs, whose position in the Empire was regarded as too anomalous to be compatible with its complete turkification. Their first challenge came from the Hejaz; and, although due allowance must be made for the clannishness of the Arab tribes, there can be no doubt that the revolt of Mecca has evoked an echo throughout the Arab world. Baghdad, the City of the Khalifs, has now its chance of contributing to the success of the movement by preparing under British auspices for the day when the wealth of Mesopotamia shall once again supply the foundation of a great Arab Empire.

Politically the future of the Arab world in general, and of the Baghdad vilayet in particular, rests upon the Arabs themselves; economically they must remain dependent on the measures that will have to be taken for the development of Mesopotamia. This fact must largely determine Great Britain's relationship to these regions. There can be no revival of the spacious times when these lands were fertile, when Arabs gave to the world literature, science, and art, and when Baghdad City was one of the wonders of the world, until the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris have been restored to their former productiveness. To achieve this, irrigation works will be required; but the first need of all is settled government, and that the presence of the British alone can secure for many a long year. Great irrigation schemes for these parts already hold the field, and a tentative beginning was made by the Turkish Government. If Mesopotamia is once more to take its place among the granaries of the world, the schemes must be carried out on a liberal scale. Irrigation, however, is of no use without an adequate supply of cultivators. After generations of Turkish misrule these regions are sparsely populated, and agriculture, owing to the difficulties and drawbacks attaching to it, has fallen out of favour. But the history of the Arabs proves them to have been skilful cultivators of the soil in the past, and the predilections of individuals to-day suggest that they will readily return to it when conditions are favourable. It may be necessary to introduce irrigation works gradually, so that the land restored to cultivation may not outstrip the supply of workers and to give time to those who have plied other callings to recognize the superior advantages of work on the land. A beginning can be made in the neighbourhood of the towns of Busreh and Baghdad, and an early start will be advisable, as soon as military conditions permit, in order that the Arab population may be reminded that, as it was dependent on Great Britain for its deliverance from the Turkish yoke, so it must look loyally to the same source for the economic advantages which the change of rule may be expected to bring in its train.

THE PROPOSED STATE UNIVERSITY IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 26.

The Superior Council of Education in the Note on the Budget just presented to the Council of Ministers by the Ministry of Education has approved of a proposal for the creation of a State University, and has added the hope that it will be found possible to carry out the scheme in a very short time. This is not the first time that the idea of a University has been mooted. As far back as 1894 that erudite scholar and savant, Yacoub Artin Pasha, in a work on Public Instruction in Egypt, expressed the opinion that all the Higher Schools ought to be combined in one body, so as to constitute a University, which would render the greatest services to the country, from the point of view of promotion of the study of science, letters, and philosophy, by the traditions that it would set up, the desire for knowledge that it would inspire, and the spirit of competition and emulation with other universities that it would create. Nor is this the first attempt that has been made to establish such an institution. In 1906-1907 the Egyptian University came into existence with just these objects and with identical aspirations. Unfortunately, its founders and directors have failed to make their enterprise a success mainly because they were not men who had any experience of scholastic administration or organisation, but also because they tried to run it too much as an independent enterprise, and because the elements appealing to the youth of the country were lacking.

The underlying idea of the Government's proposal is to complete the existing higher education organisation, which is admittedly defective, to make the courses in the professional colleges more strictly technical than they are at present, to furnish an opportunity for students, after completing their secondary course, to secure a liberal education apart from a professional career, to bring the courses given in the various professional colleges into closer relationship and facilitate optional studies and different combinations of courses, and to encourage post-graduate study and research.

Briefly, the scheme is the following:—To create Faculties of Letters, Science and Oriental Studies, and to correlate the Higher Colleges already existing, such as the Schools of Law, Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, etc., in one organisation, as a University. The course, whether for a professional diploma or a degree in Letters, Science, or Oriental Studies, would comprise two stages—the Intermediate and the Final. All the courses for the Intermediate stage would be given in the Faculty of Letters or in that of Science, both of which would consequently constitute the centre of the University. The Intermediate course would deal with preliminary general education, and would provide for a wide variety of alternatives and options, so as to meet the varying needs of students who may want to proceed to the different Higher Colleges. The Final stage for a degree in Letters or Science would be continued in the Faculties concerned, that for professional diplomas in the special colleges devoted to these subjects; but no student would be admitted to the Final stage until he had passed the Intermediate Examination in Letters or Science. A supplementary course for an Honours Degree would be included in the Faculties of Letters and Science.

The fact that a student before entering a professional college had to pass an Intermediate Examination in either Letters or Science would mean that when he eventually proceeded to that college he would have received adequate general preparation. This would be a marked improvement on the present system, under which it is found that most of the students on admission to a professional college are inadequately prepared for higher specialised training; and that, consequently, provision has to be made for a certain amount of preliminary education in the professional courses, which as a result become more prolonged than they ought to be.

Under the University scheme the courses in the professional colleges could be more closely restricted to technical training, and the length reduced so that they could admit a larger number of students. "The provision for professional education would thus be extended at the same time that opportunities for a liberal education, apart from a professional career, were created."

Whatever views one may have as to the advisability of giving professional and liberal education on any extended scale to a people who are as generally backward and as essentially agricultural as the Egyptians are, there can be no doubt that, since higher education has been allowed to reach the point at which it stands in Egypt to-day, it is only reasonable that the system should be completed and carried to its logical conclusion, i.e., that the loose ends of higher education, which the various colleges constitute in their present dissociated state, should be gathered together in one institution, which, in addition to linking them up, would at the same time provide the higher educational elements that are so plainly lacking in the existing system. The Council has certainly done wisely in bringing forward this proposal, which, in its own words, would have a stimulating effect on the whole organisation for higher education, would correct any narrowing tendencies in the professional colleges, would give a fresh intellectual outlook to the youth of the country, and, by the encouragement of post-graduate study and research, would make an effort to advance knowledge as well as disseminate it. The scheme should, indeed, tend to raise the standard of the various diplomas granted by the Egyptian Government, and should in the long run produce a more cultured class of Government servant and professional worker. Incidentally, there is the hope that it would in time conduce to the elimination of the *déclassé* element brought into existence by the present disjointed and incomplete system, which answered the purpose very well when it was merely a question of producing sufficient men to fill the many vacancies in the Government service, but which no longer meets the new conditions that have since sprung up.

As is the case with the various schemes for the extension of elementary education and female education suggested by the Superior Council, the date when it will be possible to put the State University scheme into operation depends entirely on the funds which the Egyptian Government may find itself able to set aside for educational purposes; but, seeing that the nucleus for the University already exists, and that the proposals aim at more thorough centralisation with a consequent provision of more accommodation at the various colleges, thus effecting an economy in present expenditure and at the same time opening the way for the receipt of more fees, it should be possible to make a start in the very near future. The date will undoubtedly be brought nearer if the wealthy classes can be prevailed upon to show more public spirit in the matter of education than they have done in the past and come forward with contributions to endow the University. Similar institutions in other countries have owed their foundation and maintenance to private munificence, and there is all the greater call on the wealthier Egyptians to do likewise, seeing that, under the system which has been in vogue for the past thirty years, they and their children have for the most part been educated at the expense of the State.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Secretary of the General Post Office makes the following announcement:—

According to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office, the transmission abroad of parcels addressed to prisoners of war in Turkey is suspended, and, until further notice, such parcels cannot be accepted at post offices. Letters for prisoners of war in Turkey are still being forwarded.

The Postmaster-General announces that from the 20th inst. the conditions which now apply to the transmission of parcels to British and Colonial prisoners of war in Bulgaria and Turkey (also in Germany and Austria-Hungary) will apply to parcels for prisoners of war of Allied nationalities in enemy countries. Such parcels, therefore, unless addressed to officers, will be accepted at post offices from members of the public only if they are addressed to the care of authorised associations. A list of the authorised associations may be consulted at any post-office.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Sinbad" and "Fritz."

The *Spectator* (March 17), in an article entitled "Baghdad and Bapaume," refers to the excellent temper in which the British people received the news of the capture of Kut el Amarah by the Turks and the spirit in which it set about doing what was necessary to retrieve that ill fortune:—

The country and the Government made no boasts about how they were going to redress the balance on the Tigris by future action. Silently we began our preparations for another advance. We now see the fruits. Within nine months of our defeat we are not merely back again at Kut, but in possession of Baghdad, the first building seized being the railway terminus upon which our enemies based such a mountain of diplomatic and financial intrigue and such a wealth of political dreams. They bragged about Baghdad. We have taken it. The Baghdad Railway was the thread upon which the pearls of the Pan-Germanic Middle-Europe policy were strung. The thread has been cut, and the pearls (imitation variety, made in Berlin) are rolling about the floor in every direction. How far our military railway from the Gulf has yet gone is a secret which if we knew we could not state, but obviously it must have gone a good way, and we do not doubt that it will not be very long before it reaches Baghdad. After all the talk, it will be a British and not a German-made engine that will be the first to enter the city of Haroun Al-Raschid from a Persian Gulf terminus. Sinbad the Sailor, not Fritz the Frightful, will have told the last and best story in *The Arabian Nights*.

The Organiser of Victory.

The writer then turns to an acknowledgment of our indebtedness to the leaders and the men who have secured this fine victory:—

If the circumstances in which Baghdad has been made ours were characteristic of British thought and action, the friends of General Maude have every right to claim that he has played a specially British part. His care, his thoroughness, and his tenacity of purpose have been not only a miracle but a model for all his brothers-in-arms. He has not advertised himself or his troops, but has worked with a swift and reticent mastery that has been quite admirable. What we like best of all about him and his work is that, having once got hold of the enemy, he has never lost touch with them. . . .

But while we show gratitude to General Maude, we must not forget that in the last resort it is to the gallant men, native and British, under him that we owe the victory. A General may be the finest strategist in the world and the greatest leader, but if his instrument is of lead instead of steel what avails all his skill? Nor, again, must we forget the part that has been played by that most silent and least self-seeking of soldiers, General Monro, the Commander-in-Chief in India. Last August General Monro left the Western front, where he was in command of the First Army—that is, was the chief subordinate of Sir Douglas Haig—to reconstitute and reform Indian military administration wherever such reform was needed. On his way out he paid a visit to the Persian Gulf, and since that time he has been working with that patience, good heart, and steadiness which are his characteristics alike in the office and the field to support General Maude and provide him with whatever is needed by an army in the difficult position occupied by that on the Tigris. But for General Maude's high qualities of command, the expedition must have failed; but it is equally true to say that it would have failed if General Monro, supported of course by the Viceroy and the Indian Government as a whole, had not played the part of Carnot and been "the organiser of victory."

A Change for the Better.

In a leading article, "The Proclamation to the Arabs," the *Manchester Guardian* (March 20) expresses the opinion that the Proclamation "lays the foundation-stone of the new Eastern policy which the Government hopes to build up out of the ruins of the old." In the past we sought to uphold and to help the Turk. He has proved hopeless, and now we turn to the Arab:—

Let no one think that in seeking to create a new Arab nation to take the place of a Turkey which has proved its political bankruptcy we are changing names only and not things. Between the Arab and the Turk there is a deep-rooted animosity which their common religion has never been able to heal. The Arabs are, with the Jews, the sole survivors of the great Semitic family; the Turks are neither European nor Semitic, but Tartars from Central Asia, as alien to Near Asia as they are to Europe. Except as conquerors, the Turks have contributed nothing to the history of the world; the Arabs have not only a great Imperial period but a long and famous history in letters, in philosophy, in medicine, in science, and in commerce. In the Saxon period in England the Arabs were undoubtedly the most highly civilised and enlightened population, and Baghdad was, with its population of two million people, the greatest and the best-governed capital in the world.

The substitution of Arab for Turk, as ruler, cannot but be beneficial and strengthening to our own position in the East. The article concludes:—"For the present the great thing is that English people should understand the splendour of the political ideals that are now put forward by this country."

Our Welcome to Baghdad.

In a leading article, "Bapaume and Baghdad," *The Times* (March 16), referring to the account sent home by Mr. E. Candler of the entry of our troops into Baghdad, remarks:—

The warmth of the welcome they received from the inhabitants is no surprise. There have never been many Turks in Baghdad, and the bulk of the population consists of Jews and Arabs. The Turk was as much an alien in Mesopotamia as we are ourselves, and his disappearance will not be regretted.

This statement is decidedly within the mark. The Arabs of Mesopotamia have always loathed the Turk and his tyranny, and the citizens of Baghdad have long been well disposed towards the British.

Roumania's Weak Spot.

The Times of Tuesday contained an interesting article by its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula on "The Causes of Roumanian Failure." The writer declares that "a latent, but important, and deeply-rooted cause of the national misfortunes will be found in the unsound social and economic conditions which, notwithstanding occasional efforts at reform, still prevail in the country." He continues:—

The system of land tenure, a legacy from mediæval times, still keeps a large proportion of the agricultural population, the bone and sinew of the nation, in a state scarcely distinguishable from serfdom. It is from this class that the bulk of the Roumanian Army is drawn. The peasant soldiers form not only the majority, but by far the best fighting material in the army; the town-bred troops are very inferior, both in moral and physique.

The greater number of the peasants work on the estates of large proprietors (*boiars*), which are often let out to middlemen. The rule of the middlemen, who are generally speculators in land, is peculiarly oppressive, while the *boiars* have often been absentees from their estates. . . . The system has tended to produce, on the one hand, a pleasure-loving, self-indulgent aristocracy, and, on the other hand, a dispirited and discontented class of agricultural labourers, whose efforts to ameliorate their position have frequently taken the form of outbreaks, sometimes culminating in widespread insurrections, such as those of 1888 and 1907. It was hardly to be expected, in these circumstances, that the Roumanian peasant soldier could rival either in martial spirit or in physical strength the soldiers of nations who are for the most part independent proprietors, who enjoy the fruits of their labour, and realize that they are fighting *pro aris et focis* when called upon to defend their native land. The discontent of the agricultural *proletariat* has been turned to account by the enemies of the country, who in the course of the war have distributed proclamations from aeroplanes declaring that they have come to Roumania as the friends and liberators of the peasants, and exhorting them to rise against their oppressors.

Reference is then made to the solemn promise given to the peasants by the King at the opening of the Parliament in Jassy, regarding legislation to deal with this drawback, and with the existing electoral system. The article concludes:—"The successful conclusion of the war must be followed by a comprehensive and thoroughgoing series of reforms, which will rejuvenate the country and confirm the claim of its Sovereign and Government to direct the destinies of the united Rumanian race."

"The Turkish Bonaparte."

The National News (March 18) awaits "with interest our next news from the Syrian front." The Turks, it thinks, are sure to have despatched reinforcements against Sir Archibald Murray, but doubtless the latter "was simultaneously reinforced," and—

as we believe this general to be at least as pressing and as energetic as his colleague in Mesopotamia, we look forward to the next news from him with confident anticipation. Enver Pasha has recently returned to Constantinople from a visit to Southern Syria. He is perhaps wise to have left it before a battle, for his last exploit on the Caucasus front proved him to be a better politician than warrior, and he may have preferred to see Djemal Pasha and his German mentors incur the risk of Murray's blows and the delicate attentions of the Anzac mounted troops.

The Germans, thinks the *National News*, may quite well be little concerned about what goes on in these distant and very secondary theatres, being inclined to gamble upon victory in the main theatres this summer.

But what will Enver answer to the reproaches of his colleagues, who will ask him what Turkey has gained from her alliance, not to say her subservience, to Germany? Mesopotamia lost, Armenia Russian, the Senussi well thrashed, the Sultan of Darfur dead, Syria invaded, and nothing whatsoever gained. What a record for the Turkish Bonaparte! Enver is bound, we think, to make an effort to protect Turkish interests, and will probably try to bring home his divisions from the Dvina, Galicia, and the Dobrudja, if the Germans will let him, in order that they may strike a blow at one or other of the armies threatening Turkey. We imagine that, Armenia apart, Syria will be the scene preferred for these activities, for since the piercing of the Taurus range the railway communication between Constantinople and Palestine is almost complete. The mass of the Turkish forces must be directed against General Yudenitch, who has proved himself a dangerous and hard-hitting foe, but the balance, we should say, may appear in Southern Syria, which certainly demands the close attention of us all.

The Navy and Baghdad.

Writing in the *Observer* (March 18) on "Baghdad and Its Lesson," Mr. Gerard Fienmes rightly emphasises the importance of the Navy's share in the Mesopotamian campaign. He also pays a well-merited compliment to the Indian marine:—

There is a part of the Empire's naval strength, once famous, but now seldom heard of: the Indian Marine. Perhaps all that many people know or recollect of it is that it supplied one of the gallant band who died with Scott in the Antarctic. It consists of a few troopships and small lightly armed gunboats, named after the Viceroy—Lawrence, Minto, Dalhousie, and so forth. It is officered by British and manned by natives. It usually does such police work as the Indian Government finds necessary upon the sea, or conveys Indian troops upon small expeditions. Its chance for real service came, however, with the Mesopotamia expedition, and its deeds will find a place in the history of the war. India has played her part upon the sea as well as Australia and New Zealand.

The creation, organisation, and conveyance of the Tigris flotilla is another feat of which, as a nation, we shall have a right to be proud when the story is told. India was, of course, the immediate base of the expedition; but much had to go from the Mother Country, both of men and material, and to have kept the line of communication for this distant undertaking, in face of the subtle submarine threat, is as striking a testimony to the influence of sea power as all history affords. Let it not be forgotten, moreover, that the success of the operations in the region of the Garden of Eden and on the scene of the campaigns of Alexander the Great was based upon the Grand Fleet hidden in the mists of the North Sea.

Articles to Note.

"To the People of Baghdad," in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 20).

"Baghdad and After," in the *New Statesman* (March 17).

"Battle of the Diala and Baghdad," by Hilaire Belloc, in *Land and Water* (March 15).

"The Truth About Greece," by G. F. Abbott, in the *National Weekly* (March 17).

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Dardanelles Report.

March 21.

LORD FISHER said:—My Lords,—When our country is in great jeopardy, as she is now, it is not the time to tarnish great reputations, to asperse the dead, and to discover our supposed weaknesses to the enemy; so I shall not discuss the Dardanelles Reports. I shall await the end of the war, when all the truth can be made known.

Congratulations on Capture of Baghdad.

The LORD CHANCELLOR announced that he had received from the Foreign Office for communication to the House of Lords the following resolution, which has been unanimously adopted by the Senate of the Portuguese Republic:—"Considering that the occupation of Baghdad by the British troops is a notable feat of arms, and seeing that it represents a great advance on the road to the common victory of the Allies in the cause of civilisation and right, the Senate of the Portuguese Republic congratulates England and those who for the peace and progress of the world are fighting on land and sea against the violators of the law of nations." The Lord Chancellor added that he proposed to return a suitable reply.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

I. E. Telegraph in Persia.

March 14.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether all officers of the Indo-European Telegraph Department in Persia contribute to an official family pension fund; and, if not, would he take steps to make this contribution obligatory on all officers alike in that department, in order that the widows and families of such officers might not be left destitute in future.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: There is no family pension fund for the Department, but officers appointed since August 1, 1909, are required to subscribe to the General Provident Fund on obtaining a substantive pay of Rs. 100 a month or more. Other officers are admitted as optional subscribers. I have received no representations in favour of the establishment of an obligatory pension fund.

Colonel YATE: Will my right hon. friend not consider the urgency of making the contribution of this family pension fund obligatory as recommended by the Royal Commission on the Indian Civil Service?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: If I rightly understand my hon. and gallant friend's suggestion, it is that I should make it obligatory on persons who have already joined the service not subject to that condition. That is rather a grave step to take. As at present advised, I am not prepared to do it.

Transport of Troops in the Red Sea.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention had been drawn to adverse reports on the two cargo boats, the "Falcon" and the "Africa," owned by Messrs. Cowasjee, Dinshaw and Co., of Aden, which are now being used for the transport of troops from Aden to Perim and the Red Sea

islands; and, if not, whether he would have enquiries made as to the seaworthiness and suitability of these boats for transport work.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. I have seen no such reports, but I will make enquiry of the Government of India.

The Dardanelles Report.

March 15.

Mr. BONAR LAW informed Mr. S. MacNeill that Mr. Asquith had agreed to act with a small Committee of the Government for the purpose of considering what might be published of the excised portions of the Dardanelles Commission Report, and, if possible, what the Committee recommended would be published before the debate on Tuesday.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. Brookes, who asked whether the efforts of Russia and Great Britain had now succeeded in restoring order in Persia and in ejecting the Turks; and whether the Persian Gendarmerie could be so reconstituted as to obviate the necessity of any recurrence of the large-scale military operations on Persian soil both by Russia and by ourselves, said:—As regards the first part of the question, it is hoped that the general retreat of the Turkish forces in Persia which is now taking place will before long bring about normal conditions in that country; the considerations and objects mentioned in the last part of the question are receiving the careful attention of his Majesty's Government in consultation with the Russian and Persian Governments.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir J. D. Rees, said that Sir Percy Molesworth Sykes was at present at Shiraz, where he was engaged in organizing the South Persia Rifles.

The Dardanelles.

March 19.

Sir C. HOBBHOUSE asked whether the House would be entitled to discuss on Tuesday aspects of the report on the Dardanelles as distinct from those to be raised by the Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr. BONAR LAW replied that that would largely depend on the Speaker, but he had no doubt the desired opportunity would be afforded.

The Dardanelles Operations.

March 20.

Mr. ASQUITH made a statement in regard to certain matters referred to in the Dardanelles Commission's Report. It seemed necessary to him, he said, to say something at once on the subject, not in his own interests only, but in those of his late colleagues of the War Council, and, above all, of Lord Kitchener, who was no longer able to speak for himself. The statement was far too long for reproduction in these columns. Mr. Asquith stated that he had never known the experts to be backward in giving their opinion, asked or unasked. He said that what was first decided upon was a naval expedition alone, because Lord Kitchener, who strongly favoured the project, proved to the satisfaction of his colleagues that he had not sufficient troops to make the expedition a joint operation. The Government, he added, being backed by all the expert naval opinion, was justified in considering the operation a practicable one. After touching on the failure to hold any meeting of the War Council between March 19 and May 14, Mr. Asquith concluded by declaring that the operation ought not to be described as a tragedy or a catastrophe. It saved the position of Russia in the Caucasus; it delayed the defection of Bulgaria to the Central Powers; it kept at least 300,000 Turks immobilized; and it cut off and annihilated a *corps d'élite*, the flower of the Turkish Army. The Turks had never recovered from the blow inflicted on them, and it was one of the contributory causes of the favourable developments we had witnessed in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia.

Sir MARK SYKES said the publication of such a report as this led to useless argument, and prevented them getting on with the war. The report did not give one a complete picture of the situation. Two points seemed to suggest that it had been put together in a hasty manner. The Commissioners suggested that the political consequences of the evacuation were slight. Well, people might write like that fifty years hence, but they could not assess a thing like that suddenly. Nobody who lived in the Orient at that time could have felt the same after the evacuation as before. There was loss of prestige in Persia, Afghanistan, and Armenia, and the anti-war party in Turkey was done—dead and gone. Though he thought personally that our prestige went down from 100 degrees to zero for the time being, he would not speak now but that he thought it had gone back to 75 degrees. Some had to be made up yet. The Commission said also that they thought Lord Kitchener's estimate of 300,000 Turks kept immobilized was conjectural, and they agreed that although the main object was not obtained, certain important political advantages were secured. But they said that whether these were worth the lives and treasure involved must always be a matter of opinion. That casting of doubt as to whether the lives were wasted was one to which no Commission ought to commit itself. It must really bring painful thoughts to the minds of those who had lost those near and dear to them. The Commission had no right to express an opinion when it admitted it had not made a full investigation.

Mr. CHURCHILL also made a lengthy personal statement. He accepted full responsibility for the advice tendered to the War Council; but argued that all the action taken was taken with great precision and thoroughness, and that no one had any right to say that naval expert opinion was not marshalled, arranged, and massed behind the Admiralty action. The responsibility for the failure at the Dardanelles and the subsequent military operations did not rest wholly with those who advocated them. Very strong currents of opinion in this country were opposed throughout to the operations; all the great authority of the military chiefs in France was certainly adverse, and thence came a steady stream of adverse opinion. In Parliament and in the Press enormous influences were at work to discourage and to terminate the Dardanelles operations. Against that powerful undercurrent;

nothing could make headway. "Your Commissions," Mr. Churchill concluded, "may condemn the men who tried to force the Dardanelles, but your children will keep their condemnation for all who did not rally to their aid."

Arabian Politics.

March 21.

SIR J. JARDINE asked the Foreign Secretary if he were in a position to make a statement on the political affairs of the Hejaz and other parts of Arabia and the operations of the Turks in the vicinity of Aden.

MR. BALFOUR: Early in November last the Grand Shereef Hussein assumed the title and office of King at the request of the Ulama and notables of Mecca, approved by the unanimous vote of the people, and has been recognised as King of Hejaz by the Allied Governments. His Highness has established his authority, and has entered into close relations with the important Chieftain Ibn Saud of Nejd and with the Sheikh of Koweit, who have warmly approved the step he has taken. Another important chief, Idrisi of Asir, has also risen against the Turks. The only remaining pro-Turkish chiefs of any consequence are the Imam of Yemen, who is isolated, and Ibn Rashid, the head of the Shammar, whose influence is decidedly on the wane. With regard to the second part of the question, I would point out to my hon. friend that as the Turkish force near Aden is isolated from Turkish headquarters, and the Turkish military authorities have consequently no means of ascertaining its dispositions or condition except through our Press, I would prefer not to give any reply, except to say that we regard the position as satisfactory.

THE COLONIZATION OF PALESTINE.

Last Monday Dr. E. W. G. Masterman read before the Royal Geographical Society a paper describing the resources of Palestine and its suitability for colonization. He said that it was a land without mineral wealth. Bitumen occurred under and near the Dead Sea; petroleum, it was thought, might be found in the same neighbourhood; and phosphates occurred east of the Jordan; but that was all. The wealth of the country was, and had always been, due to the raising of live stock and the tillage of the soil. Viewed from this standpoint, Palestine was, on the whole, a moderately fertile land. Parts consisted of irredeemable desert; much more was now desolate because of the breaking down of terraces that had formerly been made upon the hillsides, or of dams that had held back the winter rains so as to irrigate the valleys during the crop-raising season. Such areas could be restored to their ancient fertility, but it would require a great expenditure both of capital and labour. Other parts were still very fertile. On the Hauran plateau, for example, he had ridden with unbroken stretches of wheatfields extending to the horizon on every side. Palestine had been almost denuded of trees, and reforestation on a great scale was needed. This had been done in parts already by the planting of pine trees on the tops and moister slopes of the hills, and by growing eucalyptus in the Jordan valley. The vine, olive and fig-tree flourished everywhere they had been tried, and oranges and lemons wherever abundant water could be provided by irrigation. Almonds, apricots, and pomegranates thrived in parts of the land. Melons flourished in the plains. Tobacco could be grown in many parts. In the Jordan valley bananas, American corn, rice, dates, sugar-cane, and cotton might be cultivated in the better-watered areas by coloured labour, the white supervisors having their homes on the hills at the side of the valley. The principal article of export was the orange crop of Jaffa; other exports were olive oil, and, more important, sesame oil. To make a living on the soil of Palestine meant hard work under difficult conditions, and great areas were entirely unsuitable for colonists from Europe, or the cooler parts of America, because of heat and malaria. Dr. Masterman briefly recounted the story of various attempts at colonization—the American settlement at Jaffa in 1856, which entirely failed; the German settlements beginning in 1860, which had been more successful; and the Jewish colonies. Of these the most important, he said, were Rishon le Zion, Rehoboth, and Zimmarin. The last-named was on the slopes of Mount Carmel, and there were few pleasanter sights in Palestine than this colony in spring. The vicissitudes of the Jewish colonies had been great, the most successful had received unstinted support from Europe, and were even now scarcely self-supporting. Apart from the colonists, Palestine was by no means uninhabited. Its indigenous population had dwelt there from times earlier than those when the Angles and Saxons came to these islands. They were a mixed race, best described as Syrians, in which much Arab blood had intermingled with that of Canaanites, Jews, Greeks, Egyptians, and, perhaps, even Crusaders. Before the war they numbered something under 700,000, and three-quarters of them were Moslem. Besides these, there were settlements of Moslem Circassians east of the Jordan. In its present condition the land would not support a larger population. To make colonization successful, the greatest need, even more than the restoration of the desolated areas, was a properly organized effort to combat malaria, ophthalmia, and other diseases.

A discussion followed in which some of the speakers took a rather more hopeful view. Lord Bryce said there were special facilities for irrigation in the Jordan valley. Dr. Moses Gaster said that in spite of all difficulties there were now 1,000 souls at Zimmarin. In another case two colonists had covered a barren hillside with almond and other trees. Their method was to make a hole in the sandstone. In this hole soil and water collected, and then they planted the seed. He believed the return of the Jews to Palestine would transform the country; what was needed was the sympathy and support of the British Government.

THE CAUSE OF ARAB FREEDOM.

The following is a translation of the proclamation issued at Baghdad on March 19 by Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude:—

TO THE PEOPLE OF BAGHDAD VILAYET.

In the name of my King, and in the name of the peoples over whom he rules, I address you as follows:—

Our military operations have as their object the defeat of the enemy and the driving of him from these territories. In order to complete this task, I am charged with absolute and supreme control of all regions in which British troops operate, but our armies do not come into your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators.

Since the days of Halaka [Hulagu] your city and your lands have been subject to the tyranny of strangers, your palaces have fallen into ruins, your gardens have sunk in desolation, and your forefathers and yourselves have groaned in bondage. Your sons have been carried off to wars not of your seeking, your wealth has been stripped from you by unjust men and squandered in distant places.

Since the days of Midhat the Turks have talked of reforms, yet do not the ruins and wastes of to-day testify the vanity of those promises?

It is the wish not only of my King and his peoples, but it is also the wish of the great nations with whom he is in alliance, that you should prosper even as in the past, when your lands were fertile, when your ancestors gave to the world literature, science, and art, and when Baghdad city was one of the wonders of the world.

Between your people and the dominions of my King there has been a close bond of interest. For 200 years have the merchants of Baghdad and Great Britain traded together in mutual profit and friendship. On the other hand, the Germans and Turks, who have despoiled you and yours, have for twenty years made Baghdad a centre from which to assail the power of the British and the Allies of the British in Persia and Arabia. Therefore the British Government cannot remain indifferent as to what takes place in your country now or in the future, for in duty to the interests of the British people and their Allies the British Government cannot risk that being done in Baghdad again which has been done by the Turks and Germans during the war.

But you people of Baghdad, whose commercial prosperity and whose safety from oppression and invasion must ever be a matter of the closest concern to the British Government, are not to understand that it is the wish of the British Government to impose upon you alien institutions. It is the hope of the British Government that the aspirations of your philosophers and writers shall be realized, and that once again the people of Baghdad shall flourish, enjoying their wealth and substance under institutions which are in consonance with their sacred laws and their racial ideals. In Hejaz the Arabs have expelled the Turks and Germans, who oppressed them, and proclaimed the Shereef Hussein as their King, and his lordship rules in independence and freedom, and is the ally of the nations who are fighting against the power of Turkey and Germany; so, indeed, are the noble Arabs, the Lords of Koweit, Nejd, and Asir.

Many noble Arabs have perished in the cause of Arab freedom, at the hands of those alien rulers, the Turks, who oppressed them. It is the determination of the Government of Great Britain and the Great Powers allied to Great Britain, that these noble Arabs shall not have suffered in vain. It is the hope and desire of the British people and the nations in alliance with them, that the Arab race may rise once more to greatness and renown among the peoples of the earth, and that it shall bind itself together to this end in unity and concord.

O people of Baghdad! Remember that for twenty-six generations you have suffered under strange tyrants who have ever endeavoured to set one Arab house against another in order that they might profit by your dissensions. This policy is abhorrent to Great Britain and her Allies, for there can be neither peace nor prosperity where there is enmity and misgovernment. Therefore, I am commanded to invite you, through your nobles and elders and representatives, to participate in the management of your civil affairs in collaboration with the political representatives of Great Britain who accompany the British Army, so that you may be united with your kinsmen in north, east, south, and west in realizing the aspirations of your race.

A Reuter's message from Jassy, dated March 20, reports:—The Roumanian Parliament will meet again on Thursday.

Last week a new detachment of the Greek Army of National Defence left for the front after being inspected by General Sarraïl and the Provisional Government.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—A telegram from Sofia states that American interests in Bulgaria, which have hitherto been watched over by the United States Legation at Bucharest, will now be watched over by the United States Embassy in Constantinople.

Escaped Roumanian prisoners report that the Turkish contingents on the Roumanian front have suffered severely from the cold. Five hundred Roumanian labourers were brought from Braïla to bury the dead within the zone of fire, but they were unable to complete their task the same day.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

What has become of the trade in prayer mats for the faithful of Islam? Before the war this was an important branch of German industry, as people in Egypt and neighbouring Mohammedan countries well know. India, too, and Persia were great customers of the Huns. British manufacturers would do well to look into this apparently small business, because it is not so small as it looks. There is great profit in it.

Those in the Near East who have been looking to India to solve, at least partly, the acute fuel problem will learn with some regret that all the coal produced in the country has been earmarked on a strict plan. Some time ago an official committee was appointed to regulate supplies, and I learn that it has been necessary, not only to control the output of the mines, but also to allocate the coal to consumers according to their importance. The following classification has been approved:—(A) Admiralty, R.I.M., railways, public utility companies, Government factories and military farms; (B) shipment and bunker specials; (C) specials for industries engaged wholly or partly in war work and fuel for domestic requirements; (D) cotton mills, jute mills, and other large industries; and (E) other purposes.

Recently, however, so I understand, a substitute for coal has been found in Egypt. Elsewhere in to-day's issue is printed an account of experiments which were undertaken by Mr. John Wells. He was deputed by the Government to investigate the question of combustibles, and as a result he has recently drawn the attention of the authorities to the products and sub-products which are obtainable from cotton and other vegetable stalks. The official chemists professed themselves satisfied with the results of the preliminary experiments, which were enlarged. Now, special kilns are being constructed near Shoubrah and equipped with apparatus capable of dealing with ten tons of stalk a day. Let us hope that a very serious problem is about to be disposed of.

I learn from a particularly well-informed source that, although little news reaches this country from the Balkans, conditions in Roumania are by no means alarming. Indeed, it is believed an improvement has taken place, and that considerable relief may be expected in the future. The Germans and Austrians are profoundly disappointed with the results of their stupendous efforts, which, to say the least, have not been profitable. There is reason to suppose, too, that important developments are impending. The successful overturning of enemy interests in Russia is bound to have an advantageous effect, and Roumanians in this country, and British concerns which have important financial and commercial interests out yonder, watch the progress of events with great satisfaction.

In the meantime, *The Times'* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula attributes the misfortunes of Roumania to "the unsound social and economic condi-

tions which, notwithstanding occasional efforts at reform, still prevail in the country." The mediæval system of land tenure, he says, keeps a large proportion of the agricultural population in a state scarcely distinguishable from serfdom. "The discontent of the agricultural proletariat has been turned to account by the enemies of the country who, in the course of the war, have distributed proclamations from aeroplanes declaring that they have come to Roumania as the friends and liberators of the peasants, and exhorting them to rise against their oppressors."

It is to be feared that, so far as the past is concerned, this grave allegation is true. I believe, however, that the war will lead to a change. My readers will recall that at the recent opening of the Roumanian Parliament at Jassy, the King promised that the right of the peasantry to possess the soil should be legalized, and that reforms should be made in the electoral system of the country. The King, no doubt, will keep his word because the troops—all recruited from the peasant class—have fought with splendid bravery, and have established a right to a more dignified and independent status.

I am glad to learn that the organisation of an Anglo-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce in London is proceeding definitely along excellent lines, and that we shall not have to wait any great length of time for its prospectus. The movement has been inaugurated under the strongest possible auspices and has been received in important commercial circles with much enthusiasm. I hope in a week or two to be able to deal with this matter at greater length, and in the meantime strongly advise those who have interests in the country of our Ally not to permit themselves to be led into other and less certain paths.

I gather from some of the statements made at the annual meeting of the Sudan Goldfield Company, Limited, that the engineers and staff have considerable faith in the future of the concern. During the year 14,007 standard ounces of gold were produced, and £54,521 was realised, the net result on the year's working being a profit on revenue account of £19,073. The dividend is 10 per cent. The chairman, Lord Vaux of Harrowden, repeated his complaint regarding the excess profits duty. "It is most inequitable," he said, "that a company such as ours, which only reached the dividend-paying stage in 1914, should be liable to this duty, especially in view of the very large amount of capital which was expended on our mine before we became profit earning." There is something to be said for this point of view, of course; but a concern which has paid fair dividends for three years can scarcely expect to escape altogether from war imposts.

As will be seen from the report of the proceedings at the annual meeting, published this week, the Eastern Bank, Ltd., has had another prosperous year, and wound up with the comfortable balance to credit of profit and loss of more than £60,000. Shareholders are to be congratulated on their dividend of 6 per cent. and on the certainty of the prosperity of the

bank. One of the most interesting features of the chairman's speech to the shareholders was his statement that the Baghdad branch of the bank is to be reopened. Lord Balfour of Burleigh held out no hope that the bank's property in the city of the Caliphs was found intact when Sir Stanley Maude entered the city; but, as he remarked, it ought not to be difficult to recover the comparatively small amount which was left over when the war broke out.

Interest also attaches to the statement that the branch at Busreh, where the Eastern Bank act for the Government of India, is making steady progress, and is now on a paying basis. This is a result, achieved in a short period, of which the board of directors have reason to be proud. A branch has also been opened at Amara—between Kut and Busreh—but I gather that, for the present at any rate, most of the business transacted there is official. The great difficulty connected with the establishment of new branches lies in securing the necessary European staff, owing to the war. But (as I believe) the war will soon be over, and we may then look to the already considerable ramifications of the bank being greatly extended.

The shareholders of the Nicosia Electric Lighting Company appear to have fired a pretty stiff ultimatum at the Municipal Council of the city, and I gather that the adversity of war is at the bottom of it. According to a correspondent in the NEAR EAST this week, the company are willing to continue to light the city if the contract is varied, if the number of street lamps is reduced from 730 to 350, and, during the week of full moon, that no lights be lit at all. In addition, the Municipality is to increase its payments by 25 per cent., and the company to be authorised to increase its charges to private consumers by 50 per cent. It is scarcely necessary to point out that this is a formidable addition to the present contractual terms, and if the Council decides that electric lighting is a luxury which can be dispensed with in war time, nobody will be surprised. Why not municipalise the works?

The Hamburg-Amerika Line has been unable to declare a dividend for 1916. How could it be otherwise, indeed? Previous distributions made to shareholders since the war broke out have been regarded with suspicion in Germany and with amusement abroad. Bricks cannot be made without straw; and dividends cannot be earned without trade, and there is no German sea-borne trade.

Questions continue to be raised in this country regarding the imposition of double income-tax on the earnings of companies working abroad, but registered in Great Britain. Shareholders have for years been hammering away at the authorities, with apparently little result. Several large concerns have, in consequence, transferred headquarters to the countries in which their work is carried on, and others, I hear, are considering this step. The British Treasury, by declining to remove this serious injustice, is killing "the goose that lays the golden eggs," and the sooner it awakes to the fact the better.

COMMENTATOR.

Administration of the Greek and Turkish Debt.

Report of the Council of the Corporation of Bondholders for 1916.

We take the following extracts from the forty-third annual report of the Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders for the year 1916. The extracts deal with the Greek and Turkish bonds.

Greece.

"The gross receipts from the monopolies and the Piræus Customs, assigned to the bondholders under the arrangement of 1898, amounted in 1915 to 58,231,475 dr., against 63,087,551 dr. in 1914 and 55,021,654 dr. in 1913. The receipts upon which the plus values are based were 35,308,588 dr., and although this amount was 884,866 dr. less than in 1914, it was, with that exception, the highest on record.

"The principal decreases in 1915 were about 1,000,000 dr. in tobacco and 1,300,000 dr. in stamps, and were mainly due to the effect of the war upon the economical development of the country. There were, however, increases of about 150,000 dr. from petroleum and 1,100,000 fcs. from Naxos emery, the latter resulting from the enhanced price of the mineral and from the fact that, owing to the blockade of Asia Minor, Greece became the sole source of supply.

"As regards 1916, the receipts from which the plus values are derived amounted to 34,229,900 dr. up to the end of the year, against 35,308,588 dr. for 1915. This shows a decline of 1,078,628 dr., out of which 908,309 dr. occurred in December as a result of the blockade. The increases payable in 1917 will probably be as follows: For interest, 22 per cent. to Group I., and 24 per cent. to Groups II. and III.; and for Sinking Fund, 14 per cent. to Groups I. and II., and 16 per cent. to Group III.

"The Council have been informed by his Majesty's Government that the International Financial Commission had sufficient funds in hand at the end of 1916 to enable them in any event to continue the ordinary interest payments up to September, 1917, and that the arrangements necessary to secure the continuance of the receipts after that date would, if circumstances required it, form the subject of consideration by the Governments concerned. Meanwhile it had been decided by the Commission to centralise in Paris the administration of the funds applicable to the service of the Debt.

Turkey.

"As the report of the Debt Council for the year 1914-15 was not published until the autumn of 1916, it was not possible to include any information with regard to the results of that period in the last report of the Council of Foreign Bondholders.

"The net receipts from the assigned revenues in 1914-15, omitting those from the provisional surtaxes on salt and spirits, amounted to £T2,456,756, against £T3,782,935 in the previous year, a reduction of £T1,326,179. The total net receipts, including the surtaxes, were £T2,888,088, against £T4,385,914, a reduction of £T1,497,826. It must be remembered, however, that in 1913-14 the receipts were the highest on record.

"The falling off in the revenues was mainly the result of the disturbance caused by the war in Europe, in which Turkey intervened in November, 1914, but it was accentuated by the Government's failure to pay over to the Debt Council the following amounts:—

"(1) £T114,020 due in substitution of the Eastern Roumelian Annuity; (2) £T129,012 out of £T130,000 due in lieu of the Cyprus Tribute; and (3) £T25,000 out of £T50,000 due on account of the Tumbeki revenue. These three items amounted to £T268,032.

"Deducting from the total net receipts for 1914-15 the fixed annuity of £T2,157,375 required for the service of the Unified Converted Debt and the Lottery Bonds, the surplus divisible between the Government and the bondholders, in the proportion of 75 and 25 per cent., was £T730,713. The 25 per cent. belonging to the bondholders, amounting to £T182,678, instead of being applied, in ac-

cordance with the 'Décret Annexe' of 1/14 September, 1903, to extraordinary amortisation, was carried forward to the next account.

"No mention is made of any application of the sinking fund during the second half of 1914-15.

"As regards the supplementary revenues administered by the Debt Council, it has been reported in the foreign Press that at a meeting of the Council (which now consists of the German, Austrian, and Turkish representatives), held on March 25, 1916, the acting president stated that the net yield of these revenues in 1914-15 was £T1,308,110, as against £T3,223,041 in 1913-14. This marked shrinkage may perhaps be partly explained by the fact that the Debt Administration was said at the date named to be in possession of 'bons de réquisition,' received from the Turkish Government, to the amount of £T1,522,599. This would seem to indicate that tithes collected in kind by the Administration had been requisitioned for war purposes.

"As regards 1915-16, the acting president stated that there was a further heavy falling-off, but the figures given by him were incomplete, so that it does not seem worth while to quote them.

"The Debt Council's report for 1915-16 had not appeared at the time of publication of this report.

"In his statement above referred to, the acting president of the Debt Council is further reported to have said that, over and above its normal functions, the local prestige of the Debt Administration had been utilised by the Turkish Government for the issue in 1915-16 of currency bills for upwards of £T17,000,000, guaranteed as to about 40 per cent. by gold and as to the remainder by German Treasury bills.

"The Council of Foreign Bondholders are of opinion that it was never contemplated under the Decree of Mouharrem that the Debt Administration should be utilised to give credit to an issue of this kind, especially in the circumstances at present prevailing, and no responsibility in the matter will, it is assumed, be admitted by France, Italy, or Great Britain.

"The acting president of the Debt Council is reported to have also said that, in spite of the influence of the war on the economic condition of Turkey, and the fact that a large portion of the administration staff had been mobilised, the service of the Public Debt had not been stopped for a single day."

AN IMPORTANT RAILWAY.

The Quetta-Nushki Line and Why It Should Be Extended.

The Indiaman this week, in its leading article, discusses the railway line which the Government of India has constructed from Quetta to Nushki, and refers to an article, previously published in the paper in which Sir Hugh Barnes, a former Foreign Secretary to the Indian Government, pointed out the obvious political and commercial advantages which would accrue from an extension of the line to the Persian frontier, and added, "the utility of the railway would not cease with the end of the war. The Indian Government is deeply interested in the maintenance of the independence and prosperity of Persia. England and Russia have mutually agreed to respect her independence and integrity. As one of the objects of this war is to uphold the observance of treaties, it is inconceivable—so long as Persia remains neutral—that this agreement should fail to be observed. We may be confident, therefore, that after the war the British and Russian Governments will make a determined effort to set Persia on her legs once more. It will greatly assist us in contributing our share towards the accomplishment of this desirable aim, and will also ensure for all time the security of our own frontier if the Indian communications

with the Persian border are improved in the way suggested.

"Sir Hugh," says *The Indiaman*, "mentioned other directions in which the suggested line would have a military value which are not to be despised. It would, he thought, greatly reduce the cost of our frontier posts, and the power rapidly to place and maintain a military force on the Seistan border would in the event of trouble in or with Afghanistan, at once give us control of the Helmand Valley up to Girishk—a very important advantage. But in the main he based his advocacy of the line on commercial grounds and on the advantage to trade of cheap and rapid transit between Quetta and Seistan.

"Very shortly afterwards the project was taken up by the Government of India, and in the early autumn of 1916 it was decided, as a commencement, to extend the line on the standard gauge from Nushki to Dalbandin, a distance of 115 miles. Work could hardly have been begun before the end of September; yet with such energy was it pushed on that the first train, we learn, steamed into the Dalbandin terminus in the second week in January, a most creditable achievement, for which the officers in charge deserve much praise. . . . But if the true commercial object of the line—viz., the promotion of overland trade with Persia, is to be attained, it obviously must not stop at Dalbandin. To end it there is like ending a bridge in the middle of a stream, and until the desert is crossed and some point on the Persian frontier is reached, there can be little hope that commercially the line will ever prove to be a reproductive work. Some 215 miles of barren plain and desert still intervene between the railhead at Dalbandin and the Seistan border at Koh-i-Malik Siyah.

"Some people, no doubt, are sceptical of the possibility of developing any considerable trade by this route, even with the advantage of railway transport. But the local opinion, so we are informed, is that the piece goods import trade of Eastern Persia would be largely diverted to the railway from its present channel via the Gulf, and that the important wool and cotton exports from the Birjand and Meshed Provinces could be profitably exported via India. The dates from Jalk, Sohtagan, and Ladgash would also find a ready market in India, and for Indian tea, indigo, and jute fabrics, the railway would probably prove to be the cheapest and easiest way into Northern Persia and Central Asia. The military advantages of the line need not be repeated. But it may be mentioned that after the war efforts are likely to be made to revive the gun-running from the coast into Afghanistan, which has cost the Indian Government so much in money and anxiety in the past. The whole of this trade passes through the narrow strip of country, some fifty miles wide, which intervenes between Robat and the unpassable Dasht-i-Lut, in Persia. It is obvious that the existence of a railway along one side of this strip will enable us—with the co-operation of the Persians—to control this trade far more effectually than by expensive naval operations in the Gulf of Oman. On every ground, therefore, we hope the Indian Government will not hesitate to push the railway on till it reaches the Persian border.

"The exact route by which the railway should be carried on from Dalbandin is a question which will require some consideration. For some seventy miles in a south-easterly direction from Koh-i-Malik Siyah there runs a precipitous rocky range of hills known as the Kacha Amalaf range. The existing trade route runs east of this range, but water on it is scarce and bad, and the country is very desolate. On the western side it is said that there is a much better and easier route well supplied with water along the strip of plain between the range and the river Talab, which in part of its course forms the boundary between Persia and Baluchistan. This point can only be settled by a survey, but according to our present information, probably the best plan would be to run the line from Dalbandin over the level plain to Mirjawa, on the Talab river. There it would touch the Persian frontier, and the further extension to our frontier post at Robat could be considered later. The main point we desire to emphasise is that if the railway is to have a fair chance of success, it should obviously be taken the whole way across the desert, and not stopped midway."

SUBSTITUTE FOR COAL.

Acute Near Eastern Problem about to be Solved.

During the summer of 1916, Mr. John Wells, who had been engaged by the Egyptian Government to inquire into the question of combustibles, drew the attention of the authorities to the products and sub-products that might be obtained from cotton and other vegetable stalks. The laboratory experiments undertaken by Mr. John Wells produced results that were submitted to the Government chemists, writes the *Egyptian Gazette*. The latter were very pleased with these results, and recommended more extensive experiments.

Arrangements were then made for a certain number of experiments with the help of a small apparatus capable of using from two to three hundred kilos of cotton stalks every day. The results were encouraging, and it was decided that the Ministry of Agriculture, under the direction of Mr. John Wells, should build in the neighbourhood of Shoubrah, near the Nile, some special kilns fitted with apparatus sufficient to deal with ten tons of stalks per day.

Interesting Programme.

Mr. Wells was sent to France and to England to obtain the material he could not find there, and at the same time to visit certain charcoal-burning furnaces in France. The workshops are being built at Shoubrah, and the object is to find some basis of computing the value of the output of a number of products and sub-products, such as charcoal, methylated alcohol, acetic acid, acetates, tar, oils for lighting purposes, etc., and also to find out the exact cost of production.

It is a well-known fact that motor power, heat and lighting, which can only be obtained by means of combustibles, afford at the present time a serious problem, which will be of vital importance in the future. It is obvious that in a country like Egypt there are always enormous quantities of vegetable stalks from cotton and doura and so on which total millions of tons per year. A great part of these are employed for domestic uses, but an enormous quantity is also used in a most wasteful manner for heating the boilers of machinery, while the balance is burnt or destroyed in one way or another.

The enormous value of charcoal as a generator of energy by means of special machines is nowadays an admitted fact, and it is hoped that a considerable quantity of these vegetable products will be turned into combustibles which will favourably compare with imported combustibles. Furthermore, these vegetable products are furnished year by year, and the experiments undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture have as their object to make use for the good of the country those products which have hitherto been treated as rubbish. It is hoped that the Shoubrah factory will be working in a few months. After the Ministry has kept it at work for a certain time, the public will be informed of the results.

AN UNFULFILLED PROPHECY.

The *Kölnische Volkszeitung* on February 6, 1916, delivered itself of the following prophecy regarding the Baghdad Railway (says *The Times*):—

"In spite of war and difficult obstacles, the year 1916 will, we may be sure, not come to an end without seeing railway connection finally established between Berlin and Baghdad and German express trains running into the old storied city of Harun-al-Rashid. Baghdad is destined to remain for years to come the terminus of the new line of world-commerce created by German capital. For even if the plan of continuing it 300 miles further to the Persian Gulf is very tempting, railway construction in the section between Baghdad and Busreh is confronted by such great difficulties, and railway traffic would have to stand such severe competition with steamboat traffic on the Tigris, that the revenue to be expected would hardly cover half the costs of construction. For the time being enough will have been secured if the Baghdad Railway is supplemented by a line of German river steamers connecting Baghdad with the Gulf, and to secure this the terms of the peace concluded with England will no doubt afford the best opportunity."

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The market during the past week has been far from active, but in certain quarters business has been of rather fuller dimensions than recently. A strong tone has continued to prevail in raw cotton circles, and there are few indications of lower values in the near future.

Discussions relating to the Indian import duties have fallen off, but Lancashire appears determined to attempt to secure a reversal of the recent decision after the end of the war.

In the cloth market the feature of interest has been the increased inquiry in the variety of fabrics for certain of the near Eastern outlets. Goods in that part of the world are undoubtedly moving off more freely, and should our troops continue to meet with success, there is every expectation of a big trade during the next few months.

Egypt is giving rather more support in sized goods and fancy cloths.

Inquiry for India has broadened, and certain leading exporters have purchased light fabrics to a considerable extent in anticipation of future wants. Miscellaneous sales have also occurred in shirtings.

Operations for China have been rather irregular.

A little more activity has been reported for South America. Prices required by manufacturers depend to a large extent upon the position of individual producers.

American yarns have hardened in sympathy with the upward movement in raw cotton rates, and although fuller prices have not been easily secured, the turnover shows an improvement.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. LONDON, March 22.

There is still a good steady demand for all qualities, but the remaining stocks are now very limited, and so sparingly offered that only small transactions are taking place at, more or less, advanced prices. Only the raising of the blockade will alter the present condition of the market, although it was reported that one or two steamers, loaded with currants, were either on their way to or ready to start for England.

Sultanas.

The demand is moderate, and business is mostly done in Afghanistan fruit at recent advanced prices. Other growths are quiet but very firm; whilst Cretans are selling well at full prices.

Dates and Figs.

Figs are in good demand, with business done for Greek at about 52s.; and Spanish at 56s. to 58s. Dates are dearer, Persian selling at 45s. to 46s.

Seeds.

Linseed is inactive. London Calcutta for forward positions being quoted at 107s., and Bombay ordinary ditto at 106s. Rapeseed is quiet, brown Cawnpore for shipment is offered at 96s.; Gingerat ditto at 100s.; and Teria at 98s. Cotton seed has been rather quiet, but prices are very steady. London-Egyptian f.a.g. prompt is quoted at £19 5s.; with Sakelariades quality at £18 10s. per ton. Rangoon beans on the spot and for shipment up to Nov.-Dec. are maintained at the current high level; whilst canary seed is firm, but the demand very quiet.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes. There has been a good demand for Egyptian cakes, mostly spot parcels, which are selling well at about £15 7s. 6d., ex quay; whilst some good business was done for afloat and March shipments at £15 to £15 5s. ex ship terms. English cotton cakes are quiet and unchanged at £15 7s. 6d. to £15 10s.

Linseed cakes: In spite of the time of year the demand has been very small, and prices remain fairly steady for best London made, at £19 5s. to £19 10s. East India seed Pures are offered at £18 10s. to £19; and prime Western American at £18 to £18 5s.

Egyptian eggs, are in very good demand, best selling at 13s. to 13s. 6d., and ordinary at 12s. 6d. to 13s.

The new season Egyptian onions shipped from Alexandria are shortly expected in the market.

TRADE NOTES.

Liquidations.

The liquidations of the businesses of Escher, Tesumann and Co., Joseph Eggart and Franz Newmann have been transferred to the Public Custodian of Enemy Property.

Licences to Trade.

The licence granted to the Société Anonyme des Presses Allemandes has been withdrawn, steps having been taken as far as possible to eliminate enemy interests in the company, and the appointment of Mr. C. W. Strickland, as controller, has been cancelled.

Certificates of Priority.

The following notice appears in the *Journal Officiel* (Egypt) of March 1:—"Owing to the restrictions placed on the manufactures and exports from England of various commodities, especially machinery and metals of all kinds, import merchants and Government departments are hereby informed that orders placed in England must be accompanied by a certificate from the Priority Board of the War Trade Department at the Ministry of Finance. This certificate will take the form of a recommendation to the Ministry of Munitions in London (where the actual grading of priority will be determined). Applications will be recommended for Class A or B or C."

Tenders.

Tenders have been invited by the Survey Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, Giza (Mudiria), for the supply of calico, cambric, and shash required by the Department during the year ended April 23, 1918. The material required is extra strong, and should be similar to sample kept at the stores of the Department. Copies of the conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained from the Director-General of the Survey Department, as above, at which address also sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to noon on April 23.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Odessa is to be made a free port.

It is reported that the Swiss Federal Council propose to establish a tobacco monopoly.

In Syria and Palestine the chemists' shops have exhausted their stocks of drugs and medicines.

The Russian Ministry of Finance has withdrawn the authority to export Khava and Bukhara lucerne seed.

With a view to avoid stringent measures the Governor of Malta, through the Press, is appealing to all to economise foodstuffs.

Sir Murza Dawood Khan, Persian Consul-General in India, has recently visited Madras, where he opened the new Consulate.

Little prominence is given to the news of the fall of Baghdad in the Athens newspapers, though they recognise the importance of the event.

Serious disorders broke out in Constantinople on the receipt of the news of the British entry into Baghdad. Poverty and the dearth of provisions were the pretext.

Telegrams received in London on Tuesday from Baku indicate that the political crisis has passed off in Baku without disturbance, and that the situation is now normal.

Owing to the exhaustion of all coal stocks the gas supply in Athens ceased on March 12. The electric supply is being maintained by wood fuel, but this is not expected to last long.

The discharging of the cargo of wheat destined for Piræus, which was detained at Keratsini pending receipt of the French Admiral's instructions, is to be begun immediately.

Daylight saving began in Malta March 11, and will continue until the end of October. Thousands who are accustomed to attend the first mass of the day were in church at three a.m. Greenwich time.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

Grave Charges Against the Stross Brothers of Alexandria.

An interesting case, in which two men are charged with trading with the enemy, has recently occupied the attention of Judge Kershaw at Alexandria. The men are Max and Franz Stross, who represented Adolphe Stross and Co., the well-known Austrian firm of Alexandria, who were the agents of the Deutsche-Levant Line before the war. The Stross brothers had been brought from England for trial.

Mr. Halford, who appeared for the Crown, said the business was started by Adolphe Stross, who took Franz and Max, his sons, into partnership in 1904. After the publication of the decree of August, 1915, the firm obtained a "B" licence for trading, and Mr. Joyce was appointed controller in February, 1916, when the firm was ordered to liquidate under licence. Subsequently, in June, 1916, the licence was withdrawn and Mr. Joyce was appointed receiver of the business.

Receiver's Discoveries.

In the course of his receivership, Mr. Joyce discovered in the books traces of business dealings with Trieste. The person primarily responsible was Mr. Adolphe Stross, but on account of his age and ill-health he had been allowed to leave Egypt.

Counsel next drew attention to the first two charges, which deal with the business carried on by these two partners, Max and Franz, with the Assicurazioni Generale di Trieste, a very large insurance business, with branches in almost every town in Europe. There could be no question that the nationality of this company was Austrian. Correspondence showed that the centre of the Oriental branch of the business was conducted exclusively from Trieste.

The offences on which the first two charges are based are that the Stross firm continued to represent the company, to enter new policies, and to push business generally notwithstanding the provisions against trading with Austria. Later on the Venice branch of the Trieste company was allowed to continue business with Egypt on the condition that it dissociated itself entirely from the Trieste office. On August 10, 1915, Stross was allowed to continue to trade subject to the terms of that licence.

Alleged "Double-dealing."

Although nominally the accused did business with Venice, it was actually done with Trieste, Venice being only a channel of correspondence. War with Austria broke out on August 12, 1914. On August 15 and 16, Stross cabled for a great many new policies to Venice, followed by a letter addressed to Trieste.

Numbers of letters were read to prove the double-dealing of the Stross firm between Venice and Trieste. In one letter, to avoid complications, accused suggested that he should join the Bucharest Insurance Company, as it was neutral, and, with its help, do business with Trieste. At the same time he arranged that the Bucharest Company should be admitted to the Insurance Syndicate at Alexandria.

Several letters were read to show that Bucharest was only a pretence, and that connection with Trieste was never lost sight of. When Italy was involved in the war, there was removal to Switzerland, and the business with Alexandria was done with the Bureau Levant at Zurich, the actual centre of the business still being Trieste, as all the letters showed. Letters from the general manager at Trieste were sent through Zurich to Stross.

As a result of the investigations of Mr. Joyce, the firm had felt that things were getting dangerous, and so gave up their licence to trade as insurance agents for this company. A budget of correspondence was read

showing that the firm was pushing this enemy business as hard as they could right up to January, 1915.

"In Touch with Berlin."

The accused were then charged with paying money to enemy subjects after the proclamation of January, 1915, and a letter was read to show that the Strosses were actually in touch with the Deutsche Orient Bank at Berlin, through whom they managed to pay off a big debt (in marks) in Germany, in connection with the Trieste company.

Another charge dealt with a remittance from Adolphe Stross to his son Walter in Austrian territory. Mr. Halford maintained that there was no excuse for this remittance, because Adolphe Stross had at that time £50,000 in Switzerland, which was ample wherewith to supply his son, and he was bound by his licence not to send money to enemy countries.

Counsel showed that between the outbreak of war and July, 1915, Stross made no fewer than sixty new insurance policies with the Trieste company, which was a distinct breach of the rules laid down in August, 1914. Another charge was that the firm tried to collect debts in connection with the Trieste company, and went on issuing two new kinds of floating policies until April, 1915.

The case was proceeding when the mail left.

BANNED FIRMS.

Changes in the Egyptian Schedule.

We conclude to-day the alterations made by the Egyptian Government in the schedule of firms in neutral countries with whom firms and persons in Egypt are not permitted to trade:—

PARAGUAY.

Americano, Bazaar (see Bazaar Americano); Armeria (La) Alemana (see Otto Zinnert).

Bazaar Americano (Sociedad Introdutora S.A.), Palma 199, Asuncion; Bell, José, and Company, Asuncion; Berg, Ricardo (Ferreteria Universal), Palma Esq. Ayola, Asuncion.

Ferreteria Alemana (see Honsberg, Spier and Company); Ferreteria Universal (see Ricardo Berg).

Honsberg, Spier and Company (Ferreteria Alemana), Asuncion; Huttermann, Hermann, Convencion 12, Asuncion.

Klug and Mares, Estrella 435, Asuncion. Minner, Alfredo, and Company, Libertad Esq. Iturbe, Asuncion.

Rein, Friedrich, 15 de Agosto 171, Asuncion.

Wulff, Otto, Asuncion.

Zinnert, Otto (La Armeria Alemana), Palma Esq. 25 de Novembre, Asuncion.

PERU.

Baigorria, Luis F., Chiclayo.

SPAIN.

Carey Hermanos y Cia., Tarragona.

Exportadora Frutera Tarraconense, Tarragona.

Saggese, Antonio, Palma and Binisalem (Majorca); Saggese (Felipe) y Hermanos, Palma and Binisalem (Majorca).

White, Luis, Benicarlo and Tarragona.

Removals from List.

ARGENTINA.

Carnosso, Buenos Aires.

Robert, Pusterla and Company, Calle Belgrano, Calle Peru 401, Buenos Aires and Calle Urquiza 1099, Rosario.

BRAZIL.

Fonseca, Vaz and Company, Rua Sao Pedro 63, Rio de Janeiro.

Vaz, José, Rua Sao Pedro 65, Rio de Janeiro.

GREECE.

Yeni, Samuel Judah, Salonika.

NETHERLANDS.

Cohen-Goldschmidt, Oldenzaal. Tas Ezn, J., Nieuwendijk 197-9, Amsterdam.

PERSIA.

Ghafar Bonakdar, Ispahan; Ghafar Itadali, Ispahan.

Haji Muhammad Hussain Kazeruni, Ispahan (Trading as Shirkat Masoodich and Shirkat Islamieh).

Intadali, Ispahan.

Lascarides Freres, Resht.

PERU.

Muelle and Dammert, Callao.

Raygada, R. Y., Paita.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Azevedo, Ibo.

SPAIN.

Cruz, Calmarino Manuel de la, Rios Rosas 11, Malaga.

Graf y Hohl, Adolfo, Calle de Mariana Pineda 14 and 16, Madrid.

SWEDEN.

Kjellberg, J. A., and Sonner, O. Hamngatan 19, Gottenburg.

VENEZUELA.

Otamendi and Company, Curaçao and Maracaibo.

THE ELEFATHERIOS K. VENIZELOS.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, sitting on February 15, upheld the appeal by the Allied holders of bills of lading to wheat condemned as prize by the British Commercial Court, Malta. The wheat was part of the cargo of the Greek steamer Eleftherios K. Venizelos.

The case was heard in February, when judgment was reserved.

Lord Sumner, delivering the judgment of the Committee on March 15, said the appeal related to a part cargo of wheat 1,000,000 kilos in weight, which was captured on February 27, 1915, by his Majesty's ship York, on board the Greek steamer Eleftherios K. Venizelos, and condemned as prize by the Court at Malta upon the ground of enemy destination on a continuous voyage.

The appellants, the claimants below, were an Italian Company, the Societa Anonima Alfredo Kun, of Genoa, in which shares were largely owned by the firm of Bunge and Born, grain merchants, of Buenos Ayres. The partners in this firm were two subjects of the Argentine Republic, and one J. Born, a Belgian subject. The whole cargo, consisting of various cereals, was shipped by Bunge and Born at Bahia Blanca, and the parcel in question was represented by a single bill of lading which made the wheat deliverable at Genoa, the vessel's port of discharge, to the Unter-mühle Zug Actiengesellschaft, Zug, Switzerland, or their assigns.

The captors adduced no evidence in contradiction of the claimants' case, but subjected the whole of the transactions, as to which the claimants gave evidence in support of their claim, to the closest scrutiny, and suggested that the wheat was on its way to an enemy destination. The trial Judge arrived at that conclusion. Their Lordships were of opinion that all the evidence was to the contrary, and that, being regular in form, genuine in themselves, and contemporary in date, the documents, in the absence of evidence to refute them, were deserving of credit. It followed that the assumptions put forward by the captors were mere conjectures, and therefore inadmissible. Their Lordships therefore held the claimants' evidence discharged such burden as rested on them, and sufficed to establish their claim. Accordingly, their Lordships advised that the appeal should be allowed, with costs, and the order appealed against, so far as it condemned the cargo in question, reversed; and that the sum in Court, representing the proceeds of the sale of the wheat, should be paid out to the appellants.

According to a Constantinople telegram, the life of Parliament has been prolonged to March 31 in order to enable the Chamber to deal with the Budget. The Chamber has adopted a Bill authorising the advance of £10,000,000 from an Austro-Hungarian banking group.

The concessions of the ports of Mehedya, Kenitra and Rabat-Salee, Morocco, have been granted to three French firms. The names of the firms may be obtained on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

R. OTT AND CO.,

ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM
(AN ANGLO SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.

EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.

Telegrams: "Ottimo."

COMPANY MEETING.

The Eastern Bank, Ltd.

The seventh annual general meeting of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., was held on March 21 in London, Lord Balfour of Burleigh presiding.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—On behalf of the board, I have pleasure in presenting to you the seventh annual report and balance-sheet of the bank, showing the position at the close of business on December 31, 1916. In spite of the war, the result is a satisfactory one, but before making any remarks to you upon the subject of the accounts, I should like to refer to the loss sustained by the bank owing to the death of our colleague, Sir Jacob Sassoon, which occurred in Bombay at the end of last year. Sir Jacob was one of our original colleagues; he had a large share in the responsibility for the founding of the bank, he was a pleasant colleague with us—we never had a shadow of difference of opinion with him—and he and his firm have been a source of great strength to the institution ever since its foundation. I am glad to be able to add that Sir Edward Sassoon, Bart., has accepted a seat on the board in succession to his late brother. He is here to-day, and you will be asked to confirm his election shortly.

I will now proceed to deal with the figures you have before you in the report and balance-sheet. You will observe that the net profits for the year, including £6,660 13s. 5d. brought forward, amount to £60,545 10s., and we are glad, now that we are in a position to do so, to revert to the dividend paid for the year 1913, and we therefore recommend a distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax. This will absorb £36,000, and we propose to place £15,000 to the reserve fund, and to carry forward £9,545 10s. to the next account.

Turning now to the balance-sheet, you will see that the amount of our paid-up capital is £599,879 14s. 4d., a slightly increased figure compared with last year. This is the result of the dividend upon the old shares being applied towards the unpaid calls on the same shareholders' "new" shares. As I explained last year, the greater part of the amount is due from a deceased Belgian's estate, and we must, I fear, await the conclusion of the war before the final adjustment can be made. Our reserve fund remains at last year's figure, namely, £55,000, but this will be increased to £70,000 when this year's appropriation is added. Current accounts and fixed deposits amount to over three millions, a very considerable increase upon last year's total. A large proportion of the increase is attributable to Government balances abroad, which will probably not be maintained to the same extent after the war is over. Bills payable show a decrease of about £40,000, while acceptances on account of customers are slightly higher. Loans payable against bills and securities show a considerable increase, due to our larger holdings of bills of exchange. Sundry accounts, including exchange adjustments, comprise sundry creditors, and on the other side of the balance-sheet sundry debtors, also the adjustments in exchange, interest, and rebate necessary to ascertain the bank's position on the date the books were closed.

Cash on hand and at bankers stands at £1,361,802, a very fair reserve against our liabilities on current accounts and fixed deposits. It has been our constant endeavour to ensure the assets of the bank being kept in as liquid a form as possible, and we think that the large increase in the cash on hand and bills receivable, amounting in the aggregate to one and three-quarter millions, is satisfactory evidence of the success of our efforts. British Government and other securities stand at £209,022 18s. 4d., a reduction as compared with the previous year.

Owing to the removal of minimum prices for gilt-edged securities early last year, the price of our holdings showed a considerable fall, and we estimate our loss on realisation and writing down of securities at over £13,000. But for this the result of our year's working would show a considerable improvement. We have provided all that is necessary in this connection now, and we hope that at the end of the present year we may find it will not be necessary to make further

provision for depreciation. Loans receivable and advances stand at practically the same figure as last year, although the increase in the working capital of the bank might, perhaps, allow of a larger amount being employed in this direction. If we have erred, however, it has been on the safe side, as the increase in our bills receivable shows. The amount due by our agents and correspondents is some £16,000 more than last year, but the amount entirely consists of our credit balances with banks abroad.

The whole of the year under review has seen the bank working under war conditions, and it would be impossible for me in the short time at my disposal to refer to the manifold changes and disturbances which have occurred in the money markets of the world, not excluding those in which we are particularly interested. The artificial scarcity of money in this market and, until quite the latter part of the year, the comparative plentifulness of the same commodity in India necessitated our working on somewhat different lines from those under normal conditions, but the sudden decision of the Indian Government to restrict their Council drawings quickly reversed the position in December last, and we closed the year with exchange in Bombay and Calcutta well over parity and with the Presidency bank rates 3 per cent. all round. This action of the India Council was, we quite recognised, unavoidable, but it disorganised trade. We have done our best to assist the Government, and preference has been given to the financing of exports of national importance in accordance with the expressed wish of the Government. The position arose through the exceeding prosperity of India and the demand for silver coins for up-country and the war zone, which could hardly have been foreseen earlier. We have every hope that the difficulty may shortly be surmounted, and that we may witness a return to more normal conditions before long.

The monsoon last year was exceptionally favourable, and with all produce fetching war prices the prosperity of India is not surprising. The jute mills in Calcutta and the cotton mills in Bombay have all made handsome profits, and it is said of the Calcutta mills that they are in so good a financial position that accommodation from banks is no longer required—a state of affairs which, though very satisfactory in itself, can only be looked upon with mixed feelings by an exchange bank like ourselves.

Since the date of the issue of the notice calling the present meeting the British have entered Baghdad, and we now only await the necessary permission from the authorities to send our representative there with a view to the reopening of our branch. You will remember that in my statement to you in 1915 I pointed out that on the outbreak of war our cash balance, amounting to under £10,000, was seized by the Turkish Government, and our office and securities were sealed up when our manager and staff had to leave that city. It is too much to hope that after this lapse of time they will be found intact, but there is reason to suppose that there are sufficient balances of Turkish money in the hands of our Government to make all losses in that part of the world recoverable. We are convinced that in future we may look for a large and increasing business with this ancient city, and we have every hope that under stable government it will become one of the greatest business centres of the Middle East. Our branch at Basreh, where we act as bankers to the Government of India, is making steady progress, and, as we anticipated, is now on a paying basis. You can understand, however, that present conditions are quite abnormal, and export business is greatly reduced.

At the request of the Government, and mainly for their convenience, we have opened a branch of the bank at Amara, a town on the Tigris, between Basreh and Kut-el-Amara. It will, we anticipate, also assist the operations of our branches at Baghdad and Basreh. Our chief difficulty with regard to the opening of new branches is that of furnishing the necessary European staff. So many of our men are at present on active service and our staff is so depleted that it is exceedingly difficult to find officers of the requisite experience to take charge of new branches. I regret to say that of those who joined the forces one has been killed, and two have re-

ceived wounds, but are reported to be doing well. Nearly half of the remainder have received commissions.

I have now to move the adoption of the report, and after the resolution has been seconded I shall invite discussion and ask you to put any questions you may desire to address to me.

Mr. J. S. Haskell seconded the motion.

The Chairman, in answer to a question, stated that the balance of profit and loss account, £60,545, was after providing for the amount of £13,000 written off the bank's securities, to which he had referred.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Leigh Wood, C.M.G., the dividend as recommended was approved, and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff.

COMPANY NOTES.

Sinai Mining Co.

In the House of Commons on March 20. Major Hunt asked the President of the Board of Trade if, with reference to the lately-advertised sale of the alien enemy-owned shares in the Sinai Mining Co., he could state whether, in view of the fact that the management remained unchanged, any and what precautions were taken to prevent the shares being eventually reacquired by the alien enemy interests; and could he give the names of the buyers of the shares?

Mr. Roberts replied: The purchaser of the enemy-owned shares in the Sinai Mining Co., Ltd., was required to be a natural-born British subject, and to make a statutory declaration that he was not purchasing the shares for or on account of any enemy or foreigner or foreign corporation or corporation under foreign control. The shares held by enemies did not give control of the company. The purchaser was Mr. James Campbell.

Oil Outputs.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—77,700 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended March 11, 50,650 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended March 10, 329 tons.

Cheleken.—Fortnight ended March 10, 414 tons.

European Oilfields.—Week ended March 11, 87,600 poods.

International Russian.—Four weeks ended February 3, 6,453 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended March 10, 231 tons.

North Caucasian.—Week ended February 14-27, 658,250 poods; week ended February 21-March 6, 624,705 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended March 10, 50,500 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—Week ended March 11, 166,000 poods.

It appears that the coupon on the Turkish Unified bonds is to be paid to neutral and non-Ally holders in marks, the remarkable depreciation of which takes a lot of gilt off the ginger-bread. The report just issued by the Ottoman Railway is, of course, a jejune document, the line being still in possession of the enemy, but the debenture holders are receiving interest in scrip, and I (writes *Alert II. in the Financier and Bullionist*) am still of opinion that the Four and Five per Cent. stocks are a fair sporting proposition at present prices.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—

THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, Thursday.

We have passed through another quiet week. There has been more buying than selling, with the result that prices, where altered, are somewhat firmer.

Egyptian Unified have continued to be bought at 78½. Agricultural Banks have been dealt in to the extent of about 300 shares between 5½ and 5¼. National Banks changed hands round 13 9-16 for about 300 shares.

In Land Banks there was a small transaction at 4½. Behera Preference are wanted at 3¼, and Delta Lands at 8s. Some few thousand Unified Egyptian Lands have been taken round 6d.

Alexandria Water remained a firm spot at 11½ bid, and with sellers at 12. Markets are again firmer with some business between 25s. 3d. and 26s. Khedivial Mail are better at 26s. 9d.

In Greek securities the market continues very firm. There has been some business in Greek 4 per cent. 1910 round 60, and both Monopoly and Rente are higher at 47 and 42½ respectively.

Oil Shares.

Dealings have been extremely limited in character. Spies have changed hands at 14s. 6d. and under, and Roumanian Consolidated have been easier at 9s. 3d. Shells have come to business more freely, but on the whole there has been little doing.

Anglo-Egyptian "B's" have declined 1½d.

Paris Bourse.

The Parquet has been quiet and steady. Suez Canal shares improved by 25 francs to 4,400. Some closing quotations are:—Egyptian Unified, 89.60; Credit Foncier Egyptian, 634; Ottoman Bank, 428.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, March 22.

The money market has been free, with ample credits in abundance. As a consequence very low rates have prevailed for from-day-to-day loans, for which the opening quotation yesterday was 4 per cent., but this rapidly declined to 3½, and later reached even a lower level. Indeed, it was said that in the afternoon money was in no demand, and that some lenders would have taken 2½ per cent.

Rates for weekly business were in the neighbourhood of 4½ per cent. to 4¼ per cent. Treasury Bills were discounted on the basis of 4½ per cent. to 4 7-16.

Bar silver declined 1-16d. to 35½d. an ounce. There have been some fluctuations in exchange. That on Alexandria, sight, varied from 97 to 97½ piastres to the pound sterling.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
March 13	250,000	167,000
March 14	360,000	160,000
March 15	190,000	70,000
March 16	210,000	220,000
March 17	210,000	120,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended February 20, 1917.

	1916.	1917.
	£s.	£s.
Feb. 10-Feb. 20	6,090	6,288
April 1-Feb. 20	166,703	192,100

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916.	1917.
	Week ended	Week ended
	March 9.	March 8.
Cattle markets	1,053	1,294
General markets	361	400
Cattle markets closed	1	11
Receipts (£)	1,419	1,694
Total from commencement of year (£)	14,059	16,346

"THE EXPORT WORLD AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE."

The Journal which circulates abroad and is read wherever English is spoken. The advertising medium for Manufacturers and Exporters.

Send for particulars.

31, CHRISTOPHER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price July 27, 1915.	Price Mar. 16.	Pre- sent Price.
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	78½	78½
Do. Pref. 4½%, 1890	98	67	67
Greek 5%, 1881	57	51	51
Do. 5%, 1884	56	51	51
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	46½	47
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	44½	42½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	50	50
Do. 5% Eng., Ln., 1893	54	49½	49
Do. 4% Rents, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 4% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71½	71½
Do. 5% Current	87½	88	88
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	—	—	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, So. £600	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% United Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	73	73½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1904	84	66	66
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	68	68
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	—	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	3½	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5	5
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	9½	9½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% ..	50	74½	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	2½	2½	2½
Behera Co.	8½	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2½	2½	2½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. ..	9½	8½	8½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5½	6½	6½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	8½	8½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	8½
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1½	1½
Unified Egyptian Lands	1½	3½	3½

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	25½	25½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	20½	20½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	26½	26½
Do. do. Prefrs.	3½	3½	3½

OIL.

	Price on Feb. 15.	Feb. 22.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10½	10½
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21½	20½
European Oilfields	3½	3½
Roumanian Consolidated	9½	8½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON FEBRUARY 24.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	132	40
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12	—
Soc. Anonyme du Behera	L.E.	—	—
Do. priv.	L.E.	—	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) ..	Frs.	68	—
Privilegiée	Frs.	—	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	73	—
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—	—
Unifiée	L.E.	81	—
Privilegiée	£	63½	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4½	—
Do. Fondateur	£	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	—	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	2½	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—	—
Do. Ord.	£	26½	—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	6½	—
Alex. and Ramien Railway	£	4½	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Cairo	Frs.	101	—
Do. Jouissance	Frs.	160	—
Egyptian Markets	£	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	280	—
Do. Div.	Frs.	220	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	175	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	20½	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	635	—
Do. 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	325	—
Do. 1903	Frs.	260	—
Do. 1911	Frs.	258	—
Delta Lands	£	—	—
Port Said Salt	£	—	—
Cotton Ginners	£	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	P.T.	—	—
United Lands	P.T.	—	—
Levant S.S. Co.	£	—	—
Do. Fond	£	—	—

NOTICE.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Saturday, the 7th April, 1917, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report.
- Receiving the Auditors' Report.
- Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1916.
- Declaring a dividend.
- Electing Directors.
- Electing Auditors for the year 1917 and fixing their remuneration.

All shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting, providing the Shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:—

- In Egypt, at the latest, the 2nd April, 1917.
- At the Head Office, Cairo.
- At the Branch of Alexandria.
- At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiout, Assouan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhour, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod el Farag, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and Mousky (Cairo).
- At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.
- Bank of Athens.
- Banque Belge pour l'Etranger.
- Imperial Ottoman Bank.
- Banque d'Orient.
- Banco di Roma.
- Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio.
- Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
- Crédit Lyonnais.

In the Soudan, at the latest, the 28th March, 1917, at the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt, at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakim.

In Europe, at the latest, the 16th March, 1917, in Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise.

In Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

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

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.
Cairo, the 27th February, 1917.

BRITISH LOAN TO ROUMANIA.

A Reuter telegram from Jassy, dated March 9, stated:—At a Cabinet Council held here yesterday it was announced that Great Britain had agreed to advance to Roumania a sum of 1,000,000,000 francs (£40,000,000) at par. The loan will bear interest at 5 per cent.

The Rumanian, in giving the news, adds:—The agreement comes to by England and Roumania on the subject of the loan is of special significance as showing that our powerful ally has great confidence in the future of Roumania. As a result of the occupation of the larger part of Roumanian territory the State revenues have practically ceased, while, on the other hand, expenditure has increased owing to the reorganisation of the army and the feeding of the refugee population of Moldavia. The cares of the Government were very great during the first two months of the year owing to difficulties in dealing with an urgent situation. The situation is now sensibly improving, the reorganisation of the army is proceeding rapidly, the administrative services are working actively, the necessary sanitary measures have been taken to prevent the spread of epidemics and ration cards have been introduced.

Unshakable confidence is felt by all classes, especially in view of the Reuter telegrams on the recent successes of the British forces on the Ancre and in Mesopotamia.

Reuter telegrams from Amsterdam that, after an exhaustive debate on the internal and external situation, the Bulgarian Parliament, by a large majority, voted the war credit of £20,000,000 asked for by the Government.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Hamoth, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 308.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	497	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	504	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	501	Notes and News	511
Progress in Northern Persia	499	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	508	The Sudan and Its Economic Development	512
The Racial Propaganda in Turkey	507	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	513
The Entente Note to President Wilson	510	The Future of Palestine (Mr. Herbert Bentwich)	500	Smyrna-Aidin Railway	513
Archæological Notes	510	Marko Kraljevitch and the British Women (Mr. M. Curcin)	500	Bulgarian Notes	513
LEADING ARTICLE—		Witchcraft	500	Engineering Notes	514
Roumania After the War ..	506			The Stross Case	515
TANGIER TO TEHRAN	502			Company Notes	515
NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—				On 'Change	516
The Flaming Sword in Serbia	503			Stock and Share List ..	516

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Interest in the war during the past week has been absorbed almost exclusively by the Western Front, which grips the public mind with two potential developments—the possibility of the so-called Hindenburg line realizing the expectations formed of it in Germany, and the prospect of a successful Allied advance which will obliterate that line and any other that the enemy may have intended to hold on French soil. For the moment we hear only of progress made by the Allies between Arras and Soissons; but other parts of the long battle front from the English Channel to Switzerland show signs of being galvanized into activity, as if in response to the great events in the middle sector, and it would be no surprise to learn that the Franco-British offensive had become general.

In the East the weather and the internal situation in Russia have helped to prolong the comparative quiescence which has characterized this theatre since the enemy were held on the Sereth line in Roumania. Germany has clearly missed the psychological moment for profiting by the wonderful upheaval through which her neighbour has passed. Inflammatory proclamations dropped from aeroplanes are a poor substitute for a resolute advance against an army which was of necessity in some confusion as a result of the events in Petrograd. The report that a German concentration is taking place near Riga may be true; but nothing that the enemy may attempt now, even if partially successful in spite of the thaw, is likely to have the same effect on the Russian forces as it must have had in the first few days of the revolution. Russia has still an uphill road before her. The two or three days during which the Tsar hesitated to submit to the popular will gave the extremists their opportunity, and they gained a hold in the direction of affairs from which it has proved difficult to dislodge them. But with the army true to the real interests of the country it may still be hoped that the new order will follow a course which commends itself instinctively to the great mass of the people, and will obviate any bitter divisions during the progress of the war. At the worst a German blow at Petrograd could hardly fail to weld the Russian nation into a harmonious whole, endowed with a strength which it has not been able to bring to bear on the war until now.

Under the promise of spring—based, it is to be feared, on the calendar more than on actual meteorological conditions—there has been some activity along

the whole line in Roumania. In all the circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the enemy should claim slight advantages. The engagements are essentially local, the contending forces carefully feeling their way at one point or another with a view to finding out something about the strength of the army in front of them. Our Allies have nothing to gain by premature action. Time must still be required to bring the reorganized Roumanian army to its maximum efficiency; the lapse of a few weeks is unlikely to improve materially the enemy's position. The great object of the Allies must be to bring off concerted action in several theatres, which will prevent the German military authorities from making the most of any force they may have in reserve.

In Nearer Asia, as might have been expected, the pace set by General Maude in his pursuit of the Turks to Baghdad could not be maintained indefinitely. Last week the British forces were reported to be following the enemy up the River Diala towards Khanikin, while the Russians advancing from Hamadan had passed Kermanshah. Near Kerind the Turks made a stand lasting sixteen hours, but were eventually dislodged from their positions and fell back on the town. This Turkish force must now be nearing a point at which it must decide whether it will continue its retreat to Khanikin, where it runs the risk of encountering some of General Maude's troops, or whether it will seek to escape over the broken country to the north and towards Mosul. No report has been received during the week of the British force which had reached Bakuba. But the Russian column operating on the Turco-Persian frontier a little more than a hundred miles to the north of Khanikin is now near Penjvin, and at no great distance as the crow flies from the road which the Turks must take in their retreat on Mosul. The whole region, however, is mountainous, and offers considerable difficulties to military operations. On the other hand, it will assist the Turks to escape, if they elect to scatter in small groups.

The position in this theatre of the war, as was pointed out by a well-informed correspondent in our columns last week, is of special interest. Although the enemy's forces engaged may not be numerous, they are charged with the defence of a not unimportant section of Turkish territory, and can only be reinforced with a great effort and at the expense of some other theatre of war. If they should become thoroughly demoralized, there is always the danger that the troops sent in sup-

port may not be strong enough to resist a determined attack by themselves, and may thus be reduced to the condition of the others. A small outpost affair near Hatvan, on the south-west shore of Lake Van, suggests that the Russians farther north are beginning to stir from their winter quarters. A repetition of the movement which took our Allies from Sarikamish to Erzincan, if directed south from Mush and Bitlis, would entail the loss of Upper Mesopotamia to the Turks. Any further activities on the part of the Russians must almost inevitably be in this direction in view of the course of events in Lower Mesopotamia. West of Erzincan there is no very definite objective before the Allies; but it will be of no little advantage to achieve by military means what must be a political objective, the expulsion of the Turks from the whole of Syria and Arabia.

Reports of disaffection in Turkey may be believed, but no extravagant hopes need be based upon them. Even the Government must feel annoyed at having been compelled to detach troops for Austrian and Bulgarian fronts, when it is proved that there are not enough left for the defence of Turkish territory. That their misgivings were aroused at the time was clearly indicated by the fact that the German Press was at great pains to show that Turkey had realized that her first line of defence was situated in Galicia or in Roumania, as the case might be. Germany, we may be certain, will not wish to break with the Turks at this critical stage, and Ottoman troops will be liberated from Europe for the protection of Asia Minor. Other steps will be taken in the hope of retrieving the situation, and a substantial stream of reinforcements will begin to flow eastwards. Now, therefore, would be the time for a correlation of the Allies' efforts in this part of the world, with a view to introducing a variety of distracting features which would prevent the Turks from massing their troops in any one theatre.

The news from Macedonia continues to belie the expectations formed a short while ago from an optimistic message regarding the opening of the spring campaign. No official reports from the British command are published, and such activity as there is takes place on the Monastir front. During the past week the French have brought up their captures of prisoners to over 2,000, and the ground gained is important from the point of view of future operations. The enemy has launched a number of counter-attacks delivered as the result of reinforcements reaching him, but in each instance these have been repulsed. Operations in the Cerna loop, where the Italians are supported by French artillery, have gone in favour of our Allies; and these gains on the left wing may sooner or later prove the prelude to wider activities.

King Constantine has once more found occasion for a public speech, but it is couched in far less aggressive tones than those which characterized his utterances a year ago. Replying to an address from a group of Cretans and inhabitants of the Cyclades and other islands, he expressed the hope that, as soon as the mists which enfolded the Greeks were dissipated, the great civilized nations, from whom justice was to be expected, would grant them justice. Then those nations would realize that the Greeks had no other wish than the maintenance of neutrality to save them from supreme dangers, perhaps even catastrophes. Anything that had been said or written to the contrary was quite untrue. Although less offensive in tone, the speech showed by its political allusions that King Constantine continues to grudge a whole-hearted acceptance of the actual situation. After all that has happened, it would be thought that he would studiously avoid any reference to international affairs in addressing his own subjects. His words are a clear indication that the Allies have good ground for maintaining that Greece has still not fulfilled all the conditions enumerated in the Allied Notes. For this reason the blockade continues.

The suspicion that there was some connection between Greek recalcitrancy and the appearance of French and Italian troops in Thessaly and North Epirus has been confirmed by a French statement on the subject. According to this report General Sarraill announced when a French patrol was recently murdered by komitajis that he would deal drastically with any repetition of the outrage. The warning was disregarded, and fresh disturbances occurred. Accordingly a search was made in a convent suspected of harbouring komitajis, and a Greek officer and a Bulgarian priest were arrested. They were found guilty of having taken part in komitaji excesses, and were shot by order of the French military authorities. It may be difficult to bring home to the Greek authorities direct complicity in these outrages; but the participation of regular officers, whose absence from the army must be known to the Higher Command, proves that any form of activity directed against the Entente Powers is countenanced, if not encouraged. Little wonder, therefore, that the Allies cannot yet regard the situation in Greece as satisfactory.

The new kingdom of Hejaz is doing good work in acting as the medium of enlightenment to the Moslem world at large with regard to Turkey's overt repudiation of Islam. In the past, the Arab papers admit, the Arabs have shut their eyes to much that was taking place in Constantinople from the belief that their revelations would do harm to Islam; but now that events have gone so far, it is right that the Turks, or at least the Committee of Union and Progress, should be seen in their true colours. The predominance of the Committee, it is pointed out, involves grave perils to the Moslem religion, in view of their heterodoxy, their avowed contempt for the Prophet and the Sacred Law, and, by no means least of all, "the fact that they have brought German officers to Medina to work the destruction of the Prophet's line in the Holy Places themselves." From Medina itself comes a special appeal to the King of the Hejaz to save the tomb of the Prophet from imminent profanation and destruction at the hands of the Unionists and their German coadjutors. Two Germans, it is stated—the editor of the *Ottoman Lloyd* and the Constantinople correspondent of the *Berliner Tageblatt*—have already been introduced into the sacred precincts, "and from the known principles and practice of the Unionists the worst is to be apprehended." King Hussein must be looking eagerly northwards in the hope of seeing his hands strengthened by a British success in Syria which will cut the communications of the Turkish garrison in Medina.

Reports of German terrorism in Roumania cause no surprise to those who have followed the messages from that country that have been published by the German Press. When the advance had spent itself, correspondents were reduced to describing the country or reviving reminiscences of the successful invasion. Then, clearly in accordance with a *mot d'ordre*, the discovery was made that German and Austro-Hungarian subjects had been interned by the Roumanians and had been removed to Russia. Stories of the hardships that these people had to undergo were the subject matter of several messages, the brutality and callousness of Roumanian doctors being a favourite theme for the gentle German to wax eloquent over. Now comes the inevitable sequel. The acts attributed by the Germans to their enemies prove to be precisely those which they had resolved to perpetrate themselves. Old women, young married women, elderly magistrates, and doctors are being arrested and deported to Bulgaria and Turkey. Among the victims is the mother of M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister. The Allies are understood to be considering the question of reprisals in regard to Germany's outrages on sea and land. It may be possible to check the worst forms of devilry practised by the Germans, but we confess to some doubt on the subject. The only way to bring home to Germany and the world in general an adequate sense of the enormities of which the Germans have been guilty is to impose some signal penalty when terms of peace come to be dictated.

PROGRESS IN NORTHERN PERSIA

(By Mirza Firooz Khan.)

I.—THE TAURIS RAILWAY.

The Julfa-Tabriz motor road has now been turned into the Julfa-Tauris Railroad, which has been working since last May. At first only cattle cars and goods waggons were provided, seatless and unheated; and into these conveyances the soldiers and the natives—mostly Persians who had never before seen an "iron road"—would pack themselves like ants, each probably having 10 lbs. to 100 lbs. of baggage with him, and glad enough to get standing room. But great changes have been effected since May. There are now first, second, and third class carriages—brand new ones, too—for ordinary passengers; while the fourth class (and some third class) carriages are reserved for the use of troops. The carriages are similar to those in use on the Julfa-Tiflis line. All bear the inscription "Tauris Railway." One car is painted half green and half yellow, the green-painted half being first class and the yellow second class. It is marked "Tauris-Tiflis," and is used for through traffic, without transfer; while passengers in other carriages must change at Russian Julfa.

In spite of all these things, travelling still remains very slow. From Julfa to Tabriz is only six hours' ride, but it takes you twelve hours to do the journey. You start at eight o'clock in the morning from Russian Julfa, but you must wait in Persian Julfa until eleven; that is to say—since the journey from Russian Julfa to Persian Julfa takes fifteen minutes—for 2½ hours. Starting at eleven from Persian Julfa, you proceed to Marand, where you must wait for an hour and a-half, or two hours. Thence you go on to Sofian, famous as the place where the Russians defeated the Turks and Kurds on January 17, 1915 (O.S.), re-occupying Tabriz; and here you wait another three hours. These "waits" at Persian Julfa, at Marand and at Sofian are necessary, but they are altogether too long! The passengers to mount or dismount are so few at these small towns that one gets really tired of waiting and doing nothing but drinking tea. There are no newspapers or books at these stations.

One Persian fellow-passenger, tired of waiting, after he had tried to kill time by drinking tea and smoking the *Kelian* (water pipe), lost all his patience at last, and said to me:—"Well, Khan, I think this *Kondookhdor* is a fool!"

"How do you make that out?"

"Quite plain! Why should he keep his 'maschine' waiting at a small village like Sofian for three hours? I am killed by drinking tea and smoking *Kelians*. If it is necessary to wait that long, let him first take us to Tabriz, and then come back here again (Sofian to Tabriz is one hour's ride). By making several trips to and from Tabriz he will have more passengers and will make more money!"

There were in the same train also some Persian pilgrims returning from Meshed, who had with them some women. At a smaller station, where a wait of only five or six minutes was to be made, these *Mashadis* (this is a title which the pilgrim wears before his name all his life, unless he becomes a *Hajji*) jumped out of the carriage, took off their shoes and socks and, turning towards Mecca, began their "before-sunset" prayer. A minute or two before their prayers were finished the train moved. Then what a picking up of shoes and socks and running, bare-footed, after the moving train! It provided quite an excitement for the foreign and Russian passengers. Afterwards the pilgrims were complaining amongst themselves and criticising the poor *Kondookhdor* for having a "grudge" against them. Otherwise, "why should he wait three hours at Sofian (which is not prayer time) and not wait at least half-an-hour at Yam, or until we could finish our prayers?" They regretted that they did not travel on donkeys, when they could have got home in less than one-third the time taken by this "maschine."

Their final decision—after a heated but secret debating—was that they should "see"—collectively, of course—the *Kondookhdor* in some "palpable form" and persuade him not to keep them waiting too long.

The women, who were packed into a small, but separate *coupé*, never left their quarters during the twelve hours, and were continually smoking their travelling *Kelian*. Their guard, who was a Karadaghli Khan, was standing at the half-open door of the *coupé*, attending to the demands and wants of the *Khanums* and preventing anyone from entering their department. The fire for the *Kelian* of the ladies was prepared in a *tovlama*. This is a net-form cap of wire with a tail to it. It is filled with charcoal, and another piece of charcoal, half-burned with a match, is placed in the centre of the charcoal-filled *tovlama*. This is swung by the tail until all the charcoal turns into red fire, which is then placed on the tobacco in the *Kelian*. The porter-Khan in uniform was engaged in this fire-making operation when I happened to pass by their *coupé*. I frightened the Khan by cautioning him that he might set fire to the carriage, and that if one carriage burnt the others might do so too, the

passengers might burn, the baggages might burn, and so forth, and then they, being responsible for the starting of the fire, could not pay the damages by selling two or three of their villages! The fright proved effective, for he promised not to engage in a similar operation again until he reached home. "Not even if the *Khanums* die for want of a *Kelian*," he said seriously.

At 8.20 p.m. we arrive at the Tabriz station, which is at the southern end of the city. The line, on reaching the northern suburb of Tabriz, curves, like a five-days-old moon, by the western part of the city, by Karamelik and Shamakazan—both famous as being battle-grounds fought over by the forces of Shuja-ed-Dowleh and Sattar Khan during the fighting at Tabriz for *mashroota*—and stops at a point not far from the caravan road to the South. I am told that the idea of placing the station in the southern suburb of the city is that the railway authorities intend to extend the line southward to Maragha, Sujbulak, Sakkuz, etc., and eastwards to Teheran. Had the station been placed at the northern end of the city the train would have had to pass through the city, which would have been very inconvenient. The distance from the station to the Russian and British Consulates is about five miles, to the palace of the Crown Prince seven or eight miles, and to Shesh-Kilan (centre of city) ten miles.

(To be continued.)

SIR T. HOLDITCH ON BAGHDAD.

At a meeting of the Overseas Club on Friday week Sir Thomas Holdich gave an interesting account of Baghdad; though, he said, it was a good many years since he was there. He described it as a town of narrow streets and tortuous bazaars, the houses entirely closed; so that there was little to admire unless it might be the carved wooden lattice work which covered the windows. It was very much smaller than in the days when it was the centre of Moslem learning and trade. It was a city of gardens, as the name implied; but, though one saw the tops of the trees over the walls, he never got into the gardens unless he had the good fortune to be introduced to some member of the European community who had made his home there. In his own case, he was the guest of the British Resident. As to ancient monuments and similar objects of interest, if there were any such on the eastern bank of the river, where the larger and newer part of the town was situated, he did not know of their existence; but on the other side of the river there was the tomb of the favourite wife of Haroun-er-Raschid, and this every visitor was taken to see. The old palace of the Sultans had disappeared. The people of the town were hospitable and kindly; they were chiefly Arabs. The Turks, who also impressed him very favourably, were wholly occupied with administrative work, and were not more numerous than the Europeans in a large Indian city.

Baghdad was the depot for a strange trade, that of forwarding to Kerbellah the bodies of Shiahs who wished to be buried in the shadow of the mosque that covered the remains of the early Moslem martyrs, the two sons of Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet. Coming up the river to Baghdad one might find the deck of the steamer piled high with these corpses, and travelling across the desert to Kerbellah one passed caravans carrying nothing else. The amenities of this journey had not been improved for hundreds of years. The caravanserais was a huge collection of buildings erected around a courtyard, and easily capable of defence. It contained no supplies whatever, and, when the traveller had seen to his horse and his luggage, he found nowhere to rest except in the horse's manger. At Kerbellah one might witness once a year a strange religious ceremony, when the Shiahs marched in procession, wept and wailed, and cut each other with knives to commemorate the martyrdom of Hussein and his brother. Sir Thomas Holdich said he had made this pilgrimage to Kerbellah accompanied by his host.

Of recent events the lecturer said it was difficult to forecast the probable results. The capture of Kut by the Turks had been the means of finally deciding the Emperor of Abyssinia to adopt Islam; so it might be seen that the taking of Baghdad would profoundly affect the Oriental mind. As to the future, whether we remained or not, the Turk must not come back. The Arab of the Mesopotamian desert was an ignorant brigand, but the Arab nation had a great past and had taught us a great deal. It was possible that if they were once again placed in control they would rise to the situation.

In the course of a short discussion that followed, Sir Edwin Pears said that when in Turkey he had for six months had in hand the concession to construct a railway from Kerbellah to Baghdad. That concession had been brought to the City of London, where the "Corpse Railway," as it was nick-named, was regarded as the *crème de la crème* of the Baghdad concession. It was not merely that the actual carriage of the bodies was very profitable, but the trade gave splendid opportunities for smuggling.

Up to the end of last month 236 Roumanians of Transylvania, most of them men of education, had been executed by the Hungarians on the pretext of having lent assistance to the invading Roumanian armies. Approximately 1,100 Roumanians of Transylvania have been sentenced to terms of penal servitude varying from thirty years to three years, and the property of more than 600 has been confiscated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The lecture of Dr. E. W. G. Masterman to the Royal Geographical Society, to which you gave prominence in your last issue as a contribution to the question of the colonisation of Palestine, has attracted public attention elsewhere under the head of "Respect for Moslem Interests." In this aspect of the question the lecturer ignored, apparently, another and less pressing interest to which most thinking men are turning their minds in the present world crisis—the interest of the Jewish people in their old Fatherland. No one who has followed the remarkable development of Palestine and of Jewish national feeling in connection with it, under the impetus of the world-wide Zionist movement, during the last twenty years, will be inclined to set aside so lightly the claim of this dispersed people to have again a home of its own. Least of all will Englishmen, who have so much in common with "The People of the Book," and who have ever since Cromwell's time encouraged and stimulated every effort which has been made to bring about a Jewish Restoration, be disposed now to turn back from that common aspiration because of some new policy based on "Moslem Interests." That was not the view of such far-seeing statesmen as Beaconsfield or Salisbury or Chamberlain, and it would be strange indeed if it received any support now from any responsible exponents of British policy, directed as this is, more than ever before, to the vindication and establishment of the claims of the little nations.

The Moslem interest which Dr. Masterman mainly relies on is the religious one, and there is no one who will gainsay it; but it cannot override either the Jewish or the Christian interest, and it is, indeed, more recent than either.

The same answer applies to the Arab claim, whether on political or ethnographical grounds; and if one were inclined to forget for a moment the ancient glories of Judah and Israel there are the more recent ones of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, which for over two centuries renewed the prosperity of the land. In modern times what has been the Arab influence or activity in Palestine? Nothing, or worse than nothing; it has been displaced by the sloth or indifference of the Turk. Compare with that the pioneer work of the new Jewish settlers. Since Sir Moses Montefiore, aided by Cremieux, established the first agricultural school on the borders of Judea a generation ago, they have formed nigh on fifty colonies, spread through the length and breadth of the land; their population has increased to over one hundred thousand souls, they have developed the commerce of the country to ten times its former bulk, they have founded schools (both elementary and advanced) and technical institutes in every important district; they have revived the use of Hebrew as a national tongue and made it again a living language; and they have organised a local administration for self-government, including tribunals of justice, to which also the Arabs resort—and all this in spite of Turkish apathy and misgovernment.

This Jewish renaissance is only a faint specimen of what this long-enduring and much-tried people can do for its native land if only it is given the chance of full development under free institutions. That long-hoped-for chance presents itself now, providentially, under the prospect of a British Protectorate; and for those who, like Dr. Masterman, would set up "Moslem Prospects" as an alternative to the claims of the Jews, it may be sufficient to say that Lord Cromer, who knew both the Arabs and the Jews, lent the weight of his great authority to the Zionist scheme of a great Jewish re-settlement as the solution at once of the Jewish problem and the British, in which the security of Egypt, "the spinal cord of the Empire," is bound up.—Yours faithfully, HERBERT BENTWICH.

2, Garden Court, 26th March.

MARKO KRALJEVITCH AND THE BRITISH WOMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—When Miss M. E. Durham recommends cordially to the student the Serbian ballads, "for it is the Serbs as seen by themselves," why does she not agree that her lecture on those ballads concerned the Serbian soldier also? And if it was not her intention to evoke a comparison between the legendary Serbian heroes and their fellow-countrymen of to-day, why mention "the methods of warfare" in

1912-13, and introduce a whole passage about Veliki Vovoda Mirko of Montenegro, who has certainly no connection whatever with our discussion? My criticism referred only to the report of the lecture in THE NEAR EAST. But is Miss Durham quite sure that her lecture "concerned ballads entirely?"

While not doubting that Miss Durham's travels have extended over fourteen years, I still wonder if during all this time she has taken opportunity enough to understand the Serbian ballads and the Serbs themselves. If by chance she spent some of this time in the neighbourhood of Serbia, amongst Bulgarians or Albanians, the Serbian songs she discussed round the fire or recorded with a phonograph would hardly suffice to give her the right opinion of the Serbian legendary heroes and of the Serbian soldier of to-day. The passages of the two poems she quotes to prove Marko Kraljevitch "bloodthirsty" are certainly misleading, and when she cites them from thousands of beautiful poems on Kraljevitch Marko, we cannot help thinking that it is done on purpose. All German writers, for instance, either with no time or disposition to go into the matter thoroughly, find Marko strange and cruel, and quote the same two or three poems. Both Miss Durham and the Germans are wrong, and the way they speak about the Serbian national songs, especially those on Kraljevitch Marko—which are in truth a whole world of traits and character, just like the Iliad and Shakespeare—proves at least their incapacity to grasp the spirit of those songs and of the Serbs themselves.

Miss Durham's description of the Serbian national hero and the Serbian national character is just as wrong as her statement about the "cruelty." No, Miss Durham; there are not two kinds of cruelty—one in Western opinion and one in Balkan opinion. You wished to say, perhaps, that there is more cruelty in the Balkans than in the West. But I am certainly not less "bloodthirsty" than yourself, and the recent wars will certainly not leave the Serbs with a reputation for cruelty.

To-day, after all that has happened, and is happening, can you call a nation "bloodthirsty" and cruel when she has given all she had—the lives of her sons and their goods and their families—for an ideal like that in the legends? Is there anything else in the world you can ask the Serbs to do in order to disprove the travesty of the Serbian character circulated by the Austro-Hungaro-Germans for the use of Western Europe? Who can continue to denounce as cruel and criminal the people who have behaved so bravely beyond praise, and suffered so cruelly beyond imagination?

It is also not very wise to do so in Great Britain to-day. When I mentioned the six hundred and more British women who worked among the Serbian soldiers during this war, I knew exactly why I did so. They had no need to speak the language—though a good many of them acquired a fair knowledge of Serbian too—to observe if the Serbian soldier was "bloodthirsty." During long weeks and months they lived and worked together; they saw how the Serbian soldier behaved towards women, and how he treated the Austrian prisoners; and, after all, nearly everyone of them is anxious to go back and continue to help the Serbs. This fact, surprising as it is, will clear away the last "foreign prejudices" about the Serbs in this country, and we have already had the true satisfaction of hearing the British friends who were present at Miss Durham's lecture more indignant about the misleading information than we were ourselves. They will take up the cause of Kraljevitch Marko.

But, as recompense to Miss Durham, I shall confess that it was not at all "amusing" for a Serb to pass criticism on the report in THE NEAR EAST. I felt rather sad at seeing how the typical representative and favourite of the Serbian people was mis-presented in the form of a grotesque savage to the British public by an English woman in the capital of Great Britain at the very moment when the residue of the splendid Serbian army, assisted by her fellow-countrywomen and the British soldiers, was arriving in front of the birthplace of Kraljevitch Marko in their reconquest of Serbian Macedonia.—I am, etc.,

M. CURCIN.

London, March 27.

WITCHCRAFT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to a paragraph in a recent issue, over the signature of "Corsair," I am of the opinion that there is more in witchcraft than the writer thereof thinks. If he would read that remarkable book, "Life Understood" (F. L. Rawson, M.I.E.E., A.M.I.C.E.), he would see that Paracelsus pointed out ages ago that the object of piercing an image with pins and nails had nothing to do with spells but was merely to enable the witches to concentrate their thought upon the part of the victim that they wanted to harm.

Mr. Rawson gives the scientific reason for this, and also shows the method of protection through prayer. He points out that the miracles of Jesus were not supernatural, but

Divinely natural, the results of scientific right thinking, and that anyone can perform a miracle if they think rightly and lead a good enough life—that is, an unselfish life. It certainly is wonderful the difference this book has made in the lives of people who do their best to follow its teachings and to think rightly.

As doubtless you know, modern psychology now teaches that every thought a man thinks has an effect: if you think good you get good, and if you think evil you get evil. Of course, as Mr. Rawson points out, you must not think so-called good, and think that you are well if you are ill, but you must think of the highest good of which you are capable—namely, of God and heaven.—Yours faithfully,

“VERITAS.”

March 26, 1917.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Officers from Mesopotamia and Aden. March 21.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether officers both of the British and Indian Armies serving under the Indian Government proceeding from India, Mesopotamia, or Aden on duty or leave, sick or otherwise, to England, or *vice versa*, are generally granted long-sea passages, and hence have to proceed at their own expense across the Continent, while, on the other hand, officers serving under the War Office, proceeding from Salonika or Egypt to England, or *vice versa*, on duty or leave, are given free passage across the Continent, thus causing differentiation of treatment and unnecessary expense to those serving under the Indian Government; and whether arrangements can be made to put both services on the same footing?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Under recent arrangements officers of the British Indian Army proceeding from India, Mesopotamia, or Aden on duty or on leave, and granted free passage *via* the Mediterranean, travel at the public expense through France on the same terms as officers from Salonika or Egypt.

Prisoners of War.

March 26.

Mr. HOPE informed Commander Wedgwood that there were throughout the Empire 55,397 German, 16 Austrian, 763 Bulgarian, and 15,512 Turkish combatant prisoners of war. The total number of British combatant prisoners in German hands was about 32,500. He had no doubt that all these figures were under the mark now.

Prisoners in Turkish Hands.

Replying to Lord H. Bentinck, Mr. HOPE added:—I am informed that there are at present in the hands of the Turks 8,762 British and native prisoners of war, of whom 541 are officers. In addition to these, there are one officer and 5,079 rank and file still untraced. A proposal is at present before the Cabinet for the exchange of 600 British and native prisoners of war in the hands of the Turks as a preliminary to a wider exchange subsequently.

The following table, presented by Mr. Hope, gives the number of prisoners in the hands of Turkey and Bulgaria:—

TURKEY.		Officers.	Other Ranks.
(a) Dardanelles.*			
British	32		345
Australian	9		80
New Zealand	—		21
Indian Natives	—		4
Total	41		450
(b) Mesopotamia*†			
British	267		981
Australian	2		2
Indian Natives	201		6,482‡
Total	470		7,465
(c) Egypt.			
British	29		257
Australian	—		18
New Zealand	1		9
Indian Natives	—		7
Total	30		291
(d) Aden.			
British	—		1
Indian Natives	—		14
Total	—		15
BULGARIA.*			
British	19		495

* Including Royal Navy.
† In addition there are 1 Officer and 1,145 other ranks still untraced.
‡ In addition there are 1,934 other ranks still untraced.

Parcels for Prisoners.

March 27.

Mr. PERO asked the Foreign Secretary whether parcels for prisoners of war in Turkey were now stopped; if so, whether he could state the reason or reasons for this; whether the interned crews of the merchant ships Assiout and City of Khios were included; and whether he was taking any steps in the matter.

Mr. HOPE: Notice has been received through the Swiss Post Office that the transmission through Austria-Hungary of parcels for prisoners in Turkey has been stopped until further notice. His Majesty's Government are not aware of the reasons for this step, which affects the prisoners mentioned in the question as well as others. They have requested the United States Ambassador at Vienna to enter a strong protest against it.

The Blockade of Greece.

Lord R. CECIL (Minister of Blockade) informed Mr. J. King that reports were received during the month of January that two deaths had taken place in Greece owing to food shortage, but there was no official confirmation. Steps had been taken to introduce, under strict supervision, a limited quantity of food-stuffs into Greece, but the blockade would not be raised until the demands of the Allies formulated in December and January last had been complied with.

Mr. KING asked whether it could be understood that all danger of starvation to the lower classes in Greece was eliminated.

Lord R. CECIL: I do not know that my hon. friend can draw any conclusions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. SEELY: Have the Allies taken care to see that the food in Greece is fairly divided between the Court party and the poor?

No answer was returned.

Operations in the East.

March 28.

Mr. BONAR LAW, answering Major Newman, said there was nothing to add to the official communiqués which had been issued relative to the operations in Mesopotamia and Macedonia. Whenever any news arrived which ought to be published it would be communicated at once to the House.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

A list of British prisoners of war in Asia Minor, dated Constantinople, March 5, has been received by the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. The list deals with camps in the Amanus, and mentions five camps—Entille, Airan, Jabachi, Bagtche, and Shekerdéré. Most of the persons named in the list have been moved from one camp to another, and ninety-three men have been brought to Constantinople. Deaths continue to be numerous; twenty-three are notified among the British and forty among the Indian prisoners.

SALONIKA—AN UNFAVOURABLE VIEW.

Canon E. Sidney Savage, Rector of Hexham Abbey, addressed a meeting of the Y.M.C.A. at Tottenham Court Road last Monday, his subject being “On the Valley of the Varda and Nile Desert.” The Rt. Hon. J. H. Whitley, Esq., M.P., Deputy-Speaker of the House of Commons, presided, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein was on the platform. The lecture dealt with the work now being done by the Y.M.C.A. on behalf of our soldiers and sailors. Of Salonika Canon Savage said that it had been well described as a den of filth and iniquity. The Macedonian mud was of the kind used in prehistoric times for bird lime with which to catch pterodactyls. He had been in a great many places in the East, but had never seen or heard of—or met anybody else who had seen or heard of—such a cess-pool. There were places in the East where the hot sun dried up the soil and acted as a deodoriser, but in Salonika, under the sun's rays, the poison oozed up out of the dank, foul soil. That part of the Varda Valley was a very malarial spot, and it was a very bad kind of malaria. Of the inhabitants, he said that they were chiefly Greeks or Spanish Jews. If you shook hands with one of the Greeks you not merely had to count your rings afterwards to make sure they were all there, you had to count your very fingers. Yet Salonika had a certain fascination; Olympus was so grand, and the wonderful bay was so beautiful—if you held your nose very tightly.

A Russian official report states that detachments of seaplanes made a raid on Terkos, 27 miles north-west of Constantinople, and dropped 50 bombs on the aqueduct which supplies Constantinople with water. The same day another detachment of seaplanes made a raid on Tultcha [on the Danube] and dropped bombs there.

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS.

KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,

LOWGATE,

HULL.

IMPORTERS of EASTERN and

MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCE.

SPECIALITIES: All Kinds of TANNING

MATERIALS & FEEDING STUFFS.

Make Offers and send Samples.

EXPORTERS of U.K. MERCHANDISE.

CABLEGRAMS: KUYPERS, HULL.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The report that officers and men of the Turkish Navy are to be trained (by Germans, of course) for service in submarines is distinctly interesting. For one thing, it goes some way to prove—though by itself it certainly does not prove—that the sinking of the Russian hospital ship "Portugal," in the Black Sea, was the work of Germans or Austrians, for if the Turks had really capable submarine officers, they would surely have employed them long ago in training others. But what interests me chiefly is the question: "Will the Turk ever overcome his aversion to machinery sufficiently to make a good submarine officer or sailor?" It may be done; but I much doubt it. The Turk makes a good soldier, and—given the proper officers—a tolerable sailor. But he never yet has made a good engineer; and it is my belief that he never will. The Arab, on the other hand, with his adaptability, his love of novelty, his powers of endurance, and other qualities too numerous to mention, will probably some day make quite a good submarine hand.

The mentality of the Hun baffles me entirely. Again and again, I have found myself hopelessly at fault when trying to follow up his train of thought or to trace his line of argument, especially in regard to what one must call "the minor incidents of the war"—even though they may bulk painfully large to some who take part in them. All that seems reasonably certain to me as yet is (1) that the German, especially the German of the officer caste, is wallowing in filth; (2) that he finds the process quite pleasant and suited to his nature; and (3) that he is determined to let all the world know about it. How otherwise can we account for the fact (reported in *The Times* of the 22nd inst. by a special correspondent, and vouched for by a distinguished French officer) that "German officers sitting at dinner" have not only been "waited upon at table by naked women," but have also been photographed while thus degrading themselves? As some of these photographs have been taken on German prisoners, it is to be hoped that the Allied delegates at the Peace Conference will be provided with copies. They should prove useful if any Teuton or pro-German dared to talk of German humanity or German *Kultur*.

The article on "The Gift of Tongues" in *THE NEAR EAST* of March 16 brought out rather well the difference between the classical and the colloquial Arabic. My acquaintance with the former was always a negligible quantity, I am afraid; and, just as the writer of the article appears to have done, I once or twice found myself hopelessly at sea in the society of educated Arabs. Yet I found little difficulty in mastering the dialects of the different regions I visited, for the vocabulary of the average Arab is very limited, and he is not over nice in his grammar. As to the vulgar Arabic being much more serviceable for workaday use than the classical there can be no question, and it seems to me that anyone who contemplates travelling through, or taking up residence in, any of the Arabic-speaking countries would be well advised to devote some of his energy to the study of the particular dialect of the region he purposes going to. Nevertheless, if I had time and opportunity now I would take up the study of classical Arabic, with a view to reading the Arab geographers and historians, and, if possible, of translating some of them.

That is a work which has in the past been left too much to other nations; and in view of the great developments that are taking place at present it behoves us to effect a change as soon as possible, if we intend to make the most of our position in the Near and Middle East after the war. I wonder whether it will be possible for the School of Oriental Studies, or any other institution, to do something in this matter in the near future? We have several good Arabic and Persian scholars who could render some of the Eastern masters' work accessible to us—if only they are encouraged. But in the past they never have been encouraged. Yet Le Strange's work shows the potential value of study and research of the kind I should like to see fostered. Burton, Payne, Palmer, and the others have had no successors for some time.

Save to the student pure and simple, classical Arabic is, I fear, almost useless. It is to a certain extent the story of ancient Greek and modern Greek over again; only, I fancy, the difference between the classical Arabic and the colloquial is far greater than that between the Greek of Cicero and the Greek of, let us say, M. Gounaris. No doubt you have heard the story of Mr. Gladstone's great oratorical

effort in Athens and its reception by the modern Greeks? The G.O.M. had long cherished an ambition to indulge in a Greek oration before a Greek audience; and during his visit to the Greek capital he seized what he regarded as a suitable opportunity, and delivered an impassioned and fervid address. The following day the leading Greek paper referred to the incident, and remarked: "We are unable to reproduce our distinguished visitor's speech, as we are, unfortunately, not acquainted with the English language."

One of our soldiers serving in the front line trenches was having a rather bad time of it with a particularly active and aggressive "insect pest," which was pasturing on his shoulder, or thereabouts. At last, unable to put up with it any longer, the irritated Tommy performed a weird kind of contortionist trick, stooping down and wrapping his left arm over his right shoulder; and—oh joy!—secured his tormentor. But at the same instant a fragment of shell whistled through the air a couple of inches above his head. If he had not been giving that contortionist performance, he would have been killed; and he recognised the fact at once. Gravely he held his prize 'twixt thumb and finger, and addressed it thus: "Well, you saved my life, you little ——. There, go back where you were!" And the captive was restored to its browsing ground.

CORSAIR.

MOSCOW'S GREETING TO SERBIA.

The Serbian Press Bureau has issued the following statement:—"M. Tebelnokoff, Mayor of Moscow, has sent the following telegram to the Serbian Minister in Petrograd:—

"The new Municipal Council of Moscow at its first full meeting after the advent of the new régime has instructed me to ask you kindly to transmit to the Serbian people and to the glorious Serbian army the very cordial greetings of the town of Moscow and the expression of its firm faith that Free Russia, together with her noble Allies, will obtain final victory over the common enemy."

"In reply to this telegram, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, sent the following despatch through the Serbian Minister in Petrograd:—

"We were deeply touched by the cordial greetings of the town of Moscow, and have transmitted through the Press these greetings from the open heart and pure soul of all the Russian people under the new régime to the Serbian people and the glorious Serbian army. Their affectionate and fraternal words soothe the pains of the bruised heart of Serbia and act as a soft balm to the wounds contracted on the battlefields in defence of liberty and national honour. These words again affirm our deep faith in the inseparability of the destinies of the Serbian people and of the great and glorious Russian nation. They will resound for ever in the heart of the Serbian people, which has suffered every agony, faithful to its Slav blood and its honour. We are convinced that free and democratic Russia will not forget democratic Serbia, which has waged so many long and sanguinary battles in order to assure to the Serbian people democratic institutions, and so that Serbia should be freed from the secret and invisible influences of Austria-Hungary, and, thus liberated, be capable of a national policy having for its object the liberation of the entire Serbian people who are now slaves under the yoke of the foreign oppressor. Without complete victory over German militarism the Slav liberties of person and citizenship are not assured and the true independence of the Slav nations is not completed. We are firmly convinced that a democratic Russia will astound the world by her patriotism and unity, and that Free Russia will kindle a sacred fire in the hearts of all Russians to rescue and liberate Slavism and humanity in the same manner as formerly she lit the flame in her city to liberate Russia. We, moreover, believe that free and democratic Russia will again startle the world by her power, glory, and humane Slav civilization, and that she will contribute, together with her noble Allies, towards the final defeat of the civilized barbarity of Germany, which is without precedent in history, in order that the whole world may be guaranteed free development and a lasting peace."—Reuter.

TROUBLES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

A special telegram from Geneva to the *Petit Parisien* says that it is learned from an authoritative source that grave troubles have occurred at Constantinople, and that this is the reason for Enver Pasha's visit to the German headquarters on the Eastern front. His object is to ask for Turkish troops to be sent back for the defence of their own country.

The Bulgars, however, have refused to allow their front to be thinned, and have even declared that they would oppose by force the departure of Ottoman troops.

The *Times*' correspondent in Athens reports that information has reached there that the mass levy ordered by the Turkish Government has proved very unpopular among the people, and that up to the 22nd inst. the Government had not ventured to enforce it fully.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE FLAMING SWORD IN SERBIA."

This very striking title well describes a narrative which is a vivid description of the miseries of war, especially among non-combatants. It is a "demonstration of the capacity of woman to take a useful share in national defence"—one of many hundreds at this time. It is written in the first person, as is inevitable in a narrative so purely personal and so full of personal reflections and ideas. The author, after previous experience of war hospital administration in Bulgaria (1912-13), and in Belgium and France during the present war, undertook, in the spring of 1915, the organisation and direction of No. 3 Unit under the Serbian Relief Fund. This developed into the "Stobart Hospital" at Kragujevatz, the military headquarters of the Serbian Army, and its offshoot, with which the narrative is largely concerned, "The First Serbian-English Field Hospital," commanded by "Madame Stobart."

The book is divided into four parts. Part I. narrates the steps leading to the establishment of the splendid tent hospital in Serbia. It was thought wise, on account of the recent terrible epidemic of typhus, that patients, staff, officers, etc., should be all under canvas. Unfortunately, typhoid invaded the camp, and, as will be remembered by many, Mrs. Dearmer, who had volunteered to work in the unit as an orderly—she had care of all the linen—died of this disease. Part II. describes the development of the work in Kragujevatz and the establishment of half a dozen branch establishments at distances of from 16 to 50 miles around, all in the Schumandia district. A magnificent work seems to have been done, especially among the civilian population. It is sad indeed that the conduct of the Germans should have destroyed such efforts as this, that of Lady Paget at Skoplje and others. One gathers that, had it been left to the more really civilised Bulgarians, these philanthropic agencies would be benefiting the Serbians and Bulgarians even now. Before the unexpected outbreak of savage ferocity exhibited by the Central Powers in this war, it might have been supposed that such noble efforts as these hospitals, almost entirely run by women, might have been allowed to continue to mitigate the horrors of war on both sides. We can only suppose that Germany wished to have no Western European witnesses of her barbarity. Part III., which is certainly the most dramatic, is a vivid diary of the three months of the great Serbian retreat. The author had been invited, after six months' work at Kragujevatz, to take entire charge of a Serbian-English Field Hospital—"the first time in history that such an appointment has been offered to a woman," as the Serbian Colonel remarked in making the request. It was an invitation which she felt it impossible to resist; and how well she played her part and brought her staff safely to Scutari is here told in chapters of deep interest.

It is the tragedy of a nation, borne, however, with a heroism unmatched. Again and again the book bears witness to this spirit. When, at the end of the long trek, the author was invited to join a hundred Serbian officers at dinner, she says:—"I shall never forget my feelings. . . . Of their bravery in the field I and all the world had known, but here, now, was more difficult bravery. The hearts of these Serbian officers were brimful of the knowledge that everything which they prized on earth was lost. Their wives and children were in enemies' hands; their homes were desolate; strangers devoured their land; yet if you had sat and thought for a year of the demeanour which should be shown under the circumstances by officers of a defeated army, met together in exile, at the end of three months' retreat, no finer ideal of quiet dignity and courage could have been conceived." It is the same of the Serbian soldier, of whom she says:—"I never heard or saw a soldier say or do anything that could have given offence to the most fastidious girl." Her verdict agrees with that of Lady Paget in the report of her work:—"My admiration and respect for the Serbian soldier are boundless. He never accepts defeat; he never complains; he is patient beyond belief, and as a fighter few can compare with him."

The fact is that till this war we English have never known or cared about the Serbians. "England was still in the habit of judging them by the unfortunate act which had first brought their nation to the knowledge of the British public."

* "The Flaming Sword in Serbia." By Mrs. St. Clare Stobart. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.)

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Basil Williams offers a word of apology for including in his series of "Makers of the Nineteenth Century" the forthcoming memoir of "Abdul Hamid," Sir Edwin Pears's volume stripping the late Sultan of even the little credit he had from those who judged him as, at any rate, an astute and able ruler. Abdul Hamid's title to fame, and to a place in Mr. Basil Williams's series, is "that he was the maker of ruin for his country and the man to whose action and example Europe may be able to trace back her redemption from a cruel and oppressive burden."

Messrs. Sotheman's Catalogue (No. 58) of Autograph Letters contains several items of strong interest to students of the Near East and its history. Thus in the letter of Lord Palmerston's regarding the possibility of Persia taking Herat, we find him writing:—"We ought to instruct Colonel Sheil to do his utmost to dissuade the Shah from attacking Herat; and he might if necessary say something about the Island of Harrack. The Shah would by no means like our occupying it."

Another letter from the same writer refers to trouble in Greece, and though written on May 20, 1847, might almost have been penned yesterday as far as concerns the first sentences quoted. It says:—" . . . The plain and straightforward way of settling all these affairs (of Greece) would be to send our Naval Commander to make the demands and require a categorical answer in a stated number of hours, and if the answer was not affirmative to begin reprisals . . . You say that one of these despatches contains language irritating to Canitz . . . I agree with you that as a general principle the personal conduct of Sovereigns ought not to be subjects of Diplomatic discussion."

Included in Mr. Melrose's announcements for the spring is "Early English Adventures in the East," by Arnold Wright. Mr. Melrose also has in preparation "With the British Army in Macedonia," by Harold Lake, of the Middlesex Regiment.

Mr. Heinemann will shortly publish a popular account of the Navy's share in the struggle, by G. MacNeile Dixon, entitled "The British Navy at War."

"The Ethics of Euripides," by Dr. Rhys Carpenter, has just been issued by Mr. Milford. The author's chief object in this work is to bring the ethical teaching of Euripides into relation with that of the "Ethics" of Aristotle, and to suggest that the latter is largely a representation in prose of what the Attic tragedians inculcated.

Messrs. John Long have in preparation a volume of "Rumanian Songs and Ballads," by R. Stewart Patterson, formerly of the British Legation in that country.

The new part (No. 136) of *The Times History of the War* deals with the early stages of the Roumanian campaign in 1916 and the beginning of the Bulgar-German attack on the Dobruja. Three maps are included in the part.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galiegani, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepherd's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nassim and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calabotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vassilades.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style.)	Julian (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. March. 30 31	1917. March. 17 18	Friday	1335. Jumada II.	5677. Nisan.
		Saturday	6	7
April. 1	19	Sunday	8	9
2	20	Monday	9	10
3	21	Tuesday	10	11
4	22	Wednesday	11	12
5	23	Thursday	12	13

To-morrow is the birthday of Prince Henry, third son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1900.

A telegram from Athens, received in Paris, states that the French, British, and Russian Ministers, who since January 12 have been on board warships moored off the Piræus, returned to the Legations on Saturday.

M. Diomedes, who had been visiting London on a special mission on behalf of M. Venizelos, left for Paris last week.

Colonel Rudeano, the chief of the Roumanian Military Mission in Paris, accompanied by Captain Prince Callimacki, his secretary, arrived in London from France some days ago.

Reuter's Delhi correspondent reports that messages of rejoicing at the capture of Baghdad continue to reach the Viceroy. Congratulations from the Sultan of Muskat and the Abdali Sultan are among others from the Persian Gulf.

On Monday evening, at the Tottenham Court Road Y.M.C.A., Canon E. S. Savage, rector of Hexham Abbey, who has been in charge of the Y.M.C.A. work at Salonika, lectured on his experiences. Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein was present, and Mr. J. H. Whitley, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, presided.

Sir Arthur Lawley, British Red Cross Commissioner in Mesopotamia, has established a Red Cross dépôt in Baghdad. A number of Red Cross motor-ambulance launches are at Baghdad and are doing excellent work.

Mr. Churchill again gave evidence before the Dardanelles Commission on Wednesday.

Brevet-Colonel O. G. Gunning, C.M.G., Indian Infantry, who has been gazetted brigade commander, with the rank of temporary brigadier-general, saw service with the Dongola Expedition, 1896, for which he was awarded the medal and the Egyptian Medal.

After a course of training at one of the cadet camps, Mr. Bernard Silley has successfully passed the exams and obtained a commission, and will be leaving very shortly for service abroad. On his arrival in England from Constantinople in November, 1914, Mr. Silley was engaged at Woolwich Arsenal, doing service at the same time as a special constable. He joined the Army in October, 1915, as a private, being subsequently promoted lance-corporal, corporal, and machine gun instructor. Second-Lieut. Bernard Silley is the only son of Mr. Walter E. Silley, manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank of Limassol, Cyprus.

We regret to learn that Corporal John Hunter, who had been wounded twice on the Western front, has since been wounded a third time, and is in hospital at Stokesley, Yorkshire, where his right leg has been amputated. Corporal Hunter is the nephew of Mr. Arthur Hunter, a well-known merchant in Constantinople, and grandson to the late John Hunter, for many years in H.M.'s Consular Service.

In a message from Salonika Mr. G. Ward Price sends particulars of a notable exploit on the Doiran front, where three German aeroplanes were brought down in two days by Captain Murlis Green, R.F.C., who had already accounted for four enemy machines single-handed, and another one in which he shared the honours with a brother airman. On March 18 Captain Green flew into the midst of a squadron of six bombing aeroplanes and brought two of them down. One fell between the lines and the other in flames behind the enemy's trenches. On the following day he engaged an Albatross, with the result that it dived out of control, and its pilot was seen to fall from it. For these and many other duties effectively accomplished in the air Captain Green has received the D.S.O. and the Serbian Order of the White Eagle, which is given only for military deeds of exceptional brilliance. These are in addition to the French War Cross and to the Military Cross with a bar which he already held.

A memorial service to Mrs. Harley (who was killed at Monastir on March 7), sister of Field-Marshal Viscount French, was held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Wednesday. Canon Carnegie officiated, and the service, arranged by the Serbian Legation, representing the Serbian Red Cross Society, in co-operation with the London units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, consisted of the Requiem (Terchaninov), sung without accompaniment, Prayers, the Lesson, the Magnificat with antiphon (Pavlov), and the Commendatory "Rest Eternal" (Palestrina). Father Nicolai Velimirovic, of St. Saviour's College, Belgrade, delivered an address, and the hymn "Through the night of doubt and sorrow" was followed by the National Anthem. Among relatives of Mrs. Harley present were:—Captain Julian Harley (son), Mrs. Gavin Jones (sister), Colonel and Mrs. Middleton (niece), General Leslie Jones (nephew) and Mrs. Jones, Major Archie Jones (nephew) and Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Despard (sister), Viscountess French (sister-in-law), the Hon. Essex French (niece), Captain the Hon. H. French (nephew) and Mrs. French, Major the Hon. G. French (nephew) and Mrs. French, Colonel and Mrs. Watt (niece), Mrs. Harley, and Mr. Mortimer Harley (brother-in-law).

Viscount French was unable to be present owing to his official duties. Others attending the service included:—Vicomte de La Panouse, French Military Attaché, M. Zarini (representing the Russian Chargé d'Affaires), Major Count Edward Greppi (Italian Military Attaché), M. Albert Maerterlinck (Italian Embassy), the Serbian Minister, representatives of the Belgian, Rumanian, Netherlands, Danish, Swiss, and Greek Legations; Miss Palliser (chairman), Viscountess Cowdray, Mrs. Kinnell, from the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals; Lady Salvesen, Mrs. Laurie (from the Headquarters Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals), Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. (president), Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, Mrs. Oliver Strachey (from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies), Lady Frances Balfour, Countess Brassey, Miss Philippa Strachey (from the London Society), and Miss May Whitty, Miss Fellowes-Robinson (from the British Women's Hospital), Lady Grogan, Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Mr. Glynn Williams (vice-chairman), Dr. and Mrs. Seton Watson (of the Serbian Relief Fund), Mr. R. F. Syngé (Foreign Office), the Hon. Arthur Stanley (chairman, British Red Cross Society), Viscountess Panouse (French Red Cross Society), Mrs. J. Boyd Carpenter (representing the Countess of Selborne), Bishop Burns (representing the Bishop of London), Lady Perley, Sir J. McCall (Agent-General for Tasmania), representatives of the High Commissioners of the Dominions and Agents-General, Colonel Hodgetts (Canadian Red Cross Society), Mr. Charles W. Lloyd (Royal Colonial Institute), Mr. Frank Hastings, and Mr. G. Sawyer (British Red Cross Society), Mrs. J. L. Stocks, Mr. Philip Coxall, and Mr. R. Barsdorf (War Refugees Committee). Several Serbian officers and their wives and a number of refugee Serbian boys from schools in London were present.

A memorial service for Mrs. Harley was also held on Wednesday at the Parish Church, Con Dover. Mrs. Harley's old home in Shropshire, where her husband, Colonel Harley, C.B., is buried. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Harley and Captain and Mrs. Thynne Hereford.

Speaking recently at a meeting held in Westminster, in connection with National Service, Sir George Reid, M.P., told an amusing story of Lord Kitchener. "I told Lord Kitchener," he said, "that I must do my bit for the Empire. I said, 'I am not much of a walker, and if I get on a horse I never know when I am coming off. I only went out shooting twice in Australia. The first time I nearly destroyed myself by forgetting the angle which I had developed, and the second time I irretrievably damaged the hat of my best friend; but can't you make an armoured fort of me and send me to the front?' Lord Kitchener looked down at me and said: 'My dear fellow, I don't think we can do that, but I think there is something you can do. We could make a base of you.' (Laughter.) I didn't know whether to think that was a pleasantry or a gross insult, but it shows Lord Kitchener was not destitute of humour when he had a proper subject for it."

Miss Mary Ann Rice, of Clevedon, Somerset, who died on January 17, left £150 to the society known as the "Friends of Armenia."

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee, 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1., has presented to the Serbian Relief Fund the sum of £500, for the exclusive purpose of providing food for sick and wounded Serbian prisoners of war in Germany.

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

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment as a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George of Commander William Fortescue Sells, R.N., in recognition of his services during the war as Naval Attaché to his Majesty's Legation at Athens.

A *Morning Post* telegram from Rome states that, as M. Metaxas is remaining in Egypt, M. Simopoulos, Councillor at the Greek Legation in Rome since 1914, has been appointed Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London. M. Simopoulos, whose uncle was a well-known Greek politician and for a time Minister of Finance, has held diplomatic posts at Paris, Constantinople, and Sofia, and some years ago paid a long visit to England and Ireland. His secretary, M. Doulides, has already left Italy for London.

According to *Al-Ahram* (Cairo), it is reported from an authentic source that Sir Paul Harvey, former Financial Adviser in Egypt, will return to the service of the Egyptian Government to occupy a high post.

The promotion of Second-Lieutenant C. A. M. van Millingen, the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor van Millingen, to lieutenant (November 17, 1916) has been gazetted.

Mr. Douglas J. Binns, of Constantinople, who has been working in the Contraband Department of the Foreign Office, has received a temporary appointment as Assistant Commercial Attaché at H.M. Legation at Copenhagen. Mr. and Mrs. Binns have already reached Denmark.

OBITUARY.**A CROAT PATRIOT.**

The Serbian Press Bureau has issued the following statement:—"Dr. Nile Startchevitch, the Croat politician whose death was announced at Zagreb, in Croatia, was elected a Member of the Austrian Lower House at a time when a split had occurred in the Croat parties of the Right. The group of which he was the leader desired no longer to confine itself to the narrow and Chauvinistic views of the exclusive Croat party, but, on the contrary, began, first through its newspaper *Hrvatska Sloboda*, and afterwards through the newspaper *Croat*, to advocate an agreement with the Serbs; and later they openly fostered the idea of the union of the nation with three names—the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—this union to be brought about by the constitution of an autonomous State within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, having equal rights with the two other parts of the Dual Monarchy. The war has demonstrated in a peremptory manner that this was a Utopia, the realisation of which would have completed the enslavement of our nation of three names to the Germanic race and to German aims. Dr. Startchevitch thoroughly realised this, and this party would now have urged union with the people beyond the frontiers of the Danubian Monarchy if only circumstances had permitted it. During the war the party of Dr. Startchevitch did not compromise itself by any anti-national statement, and paid a heavy penalty because of its liberal action. Many of its prominent members have disappeared and are languishing in Austrian prisons."

Mr. Joseph Henry Trewby, late Chancellor of the Ottoman Embassy in London, has died suddenly at his residence at Clapham Park, in his eighty-first year. Mr. Trewby, who had been a member of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin and deputy-chairman of the railway, was a Knight of the Brazilian Order of the Rose.

The death has occurred in a nursing home of Mrs. Eldridge, widow of Mr. E. J. Eldridge, late of the British Consulate, Smyrna.

Major-General William Hanbury Hawley, a Crimean veteran, who was colonel of the Prince of Wales's Own West Yorkshire Regiment from 1904 till 1914, died at Shiplake-on-Thames last week, in the eighty-eighth year of his age. He obtained an ensign's commission in the 14th Regiment, with which regiment he served for thirty-one years. He took part in the Crimean campaign as a captain, and was engaged at the siege of Sebastopol till the fall of the fortress, taking part in the assault on the Redan, and receiving for his services the medal with clasp and the Turkish Medal.

Herr H. von Miquel, who was German Minister at Cairo at the outbreak of war, has died in Berlin after a long illness.

Second-Lieutenant W. Howard Mason, Royal Engineers, who was killed in action on an Eastern front on March 9, was thirty-two years of age and the eighth son of the late G. Calver and Mrs. Mason, of Broadwater, Ipswich. He was educated at Ipswich School and at the Mining School, Camborne, and after qualifying as a mining engineer was some years in Egypt, India, South Africa, and Mauritius. At the outbreak of war he came home and joined the Inns of Court O.T.C., out of which he obtained his commission in the R.E. in June, 1915. On December 9, 1912, he married Gladys, fourth daughter of the late Captain W. Teague, of Trevenson, Carn Brea, Cornwall, who, with a son, survives him.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

MACLAREN.—On March 21, at Cairo, the wife of Roderick Gair MacLaren, Camel Transport Corps, of Zagazig, Egypt, of a daughter.

NAPIER.—On March 28, at Bickley, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel G. F. Napier, Military Attaché, Teheran, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

ELDRIDGE.—On March 24, in a nursing home, Elfrida Eldridge, of Berkhamsted, widow of E. J. Eldridge, of the British Consulate, Smyrna.

TREWBY.—On the 26th inst., suddenly, at his residence, Langford Lodge, Clapham Park, Joseph Henry Trewby, Knight Brazilian Order of the Rose, late Chancellor, Ottoman Embassy, London, and Deputy Chairman, Ottoman Railway, in his eighty-first year. No flowers by special request.

WHERE TO STAY.**Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.****SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.**

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,

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

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.

Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.
FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

FOR SUMMER SEASON—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel. TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.
4,000 feet above sea level. 6,000 feet above sea level.
Open from May till October. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.
Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS

YAGHOURT

may be obtained at

SELFRIDGE'S, Ltd., Oxford St., W.,
W. WHITELEY, Ltd., Queen's Rd., W.,

or direct from the makers,

MANOLI-CORBETTI,
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1917.

ROUMANIA AFTER THE WAR.

The promise of Armageddon that no country which it has involved shall remain exactly as it was before is gradually being redeemed. If we know it to be true of the British Empire, which has been fortunate enough to keep the war outside its borders, still more is it likely to be the case in respect of countries that have passed through the fiery ordeal of invasion. War is thus upholding its reputation that it is by no means an un-mixed evil. However grievously it may press on the individual, it is apt to benefit the nation or race, and looked at from the broadest point of view it stands out as the great propagator of civilization. Highly civilized States have been overwhelmed by barbaric hordes; but as a rule it is the civilized nation that overcomes in war the less advanced peoples. The ground for British civilization was prepared at the point of the sword by Romans and Normans; and conquest, whether in war-like or pacific guise, has rescued vast tracts of the earth's surface from uncivilized or unprogressive rule. As times have changed the remedial influence of war has worked from within rather than from without. Modern Germany arose from Prussia's defeat in 1806, and the foundation of France's position to-day was laid by the disaster of 1870. So will it be after the present struggle. Russia may provide the most striking instance, but the same factors will be at work in some degree or another in all the States that have been drawn into the vortex of the war. In some countries the anomalies that are waiting to be removed are manifest to the world at large; in others they may only be realized by the people themselves, and the enlightenment of public opinion will exercise its effects slowly. To the former category Roumania undoubtedly belongs. Her sad fate at such an advanced stage of the war, when it was thought that all eventualities had been foreseen and provided for, implied that more was amiss than the mere failure of military preparations. The causes of her swift defeat drove their roots farther down in the body politic. They are laid bare now, not in time to avert disaster, but before hope had been abandoned and in time to inspire confidence that, with the help of the Allies, the Roumanians will be able to build up a bigger and a better State on new foundations.

Although the war has laid its finger on certain anomalies in Roumanian affairs, it is not the case that these have been recognized as such now for the first time. They have engaged the attention of Roumania's public men, as well they might, for many years; but the war has provided the incentive to see that the more glaring grievances among the citizens shall go unredressed no longer. Already at the opening of Parliament at Jassy, under the shadow of the loss of half the kingdom, King Ferdinand promised that ownership of the soil shall at last be made possible for the peasantry, who form nearly five-sixths of the nation. The agrarian problem, electoral reform, and the Jewish question figured largely in Roumanian politics before the war. Discontent among the peasants, who owing to the prevailing system of land tenure were little better than serfs on the lands they tilled, led to serious disturbances in 1888 and 1907. The manner in which the risings were suppressed left a legacy of deep-seated bitterness that half-measures of reform had not sufficed to remove. In spite of an electoral system which placed parliamentary power in the hands of the classes instead of the

masses public opinion had come to appreciate the gravity of the situation, and the Liberal party in power at the outbreak of the war stood pledged to wide-reaching agrarian reform. Something more than paper legislation, however, is required where it has been found necessary to bring home to those who ought to be the leaders of patriotic feeling a sense of their responsibilities by the enactment that all property-holders must spend at least six months of the year in the kingdom. Absentee landlordism has been the bane of other countries besides Roumania. There it is linked with a tendency among the upper class to treat lightly the obligations of leadership imposed upon them in regard to the more serious spheres of public life. The difficulty of finding an adequate supply of the right type of officers for the mobilized army sprang from the same causes as those which left the economic development of the country largely in foreign hands. The stern awakening which Roumania has received can be relied upon to effect the social regeneration of the upper class, without in any way militating against the qualities which have won general recognition and have made Roumania and her people deservedly popular among the nations of Europe.

While the treatment of the Jews in Roumania stands on a different footing from that of the peasants' grievances, it has attracted more attention in the outside world, and the misrepresentations to which the question has been exposed have been bitterly resented by the Roumanians. At the outset it must be stated that the problem is an economic one, and not a matter of religious feeling. To understand the Roumanian point of view it is necessary to recall something of the struggle to which this sorely-tried people has been exposed for a thousand years to maintain its sense of nationality in the face of innumerable invasions. Finally, when it issued intact from its last trial under the Turkish yoke, there was a tendency to insist with some fierceness upon its right to regard Roumanian soil as its own exclusive property. Although the Jews had been established in the country for many generations, they were regarded as strangers, and at one time no doubt were content to regard themselves in the same light. The Jewish population, it is contended, was in a state of constant flux, receiving sudden accessions of numbers when conditions in Galicia, Poland, or Russia prompted any large stream of emigration. The newcomers showed no signs of becoming assimilated; they remained a people apart, mainly in Moldavia, where ultimately they have come to form more than a tenth of the population, with much larger proportions in individual towns and villages. When popular feeling was aroused against the Jews and found expression in legislation, their main calling was said to be usury or that of innkeepers, by both of which means they contrived to get the peasants and others in their power, and in the opinion of the Roumanians would ultimately have gained possession of the greater part of the land. Hence the laws that refused them rights of citizenship, the right to own land, and the exercise of certain trades. European opinion had been sufficiently aroused to lead to the insertion of a clause in the Treaty of Berlin which stipulated that difference of religion in Roumania should not serve as a political disqualification, and that all foreign subjects should be placed on a footing of perfect equality. Roumania met the situation created by this clause with a compromise which gave the Jews little real redress. But time has gradually improved the status of individual Jews in the kingdom and modified public opinion towards them. The old contention that they took no part in the defence of the country has broken down under their voluntary enlistment for the campaign against Bulgaria, and, it may be inferred, by the events of this war. When the Roumanians of Hungary are incorporated in the new kingdom the proportion of Jews to the Christian population will be considerably lowered. The new spirit animating the whole people must see the wisdom of removing all prominent grievances, in order that a united and Greater Roumania may bring its maximum efficiency to bear upon the speedy recovery of the country from its severe ordeal.

THE RACIAL PROPAGANDA IN TURKEY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Although much has been written about the Young Turks' anti-Arab and anti-Islamic campaign, yet the following minute details of their sinister programme is likely to prove new and interesting reading. German inspiration is clearly seen in the thoroughness and unscrupulousness of the method, as well as in the lack of comprehension of social and human principles, and the imperfect reading of the mind and temper of other peoples.

The Unionists founded a Central Turkish Society under the name of *Türk Ujaghi* (The Turkish Family), whose chief aim was the overthrow of Islam as it stands, and the Turkification of all the non-Turkish elements of the Empire. This society had its headquarters in the capital, and branches in every town and village of Anatolia, the Caucasus, Turkestan, Thrace, and Macedonia, and its funds were drawn from the Ministry of Wakfs and the Interior, as well as from the Mashiekhat-ul-Islam. It worked through four subsidiary organizations, each of which exercised its functions along special lines.

The first, *Türk Yurdu* (The Turkish Kingdom), had for its mission the development of Turkish literature by various means, (a) the purging of the Turkish language of Arabic words, so as to render it a purely Mogul tongue; (b) the writing of national books in this language; (c) the teaching thereof in schools and their distribution broadcast in all Turkish provinces; and, finally, the use of detached letters (such as European letters, in contradistinction to Arabic) so that there should remain no manner of resemblance or parentage between it and Arabic. The duties of the members of this organization were to oppose each Turkish or non-Turkish writer who did not share their views, or profess their creed; to help in the dissemination of national books, and epic poems, and heroic songs among the Turks; to teach the Turks old Turanian history, and impress upon them the idea that they are the greatest nation in the world, and that Fate has chosen them to be the master-race. Sober-minded Turks, such as Ali Kemal Bey, Dr. Riza Nour, Loutfy Fekri Bey, and others, have been actually threatened with death and accused by the members of this organization of treachery to the Turkish cause, and qualified as bastards of impure Greek origin.

The second is *Türk Derneki* (The Steadfast Turk). This was entrusted with the preaching of the national idea among Turkish and non-Turkish Ottomans in a violent manner, unprecedented in the history of nations. The members of this body are extreme Unionists, who deeply hate all the other elements, and are imbued with the fierce desire of Turkifying them and destroying every vestige in them of the national idea. They are fired with extraordinary energy, but their delusion is such as to have blinded their reason, and committed them to acts that were mainly responsible for the disasters that overtook the Empire. As an instance may be cited the fact that during the Balkan war, when the enemy was at Chatalja threatening the very heart of the Empire, one of their leaders, Ahmed Aghaef, was publishing a series of articles in *Tasvir Efkar*, in which the following sentence appeared: "Turkey must give the closest attention to Iran; for Iran is the gateway of India and China."

The third organization, *Türk Belkishi* (The Turkish Standard), was charged with the translation of scientific books into Turkish and the distribution of these books, and the dissemination, at the same time, of the Turkish

national idea in Turkestan and the Caucasus with a view to creating a strong political bond between their Moslem inhabitants and the Unionist Government of Turkey.

The fourth body, *Türk Kuji* (Turkish Power), has its activities confined to the physical development of pure Turks by the popularisation of sports and games.

Among the conditions of admission to the central society or to any of its branches are the following:—

(1) Each member must be a Turk, and undertake to devote his life, energies, and wealth towards the raising of the prestige of the Turk and his domination over the other nations; (2) each member has to change his name and replace it by a purely Turanian one; thus, Enver may be replaced by Ishildak, Mohammed by Timur, Selim by Genghiz, Hussein by Hulagu, Said by Oghuz, and so forth. All the Unionist officers as well as the members of the present Government who are leading members of this society are known to their Turkish friends by Turanian names other than those by which they are known to the non-Turks.

This society and its branches, moreover, founded a large number of clubs in all Turkish towns and villages for teaching old Turkish history, and especially the history of Hulagu, Oghuz, and Genghiz Khan, and further exalting the national ideal, so as to create the conviction of the superiority of the Turks over all other nations. Three days of the week have been fixed for a similar preaching among Turkish women, and for a special course of instruction, having for its aim the proper bringing up of children on purely Turkish lines. The Ministry of Wakfs lately volunteered a grant of £T50,000 for this society to spend on the publishing of comprehensive historical works on Hulagu, Genghiz, and Timurlenk. Non-Turks are forbidden admission to these clubs. Before entering, the member has to produce a card showing his name, photograph, and date of birth.

Among the latest efforts of this society may be mentioned the translation into old Turkish of the Koran and the Friday Sermon, as well as other religious texts and invocations which the Moslem religion requires to be read in Arabic; also the removal of the names of the Suhaba from the mosques, in the belief that the existence of these great Arabic names in places where large crowds constantly congregate is conducive to the weakening of the national ideal in the Turkish soul. The rupture with everything Arabic must be absolute.

All Ottoman schools, whether primary or secondary, military or civil, are but affiliated branches of this society. So are the Committee of Union and Progress and all the other Turkish societies, political, scientific, religious, and literary, which had been founded in Constantinople and Asia Minor prior to the outbreak of the war and after it. Furthermore, the Government introduced in the curriculum of its higher schools, and especially in the military school and that of the General Staff in Constantinople, a special course of instruction in the history of the Turanians, their military science, their literature and laws; and appointed Ahmed Aghaef Bey, Emin Bey, Khaled Zia Bey, and Hamdullah Bey as lecturers in these subjects in the military schools, the schools of law, medicine, and engineering. So fiercely persistent was this racial propaganda that it ended by inflaming the imaginations of Turkish students, who discarded modern works to indulge almost exclusively in reading books on purely Turkish subjects, such as "The Turkish Kingdom," "The Turkish Sword," "The History of Turan," Timur-lenk, Hulagu, Genghiz Khan, and the like.

The following extract from an address given by the Professor of Military Education in the military school before officers of the Reserve a few days before the



**WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.**

HEART TONIC.

**DIGESTIVE
AND**

NON-GOUTY.



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

By Appointment to

entry of Turkey into the great war reveals, in all its ferocity, the spirit of this propaganda:—"We are, gentlemen, before all, Turks. I wonder why we are called Ottomans; for who is Othman after whom we are named? He is a Turk from Altai, who overran this country with his Turkish army. Therefore, it is more of an honour to us to be named after his origin than after himself. We have, so far, been deceived by the ignorance of our forebears, and lie on these forebears who made us forget our nationality. Dear friends, you shall soon be attached to the army, and you shall be the leaders of our heroic soldiers. Teach them that they are Turks, and that, if they fight the enemy for the Turk and the Turkish flag, they shall achieve victory. Be sure that Turkish nationality is better for us than Islam, and racial pride is one of the greatest social virtues."

Here one of the Arab officers protested, saying: "All Ottomans are not Turks, and if the Empire were to be considered purely Turkish, then all the non-Turkish elements would be foreign to it, instead of being living members of the political body known as the Ottoman Empire, fighting the common fight for it and for Islam."

To this the Professor replied: "Know that facts are apart from feelings, and reality must not be confounded with emotion. Although you are an Arab, yet you and your race are subject to Turkey. Have not the Turks colonized your country, and have they not conquered it by the sword? The Ottoman State, which you plead, is nothing but a social trick, to which you resort in order to attain your ends. As to religion, it has no connection with politics. We shall soon march forward in the name of Turkey and the Turkish flag, casting aside religion, as it is only a personal and secondary question. You and your nation must realize that you are Turks, and that there is no such thing as Arab nationality and an Arab fatherland."

All the Arab officers who heard this speech sent a collective protest to the Minister of War, and asked for the dismissal of this Turkish professor. Far, however, from heeding the protest, the Ministry took immediate steps for sending them to various fronts to be in the firing line.

These treacherous designs on the Arabs formed ever the basis of the Unionists' policy. Some of the Arab officers fighting in Bulair during the Balkan war came across a letter addressed by a Unionist leader to a Unionist officer, which contained the following words:—"Expose the Arabs to the enemy's bullets, and do all you can to get rid of them, for there is profit to us in their death."

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"The Land of the Beeches."

The *Fortnightly Review* (March) contains a most readable article, "Bukovina—The Land of the Beeches," by the Hon. W. F. Bailey and Miss Jean V. Bates. It is difficult to know what passages to select for quotation where all are so good, but these paragraphs, telling how the region came by its name, will certainly interest many readers:—

Once upon a time, in the reign of Stefan Domn cel Mare—Stephen the Great, Prince of Moldavia—when the Bukovina was the richest province of that sturdy ruler's dominions, Albrecht, King of Poland, thought fit to pitch his camp and graze the horses of his army on the great open plain lying along the River Pruth. Whereupon Stefan Domn cel Mare sallied out with all his forces and put the intruders to flight after having slain half their host and taken twenty-five thousand prisoners, of whom many were haughty and dissolute nobles. Fearing greatly, the Polish King made overtures to Stefan and offered a large ransom for the release of his subjects. But the Moldavian Prince was not a man who did things half-heartedly. He refused his enemy's offer, and ordered many ploughs to be made. To these he harnessed the Poles, and sent them out to till the lands of the Bukovina, after which he obliged them to sow in the furrows which they had ploughed the seeds of the beech tree.

In time these seeds grew up into great stretches of forest, and so the country came to be called the "Dumbrevile Roshe" which is, being interpreted, the Land of the Bloody Beech-Forest. Legend declares that a terrible curse, the curse of blood, has lain upon the country from that day to this; that the murmur of dead voices sounds through the rustling branches of its woodlands; that the sighing of the slain may be heard

through its softest breezes; and the fact remains that the shadow of the sword has never through long centuries departed from the fields and forests of the Bukovina.

The land is invested with an atmosphere of mystery that lends it a rare charm, and though a curse is said to rest on it, "this Land of Beeches . . . gives pleasant pictures of a strange country and a curious people." But perhaps the most interesting thing about it is the great forest itself:—

In this beech forest a man may wander for days without meeting any of his kind. But those familiar with the secret windings of this green world can follow them safely—bears, wolves, wild swine, and Tziganes, of course, permitting—over the ever-rising moss and leaf-strewn ground, through the silent colonnaded aisles of the grey, smooth beech trees twenty-four feet in girth, which rear themselves aloft and spread fan-shaped polished branches against the bluest of blue skies. Those who have been born and bred beside the forest, where the sunlight glimmers faintly in golden patches through the green, satiny leaves, where the solemn stillness is undisturbed save by the low rumbling growl of a stray bear in search of berries, the song of the birds, the crackling of the brown leaves and nuts under the feet of the passing swine, and the music of running water, those who know the way, after going upward for many hours, can reach at last the spot where the beeches yield place to yews and silver birches, to mountain ash and oak, and finally to the gaunt, straight-stemmed pines which set the limit to vegetation and beyond which rise the foothills, the gaunt, grey precipices, and the snow-crested, impassable summits of the Carpathians. It is a long road which winds us from Teke to the dazzling-browed mountains, and most people are too lazy or too timid to follow it.

The region seems to be a veritable "Land of Honey and Butter," as it is called by envious neighbours, for there is something more than beech forest; there are rich cornlands, lush pastures, and immense plum orchards. The population is very mixed. The authors apparently do not admire the Jews, for they write:—

Jewish villages are never by any chance salubrious or lovely, but these, in the Bukovina, are extraordinarily horrible. Sordid clusters of wretched wooden hovels, plastered with mud and cowering, and smeared over with glaring blue paint, they are, like their inhabitants, indescribably loathsome. The reek of cabbage stew and garlic, offal, and verminous humanity meets the nostrils in every direction. In the open doorways lounge and sprawl black kaftaned men, gaudily turbaned women, and their lice-infested offspring. Until one has learned the little ways of the Israelites it seems incomprehensible why in open, sparsely-populated lands like Galicia, Moldavia, and the Bukovina, human beings should be obliged to compress about five families, a couple of cows and pigs, not a few turkeys, and a considerable number of fowl into two low-roofed rooms, which are lighted and ventilated only by a three-inch wide slit in the wall! Everyone to their taste, however, for, as the rustic Jew hereabouts cannot claim poverty as an excuse, it must be their natural instinct which prompts them to exist in this state of filthiness and intimacy.

Of the other inhabitants we are told much that is interesting and nothing quite so unattractive as this.

The Advance on Baghdad.

The last stages of the British advance upon Baghdad were marked by great deeds on the part of our troops. An interesting account of the passage of the Diala is given by Mr. Edmund Candler, in a message from Baghdad dated March 12:—

The last fighting before Baghdad is likely to become historic on account of the splendid gallantry of our troops in the crossing of the Diala River. After the action at Lajj, the Turkish rear-guard fell back on Diala, destroying the bridge which crosses the stream at its junction with the Tigris. We pushed on in pursuit on the left bank, sending cavalry and two columns of infantry to work round on the right bank and to enter Baghdad from the west. Speed in following up was essential, and the column attacking Diala was faced with another crossing in which the element of surprise was eliminated.

The village lies on both banks of the stream, which is 120 yards wide. The houses, trees, nullah, and walled gardens made it impossible to build a road and ramps quickly and to bring up pontoons without betraying the point of embarkation. Hence the old bridgehead site was chosen. The attack on the night of the 7th was checked, but the quality of courage shown by our men has never been surpassed in war. Immediately the first pontoon was lowered over the ramp the whole launching party was shot down in a few seconds. It was a bright moonlight, and the Turks had concentrated their machine-guns and rifles in the houses on the opposite bank. The second pontoon had got into the middle of the stream when a terrific fusillade was opened on it. The crew of five rowers and ten riflemen were killed, and the boat floated down the stream. A third got nearly across, but was bombed and sank. All the crew were killed, but there was no holding back.

The orders still held to secure the passage. Crew after crew pushed off to an obvious and certain death. The third crossing party was exterminated in the same way, and the pontoons drifted out to the Tigris to float past our camp in the daylight with their freight of dead. The drafts who went over were raised by volunteers from other battalions in the brigade. These and the sappers on the bank share the honour of the night with the attacking battalion. Nothing stopped them save the loss of the pontoons. A Lancashire man remarked: "It is a bit hot

here; let's try higher up." But the gallant fellows were reduced to their last boat. Another regiment, which was to cross higher up, were delayed as the boats had to be carried nearly a mile across country to the stream. After the failure of the bridgehead passage, the second crossing was cancelled, but the men were still game.

On the second night the attempt was pursued with equal gallantry. This time the attack was preceded by a bombardment. Registering by artillery had been impossible on the first day in the speed of the pursuit. It was the barrage that secured us the footing; not the shells, but the dust raised by them. This was so thick that you could not see your hand in front of your face. It formed a curtain behind which ten boats were able to cross. Afterwards, in clear moonlight, when the curtain of dust had lifted, the conditions of the night before were re-established. Succeeding crossing parties were exterminated and pontoons drifted away, but a footing was secured.

A Sickle for the Turks.

In the course of an article, "Baghdad and Beyond," the *Nation* expresses the opinion that we shall be wrong if we regard the Mesopotamia campaign as restricted to a holding on to Baghdad:—

The best defence of the city, in any case, would be to meet any dangers by a bold offensive, and it is probable that General Maude's operations are part of a concerted plan to put Turkey out of the field. Already the Turks are hastening to fall back from Persia. General Baratoff, who last year contrived to send a small body of cavalry to the British, is moving westwards. Along the road, worn by the feet of thousands of pilgrims, the road which Darius and Alexander followed, the Turks are hastening towards the high rim which separates Persia from Mesopotamia. The road runs through Baghdad, and General Maude has probably already made preparations to receive the enemy. The Russians and the British in this part of the vast field of Asiatic Turkey are co-operating to sweep the Turkish troops westward. The alignment forms a rough sickle, with the handle from Trebizond to Erzerum, a similar formation to that which swept across Serbia; and the purpose of the Allies is to brush the enemy westwards towards northern Syria. The Grand Duke is only waiting for the appropriate moment to set Yudenoff's army in motion once more. The position, therefore, holds wide possibilities, and there are certain to be great changes in this area.

"The Hour of Vengeance."

In an article entitled "The Empire of the Turk," *El Kowkab* (of February 6) expresses the opinion that: "It is no marvel that the empire of the Turk should now show signs of decadence, downfall, and dismemberment, after the tyranny and ignorance with which it has been afflicted. But it is a great marvel that it should have endured for so long on such weak and tottering foundations, even though the Powers were anxious for its existence and doing their best for its support." The writer then goes on to show how the Turks converted fertile and prosperous lands into wildernesses; how they strangled arts, commerce, and industry in every land they conquered; and how the Arabs especially have suffered at the hands of the Turks. He continues:—

Even if the matter had stopped at this material issue, it might have been borne; but morality has suffered likewise. The East was the favoured place of Divine revelation and guidance; the land of origin of apostles and prophets; high and generous character was its pride and glory, the beauty and ornament of its people. The breath of the Turk in that pure and serene sky brought gloom and pollution. Morality came down from her throne; valour and faith and honour fled away, their place being taken by corruption, vileness, and deceit. The son took pride in denouncing his father; the father would denounce his son, in greed for money or place. Is there a lower Hell than this? How far is this from the truth and generosity of the Arabs? How far is this dull brutality from that lofty civilisation which even to this day is studied by the greatest of the Frank scholars, who find in it wells of benefit and instruction? May God's mercy be shown to the lands and their inhabitants for the offences which they have committed, in punishment of which this evil has been brought upon them, and they have been subjected to the accursed rule of these caitiffs, born for perfidy and villainy, not for rule and lordship. But we may hope that the time of these calamities is now drawing to its close; that the reign of light and justice will wipe out that of darkness and tyranny; and that the hour of vengeance is at hand, when the oppressors will learn how completely they are overwhelmed.

A German View of the Suez Canal.

The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post* sends to that journal an interesting summary of an article contributed to the current *Zeitschrift für Politik* by Dr. Steindorff, a well-known Egyptologist. In his article the learned doctor deals not with the past, but with the future of Egypt, his article being entitled—cumbrously enough—"How Shall We Ensure the Freedom of the Suez Canal in the Future?" He bases his argument (writes the *Post's* correspondent) on the assumption that "England is unfortunately able to maintain her present position in Egypt, and to exercise all sovereign rights over the Nile after the war."

He is not, he says, one of the bold optimists who propose that

Germany should demand that part of the French war indemnity shall be paid in Suez Canal shares so that the Empire would automatically acquire considerable influence in the administration of the Canal. As a matter of fact, he adds, it is not certain if the shares held by France are in the possession of the Government or are in private hands. Dr. Steindorff suggests as a more practicable measure that Germany and Austria-Hungary should take over the claims and rights of the German-Austrian Company formed to build the Canal, which, it is alleged, was tricked by de Lesseps.

This is a truly German idea! Dr. Steindorff considers that by insisting on the fulfilment of Hun claims the Central Powers "would restore the international character of the Canal." But, the *Morning Post's* correspondent continues:

Even this, however, does not satisfy the Professor, for he fears that as long as England holds sway in Egypt she will not be deterred by international agreements or by the fact that Germany has an important share in the administration of the Canal from adopting arbitrary measures in time of war. The only means that Dr. Steindorff can conceive by which England could be restrained from adopting such arbitrary measures, and the Canal thus kept absolutely neutral, is the alteration of the eastern frontier of Egypt. He contends that every effort must be made, on the conclusion of peace, to ensure that one of the conditions is that the present "unnatural" frontier of Egypt shall be done away with, and that the Suez Canal itself shall in future separate Africa from Asia, Egypt from Turkey. The Professor points out that the Sinai Peninsula would then no longer serve the purpose of a rampart, to which it had been put by England, the Canal and its western bank could be controlled from the eastern bank, and every hostile preparation, even in time of peace, could be prevented.

With all respect due to the profound learning of the Professor, we would suggest that the old proverb about catching your hare before you cook it would appear to have a certain bearing upon his proposals. At present they appear to be rather wide of the mark.

Germans in Turkey.

In an article in *Land and Water* under the above heading, Sir William Ramsay points out that the course of operations suggests that the German officers have been withdrawn from the Mesopotamian Army. The Turkish Army, he holds, is able to conduct only one kind of operation well, which is to stand a siege or hold a fortified line; and he instances the siege of Plevna.

Now compare the progress of the operations on the Tigris. The Turks were able to put up a very strong resistance at the lines which had been prepared, but they did not know when to retire and how to retire. They held on until it was too late, and there was an alternative presented to them of a hurried retirement or enduring a siege. It seems quite evident that the retirement was so conducted as to degenerate into flight, during which all order was lost and the army became a fleeing mob. This is exactly what takes place when the officers are unfit to control and lead their men. A Turkish army officered by Europeans may be made into one of the best, but a Turkish army officered by Turks can never become a trustworthy force.

It is not merely generals that the Turks want. What they need even more is officers of every rank. They cannot supply men who have at once education and the will to work hard; they cannot learn the art of modern war, and they, therefore, are unable as officers to direct and use their men, while they rarely possess the moral power to control them.

So far as can be judged from the little that is published, the operations seem to prove that the German officers had been in very large degree withdrawn. For this two reasons may suggest themselves. Either the need in Germany was too great and too pressing to allow them to maintain a sufficient number of officers with the Turkish Army, or they believed and hoped that the Turks had been trained sufficiently to be fit to keep up the defence.

It is quite possible that both reasons co-operated in producing the result: the Germans needed all their officers, and they were too ready to believe that the Turkish Army could maintain its discipline and manage itself without European officers.

The Germans seem to have staked too much on the capacity of the Turks, and they have lost. With this loss it is safe to say that the scheme of a great Turco-German army has been wrecked because for such an army European officers are essential.

Articles to Note.

"The Chameleon: Germany's Situation," by the Military Correspondent of *The Times* (March 26).

"Turkish Dêbâcle," by Colonel Feyler, in the *Sunday Times* (March 25).

Victoria has contributed £300 to the Serbian Legation and £50 to the Lord Mayor of London's Armenian Fund.

M. Guillemin, the French Minister at Athens, has joined the British Minister, Sir Francis Elliot, in his protest against the arrest at Patras of the British Consul's clerk while conveying a message to the French Consulate.

According to the Agence Balkanique, Field-Marshal von Mackensen has arrived in Constantinople to reorganise the Turkish Army.

THE ENTENTE NOTE TO PRESIDENT WILSON.

BULGARIAN PRESS VIEWS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

As was to be expected, the Bulgarian Press is furious in its attacks upon the Allies' reply to President Wilson.

The Sofia semi-official paper *Dnevnik*, of January 13, writes as follows:—

The refusal of the Entente reeks of lying and hypocrisy. It makes no secret of its covetous aims. What, then, is left for us to do in this case? Precisely what the Note proclaims to all the world, viz., to continue the war with steadfast conviction and faith in the justice of our cause until we have secured a peace which will guarantee the existence, honour, and free development of our nation.

The Sofia paper *Utro*, which is also a Germanophil paper, says, in its issue of January 15:—

The Allied Governments will never give up the conviction that, in their opinion, the responsibility rests with those countries which caused the outbreak of this universal war, and which have contributed to its spreading to other countries. For this reason the Bulgarian Government combines with the Governments of the Allied countries in renouncing every idea of restoring to such States as Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Roumania their former frontiers, for with these States rests the heaviest responsibility for the overthrow of European peace.

In commenting upon the Entente Note, the Bulgarian Press also attacks the Entente. Its attacks are mainly directed against England. Thus the Socialist paper *Zarja* declares, in its issue of January 15:—

England is looking round to see whether there is still left any small nation which has not yet been the subject of her life-saving activities. Meanwhile, in all quarters of the globe people are dying under her tyrannous domination. The world is longing for peace and justice, and whoever refuses them to the world will be cursed by future generations.

M. Gueshoff's paper, the *Mir*, the organ of the Liberal-Nationalists, says, on January 15:—

In the Entente Note England is the only nation to whom nothing is promised. Yet it is the English who are conducting this war, and, moreover, it is certain that the Note in reply was written by Lloyd George himself. Of course, it was necessary that England should represent herself as being totally disinterested. But the practical Americans will realise that Lloyd George shows his own selfish aspirations all the more clearly when—even in the Note to the President of the United States—he considers it necessary to ascribe to the Russians, French, and Italians the selfish reasons for which they must protract this war. It is a notorious fact that it is his design to keep those nations and States closely harnessed to his chariot in the interests of the Entente. There is one thing England is afraid of—namely, that one day her Allies will awake, and realise that she has turned her enemies of yesterday into her Allies of to-day merely for the sake of exploiting them for her own advantage.

England is also being attacked by Dr. Rizoff, the Bulgarian Minister in Berlin. In the *Berliner Tagblatt* of January 11 he endeavours to demonstrate the fact that the present war was provoked by the Entente Powers: that Germany did not violate anybody's neutrality or rights, but that, on the contrary, "the history of Great Britain and Russia is a series of violations of treaties and of outrages committed upon other nations." He defends Prussian militarism, and opines that English anti-militarism is a far greater evil.

"Prussian militarism" (he says) "is nothing but the most efficient and, from the German point of view, the most suitable organisation for the defence of Germany. Since the Franco-Prussian war there is no evidence that any harm has been done to the world by this militarism; but there is ample proof of the injury done during that time by Great Britain, with her anti-militarist policy, who has taken Egypt and the island of Cyprus, has divided Persia with Russia, and has destroyed two Boer Republics."

The Bulgarian Press is especially annoyed by the fact that the name of Bulgaria is not even mentioned in the Entente Note. On account of this omission, the *Mir* of January 17 calls the note "poor," and demands that the struggle against the Entente shall "be continued to the end, shoulder to shoulder with our loyal allies."

RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER IN TREBIZOND.

On November 14, 1916, the first Russian newspaper to be published in Trebizond made its appearance under the name of *Trebizondsky Voenni Listok*. Previously, all except those who received the official war telegrams or who understood Greek had to await the arrival of newspapers from Batum, Tiflis, Moscow, and other parts of Russia.

The paper is to be issued every Sunday as a regular two-sheet newspaper, but on other days, Monday excepted, telegrams only will be published on a single sheet. It is sold for 6 kopecks per copy or 2 rubles for two months. The yearly subscription rate has not yet been announced. Advertisements are accepted at the rate of 25 kopecks a line of brevier type in front of the text and 15 kopecks at the end.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

AN ANCIENT BASILICA AT TUNIS.

Père Delattre, who for so many years has carried out successfully the search for antiquities in Tunis, has recently reported to the French Academy that he has discovered the remains of a large Christian Basilica at Carthage. From its position near to, and facing, the sea, and from the evidence of its original magnificence, there can be no doubt that it is the largest of the Basilicas of St. Cyprian, which is famous for the entry into it of Belisarius on the day following his capture of Carthage.

The immense edifice, only part of which has yet been excavated, had no less than seven naves. Fragments of sculptural ornaments of funeral effigies, and of mosaics, and remains of hundreds of Christian lamps have been found. Near by was uncovered a tomb of a Christian lady, undoubtedly a wealthy person, which had never been disturbed. The body had been buried bearing superb good jewellery, including a collar encrusted with precious stones from which is suspended a medallion, bearing the symbols of the Cross and Alpha and Omega. Earrings and brooches, finger rings, and some thousands of ornaments which are worked into a design on the robes, make this the richest find of the kind that has yet been made in Tunis.

Historians and antiquarians will be more interested in the lapidary inscriptions. Père Delattre already makes the fragments bearing writing amount to some 3,000, from which hundreds of sepulchral epitaphs can be reconstructed; of these he has published, in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Académie, about twenty. One of these, giving twelve lines, ten of which are in metre, is in perfect preservation. It is an epitaph for a young lady, but for some reason her name has been omitted.

Three fragments of an inscription in Greek which have been lying for some years in Alexandria Museum have now been arranged by M. Seymour de Ricci and translated by him. The text concerns some derelictions of duty on the part of a body of guards, or police, who were caretakers of the vast cemeteries of the city. For some reason this corps of watchmen was recruited among the Lycian colonists, of whom there were many at Alexandria. The guard at a necropolis had to be strict and efficient because of the Egyptian custom of burying valued jewels with the defunct, making the temptation to tomb robberies very great.

The inscription, which is not quite complete, is an extract from the official register of the functionary called the *Idiologos* at Alexandria. He was administrator of the domains of the Roman Emperors, which in Egypt included not only land and buildings that the Cæsars had actually acquired, but, by a legal fiction, also all the territory and real estate the proprietors of which are alleged to be unknown. The inscription records the summons before the authorities of a certain Ulpis Potamon, a freedman of Trajan's, at the instance of his superior, the Magistrate at Mareotis. With Potamon would be arrested the Lycian police under his command. The date of this document is the fifth year of Hadrian, that is A.D. 120. The inscription undoubtedly set forth the punishment awarded for negligence of duty, and was affixed probably outside one of the large cemeteries as a warning to the guardians, as notices of convictions are displayed at railway stations nowadays.

M. RIBOT AND M. VENIZELOS.

A Reuter's message from Paris states that, replying to the congratulations of M. Venizelos on the formation of his Cabinet, M. Ribot said that France, who is sustaining with her Allies a struggle in which the safeguarding of the liberty of nations is at stake, has awakened in the hearts of the Hellenes memories of their great ancestors who laid the foundations of Greece. M. Ribot adds that he is happy to be able to address to one of the noblest of their descendants his ardent wishes for the success of the lofty ideals to which M. Venizelos has devoted his whole life.

There has been a strike of electricians at Athens. The men have, however, been induced to return to work pending consideration of their grievances.

American interests in Bulgaria are to be watched over by the United States Embassy in Constantinople.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I may be permitted to offer a word of congratulation to my staid and reliable friend the *Financial Times*, which, in the third year of the war, has made a triumphant return to prosperity with a dividend of 5 per cent. Very few London newspapers, I believe, can show a profit of nearly £20,000 on last year's operations, but that is what the Coleman Street journal has accomplished. Paper problems, distribution costs, labour difficulties, and other troubles incidental to journalism have all been accentuated, as every newspaper man knows only too well. I hope the *Financial Times* will live long and robustly to continue its honourable service to the British world of finance and commerce.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST will not have been surprised to learn through Reuter's brief cable that last year in Egypt was one of "undoubted prosperity." The accounts published from time to time all indicated the advance of the Protectorate, its increasing prosperity and expanding trade. As I have frequently pointed out in these columns, Egypt is one of the few countries to which the war has brought opportunities of profit; and all will be glad to learn that the able Administration out yonder has turned them to the best advantage. The full figures for the year will be awaited with great interest.

It is impossible to refrain from expressing sympathy with the fate-battered and long-suffering shareholders in the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, the half-yearly meeting of which was held this week. The company has something like £5,000,000 landlocked in Asia Minor. Lord Strathmore, the chairman, had a great deal to say regarding the what-might-have-been but for German enterprise, German penetration, German forceful diplomacy and systematic bribery of Turkish officials. "The old, old story," one is tempted to remark. Lord Strathmore is, probably, perfectly accurate in his indictment—notwithstanding Sir John Jackson's recent memorable testimonial to the integrity of the Turkish official—but there is at the same time the uncomfortable suspicion that the wickedness of the Hun could not have prevailed so completely if our own people had not regarded the sinner too cheaply. I do not suggest for a moment that British subjects ought to have employed the same methods; but I cannot believe that any very strenuous attempt was made to counter the sinister moves of the Germans.

There is no profit to be gained in whimpering, however. The thing to do at the moment is to look ahead and to prepare for the day when peace will bring new opportunities. It is necessary to point out in this connection that with the opportunities will also come a danger. We may assume that for a long time after the war the Hun will be excluded pretty strictly from zones in which British influences will be at work, and there will be the risk that, in the absence of competition, our people will fall back to their old ways of easy-going and comfortable leisure. That will be as disastrous in its way as German corruption, and I urge this view on the chairman of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway

in particular. For the further aspirations of the company in Asia Minor I must refer readers to the summary of Lord Strathmore's speech at the meeting—published elsewhere in this issue.

Egypt, it may be presumed, like other protectorates and Crown colonies, will be included in the scheme of Imperial reconstruction, which is foreshadowed—if that is not too optimistic a word to use—in the final report of the Dominions Royal Commission. The Commissioners urge very strongly, and on eminently sound grounds, that it would be impossible to confine the proposed Imperial Development Board to the great self-governing Dominions. I am unable to do more than summarize very briefly the recommendations of the Commissioners, but would like to add that their report is an interesting document and a valuable addition to Imperial literature.

The principal recommendations may be summarized as follows: It being vital that the Empire should become self-dependent for supplies of essential materials and commodities, a complete survey should be made of Empire production and requirements.—The creation of an Imperial Development Board to undertake this survey, and generally to carry on permanently the work of the Commission.—Local governments to undertake research in the dominions, limiting the Imperial Institute's activities to India, the Crown Colonies and protectorates.—The extension and improvement of Imperial communications by deepening harbours, developing fast steamship services, regulating freights, extending and cheapening cables.—The reform and strengthening of consular services and commercial intelligence.—Unification of legislation on trade marks, patents, and companies; establishment throughout the Empire of decimal coinage and metric weights and measures. A pretty tall, but none-the-less attractive, programme, when all things are considered.

The Zurich correspondent of the *Economist* contributed the following interesting "par" to that paper recently: "On March 13, the first day after the arrival at Zurich of the news, bitter to Swiss pro-German financiers, of the fall of Baghdad, the shares of the Banque de Chemins de Fer Orientaux were offered at 750 fr., but they found hardly any buyers. On the following day a few buyers appeared, offering 700 fr. Thus the Zurich Stock Exchange considers the value of the Anatolian and Baghdad Railways diminished by one-third through the fall of Baghdad. It is no secret, of course, that the Banque de Chemins holds 'in trust' the shares in the Anatolian and Baghdad Railways which belong to the Deutsche Bank and its allied concerns in Switzerland and Austria. The shares, since they were introduced on the Zurich Exchange in 1911, appreciated from 1,085 fr. to 1,196 before the first Balkan war. At the end of 1916 they had fallen to 810 fr.; the fall of the City of the Caliphs appears to have completed the debacle."

Eager eyes are being turned towards Mesopotamia, and keen memories are recalling the trade glories of the past of that blessed country. Pressel, the famous Swiss engineer, once declared: "In this country, where all the geological and

mineralogical formations are represented, one finds everywhere mercury, borax, copper, zinc, argentiferous lead, antimony, chrome, manganese, coal, petrol, naphtha, bitumen and rock salt. Asiatic Turkey has been favoured more than any other part of the world by nature, and a brilliant future is necessarily in store for it." Then there are the famous *dicta* of Sir William Willcocks, with some of which readers of this journal are familiar. "A land such as this is worth resuscitating," he wrote. "Cotton, sugar, cane, Indian corn, and all the summer products of Egypt will flourish here as on the Nile, while the winter products of cereals, leguminous plants, Egyptian clover, opium, and tobacco, will find themselves at home as they do in Egypt. . . . A land whose climate allows her to produce such crops in tropical profusion over millions of acres cannot be barren and desolate."

It must be remembered also that the great bulk of the trade carried on in this region—or that was carried on up to the outbreak of the war—was British. British steamers ran up the river from Busreh, carried all the cargo and passenger traffic and served as the link between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf. It is absurd, now we come to realise the fact, that huge quantities of the plant and stores, and hundreds of the German engineers and workmen, required for the Baghdad railway were carried by our vessels. There was no reason why they should not have been, of course, but there would have been a reason if in authoritative quarters we had had a man intelligent enough to "spot" exactly what was afoot and brave enough to have declared it frankly. The unofficial people who did speak were not exactly thanked for their pains.

Well, with it all, the Hun has overreached himself. The Baghdad Railway, as he conceived it, has passed beyond the limits of practical economic politics, and with it, let us hope, the Hun has gone as well. It is not for us to speculate on what the future of Mesopotamia is to be, or who will rule and be ruled, but British public opinion ought to insist on safeguards and undertakings, that old things have really passed away, and that the future will be in the hands and control of a new régime—British for choice, but new. I have referred previously to the introduction of British institutions lower down in what was the *vilayet* of Busreh. They are working well, I believe, while the thoroughness of their organisation suggests permanence in character.

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

The Sudan and its Economic Development.

No. 5.—The Province of Darfur.*

(By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.)

The Province—formerly the Sultanate—of Darfur has been too recently added to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which now consists of fifteen political departments, to enable anything like a useful description being afforded of its economic recommendations. Its whole industrial development, like that of its political government, pertains to the future. Of this, however, one cannot say, with Byron, that "the best of prophets of the future is the past," for the former history of this part of the Sudan has hitherto been as disappointing as that of the remaining provinces has been encouraging. But with the installation of the new administration the industrial regeneration of the country and its inhabitants may be said to have commenced.

Darfur lies 13 degrees N., 25 degrees E., in East Central Africa, between Kordofan and Wadai. Its population is said, by some authorities, to be "4,000,000," but there is as little certainty about this as there is, and always been, about its precise boundaries, the ill-definition of which has in times past occasioned much trouble to the two Governments of France and Great Britain. But for the outbreak of the war this long-standing dispute might, in all probability, have been settled, a draft compromise having been in existence since 1914 for submission to the permanent Arbitration Court at The Hague.

Boundaries.

The boundaries as they exist at present are as follows: The Province is neighboured on the north by Dar Badiat and the desert west of the Wadi Melh; on the east by Kordofan, the frontier running from Kara Serrug, situated in Darfur, in a south-west direction to Dam Jemad, which is in Kordofan; hence it runs in a southerly direction to the Bahrel-Arab and Dar Fertit; Dar Habbania and Dar Taaisha are both in Darfur. The western boundary leaves Dar Sula and Borzu, or Wadai, within the French sphere of influence, and Dar Gimr and Dar Tama to Darfur.

From a scenic point of view the country cannot be said to be attractive. As with the whole of the territory between the Nile and its eastern frontier, there are to be seen vast plains broken in places by clusters of rocky hills, rarely exceeding in height 600 ft. above the surrounding plain, which, in the north, is intersected by wadis which run down the hills and gradually lose themselves in the oceans of sand. A thin, but tough, kind of low-growing scrub is everywhere in evidence, becoming thicker towards the wadis. In the south, the khors become gradually fewer and fewer, until, at about latitude 14° 30' north, they cease altogether. Here the real bush-country begins, and the surface of the country becomes rather more undulating.

Geological Features.

The geological formation offers very little of interest, although it is decidedly varied in character. In the west, the mountains are undoubtedly of volcanic origin; in the north, they are formed of granite and sandstone, and the same may be said of those in the south; in the east, the soil is sandy and contains a quantity of iron, which is worked to a trifling extent. In other parts of the country one comes across white and red sandstone outcrops, gneiss, lava, and some huge dykes of a white quartz. In many of the depressions sand, rich in iron, is met with, and assuredly with proper treatment this might become of great commercial value to the Government.

Naturally, any mining enterprise, like that of agriculture itself, is mainly dependent for successful working upon the water supply. And here Darfur is decidedly better off than its immediate neighbour Kordofan. There the drainage system is complicated, and practically all the rain that falls sinks into

the ground. But while the wadis, after spreading over a bare surface, lose themselves, there is generally good, sweet water to be found by digging for it. In Darfur north, the same kind of thing occurs; but to the west, south-west and south the country is much better watered and more fertile. In the rainy season—June to October—water is everywhere plentiful, and in the south the land becomes even marshy and difficult to travel over. The ordinarily peaceful wadis become torrents, and, although their beds become dry soon after the cessation of the rains, water is generally to be found in abundance, held up by the clayey strata at a few feet below the surface. Clearly, then, something useful can be done with country of this nature, and it may be taken for granted that the Administration is alive to the possibilities awaiting agricultural and pastoral development.

A Human Policy.

Much, of course, also depends upon the character of the natives themselves. The Government of the Sudan, knowing the kind of people with whom it has to deal, has eschewed the policy of most foreign administrations which, according to Mazzini, "are never really willing to aid you until you have shown that you are strong enough to conquer without them." If the Sudan Administration had awaited this display upon the part of the people of the other provinces, their regeneration would have been brought about—never. The contrary has been the adopted policy. The Government have gone to the people, and have shown by practical assistance how anxious they have been to help them, and they have only ceased to act thus when the recipients of support have proved themselves able to dispense with further aid.

The inhabitants of Darfur, speaking generally, are a singularly intelligent and by no means a slothful people. The original tribes are the Fors and the Dago, the latter having, for centuries, ruled over the entire district from their strongholds in Jebel Mara. Unfortunately, a terrible destruction among these people took place during the Mahdist days, when, in the course of some twenty years, whole tribes—such as the Maharia, Nawaiba, Mahamid, Ereigat, Beni Hussein, etc., became so disintegrated and scattered that they have now practically ceased to exist as tribes, and are but seldom met with. Prior to the Mahdi revolt, the population of Darfur was said to be 1,500,000, and of these people, fully one-half were slain or dispersed. If this estimate is accurate, the above quoted statistics of a "4,000,000" population is evidently grossly exaggerated. In all probability the province population stands at about 2,000,000 all told.

El Fasher.

The ruling class, the Masabat and the Kunjara, have their centre at the capital, El Fasher. They are said to be a clean and industrious people, living in neat grass *tukls*, or conical huts, five or six of which, built in a circle, form a "habitation." Other tribes over which the new Government will hold sway are the Jebelawin, the original inhabitants living in the mountainous stronghold of Jebel Mara above referred to; the Zaghawa and Zeidadia, in the north; the Berti and Kaja, in the east; the Maalia and Rezeigat, in the south-east; and the Beni Helba, Habbania, and Taaisha, in the south. In the west, are the Masabat and the Tama. There may be added the considerable sedentary population comprising a variety of tribes such as the Mima, Birgel, Beigo, and Gimr.

What sort of trade have these people hitherto been able to carry on? They have exported feathers, ivory, pepper, rhinoceros horns, tobacco, etc., while they have purchased cotton goods (gomash), sugar, tea, and other kinds of luxuries, for which they, like all natives of the Sudan, evidence the greatest

predilection. The future Darfur trade in ivory alone should be of great value. As a rule this substance comes from Dar Jange and Dar Fertit, in the south. Under the continued disturbances of the late Sultan's rule, however, this trade was almost ruined, but the Wadai troubles being now swept away, the trade route through this district should be speedily renewed and maintained.

The New Government.

The new Government is now completed. As already announced in these columns, El Lewa P. J. V. Kelly, D.S.O., was appointed the first Governor of the newly-created Province of Darfur as a well-deserved reward for his successful services in connection with the military operations which commenced in March and terminated in December of last year. Colonel Kelly having now rejoined the Egyptian Army, the Governorship has been entrusted to El Miralai R. V. Savile, formerly Governor of the Kordofan Province, who has been replaced as Acting-Governor by Mr. J. W. Sagar, the Senior Inspector of the Blue Nile Province. El Kaimakam H. A. MacMichael Bey, D.S.O., occupies the position of Sub-Governor—the single instance of such an appointment in the Administration of the Sudan to-day—with headquarters at El Fasher. Mr. W. Nicholls, formerly Second Inspector, has since been removed to Singa, in the Province of Sennar; while three out of the other five Second Inspectorships of the Darfur Province are filled as follows:—E. Kaimakam E. G. S. Hall Bey at Kutum; Mr. J. A. Gillan and El Bimbashi E. Keith-Roach at El Fasher; and Mr. T. McNeill at Um Kedada. The two remaining Inspectorships at present are unfilled.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Turkish Chamber has ratified the Turco-German politico-commercial treaties negotiated last year.

A telegram from Sofia states that the Bulgarian Sobranje has ratified the agreement for the purchase by the State of the Mustafa-Pasha-Dedeagatch railway.

An Athens telegram states that the King has signed a decree authorising a tax on shipowners' war profits averaging from 5 to 20 per cent., according to tonnage.

An Alexandria telegram, dated March 26, reports that the cottonseed market is firmer, and spot is quoted 134p., equivalent to £12 0s. 1d., and April, 137p., equal to £12 5s. 5d.

As a further stage towards increased intercourse between the two countries, the Turkish Government has decided to send some 10,000 young Turks to Germany, in order there to be trained in different German industries.

According to a decree of the Hungarian Government published November 24, 1916, goods may only be exported to Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Turkey by special trains, and only through the intermediary of the "Hungarian Trade Bureau" (Akademia utca 3, Budapest V).

A supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of March 29 contains a complete list of articles the importation of which into the United Kingdom has been prohibited, except under license, by Royal Proclamations of February 15, 1916, and subsequent dates, and in respect of which applications for licenses should be addressed to the Controller, Department of Import Restrictions, 22, Carisle Place, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Electricians belonging to the Pan-Hellenic Union proclaimed a strike owing to the rejection of their demands. The Government refused to support their case. The result was that the electric current was stopped in Athens and the Piræus, and presumably in other towns, with a consequent cessation of communications, lighting, and industry. An agreement was subsequently reached between the Government and the committee representing the strikers, the committee undertaking to persuade the men to resume work on the assurance that the Government would consider their claims.

* Previous articles in this series have appeared in THE NEAR EAST of December 29, 1916, February 2 and 23, and March 9.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.**Another Week of Slow Trade and Producers' Complaints.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, March 28.

We have experienced another week of slow trade in the market, and complaints from producers have tended to increase. Although the position in many of our outlets abroad is not unhealthy, the problem at the moment is to get goods to our customers, as fewer boats are available than at any time since the beginning of the War.

Although fluctuations have occurred in raw cotton rates, prices remain on a distinctly high level.

Limited operations have transpired in piece goods for Egypt, but rather more inquiry has been reported for certain of the Near Eastern outlets. Much difficulty, however, has been experienced in arranging transactions. Sailings are very irregular.

Only a miscellaneous trade has transpired for India, and certain staple makes, such as grey shirtings, remain decidedly slow.

Few practicable bids have been received for China, but operations in dyed fabrics have not been quite at a standstill. The prospects for manufacturers as a body remain poor. Some firms are making arrangements to extend the usual Easter holidays.

There has been very little life in the yarn market. Spinners of both American and Egyptian qualities have only met with a retail trade. In the commoner marks ground continues to be lost, and stock lots have been cleared at prices which show a definite loss.

PRODUCE REPORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Seeds. LONDON, March 29.

Linseed has been steady during the week, with moderate business passing, at more or less improving rates. Calcutta-to-London spot was sold to-day at 117s., ex warehouse; afloat is quoted at 107s., with some sales at that figure; March-April, 106s.; whilst Bombay, spot, is offered at 113s., with afloat sold at 108s. Bombay-to-Hull spot and afloat is quoted at 108s., but without buyers.

Rapeseed has been in better inquiry, and prices are steady. Brown Cawnpore, prompt, London, 97s. asked, while for Guzera, Mar.-April, at 100s., and Toria, May-June, at 100s., there were few buyers at closing-time.

Cottonseed is quiet, but with prices well maintained. Egypt-to-London f.a.q. spot and prompt, £19 5s., and Sakalarides, £18 5s. East Africa-to-Liverpool is offered at £15 to £15 10s. per ton, quay terms.

Oils.

Linseed oil is somewhat dull, spot pipes being offered at £50, and barrels, spot, and April at £50 10s.; May-Aug., £52 10s.; and Sept.-Dec., £53 10s. Rape oil is firm, with English refined in barrels, spot, at £69. Cotton oil is steady; crude pipes, spot, offered at £54, refined pale pipes at £55, and sweet barrels at £62 to £64. Olive oil is not offered on the market.

Rangoon Beans.

This commodity continues to improve its position in the market, and considerable business has been done this week at higher rates. March sold at £71, Mar.-Apr. was quoted at £68, Apr.-May at £64, May-June, sold, at £61 10s., and June-July at £57 10s., while Aug.-Sept. to Nov.-Dec. are quoted at £56 c.i.f.

Miscellaneous.

Cottonseed meal is firm at £18 to £18 10s. ex store, net.—Beeswax is in better demand, African being held for £8 15s. to £9 5s. a cwt.—Almonds, Barbary, sweet, are selling well at 65s. to 70s. cwt., and bitter at 65s. to 75s. cwt., while Jordans are offered at £10 to £12 cwt.—Lentils find a good market at 43s. per 100 lbs.—Egyptian beans at 50s. per 480 lbs.

Egyptian eggs were scarce this week, prices varying from 13s. to 14s. per 120, while Egyptian new onions are now available, but at rather high prices.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.**German Intrigue Combined with Turkish Bribery.**

Lord Rathmore, presiding on March 27 at the 118th half-yearly meeting of shareholders of "The Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan," said: "Our railway still remains in the possession of the Turkish Government by which it was lawlessly seized in November, 1914, and from that time we have not received any revenue from it. We still continue to hold together in England as a nucleus those members of our staff who fortunately escaped to this country, and we hope we may thus find ourselves ready on the termination of the war to resume with as little delay as possible the working of the line." Lord Rathmore described the steps which the Council had taken and were taking in the negotiations with the Foreign Office to safeguard the interests of the company, amounting to about £5,000,000 of British capital in Asia Minor. The company was the pioneer of railway construction in Asia Minor, having received its original concession in 1856. The company at first had a struggling existence, but was becoming prosperous, with the intention of extending to Bagdad and the Persian Gulf, when German enterprise penetrated into that territory, and thereafter, with their "forceful diplomacy" and "systematic bribery of Turkish officials," received advantages over the British company. Notwithstanding this unfair competition, the British company had steadily progressed, and 1915 reported the largest net receipts ever earned. With reference to the seizure of their railway and all their property at Smyrna, they had lodged with the Foreign Claims Office a statement of their claims in respect of heavy losses imposed upon them, which might now amount to more than £1,000,000. In a letter to the Foreign Office as to their chances, he (Lord Rathmore), as President of the Council of Administration, had written:—

The future position of the railways of Asia Minor must, we suppose, depend on the political settlement which may be expected to follow upon the conclusion of peace, a settlement as to which it is not possible for us to attempt any forecast; but we think we may reasonably expect that if the Allied Powers obtain a complete victory the railways belonging to those Powers respectively will be restored to their lawful owners. We hope that we may also assume that the German companies will not be permitted to retain the railways which they now govern, considering that it was the German Government that drove Turkey at the last moment into the war, and also considering that, quite apart from the obvious objections from an Imperial point of view to leaving the railway route to India under their control, the frequent intrigues of the German companies against all similar enterprises and their wholesale corruption of Turkish officials must make their continuing influence a constant menace to the peaceful and prosperous working of the other railways of Asia Minor. If this expectation is fulfilled, and if the control of the Anatolian and Bagdad railways be taken out of German hands, my Council would most respectfully suggest that our company shall be entrusted with their management. . . . We feel confident that, with proper safeguards and under fair financial and other conditions (with the possible details of which we do not now presume to occupy your time), we should be able before long to produce such a revenue from the working of those railways as would provide a valuable asset for the liquidation of the debts which after the war may be found justly due from the Ottoman Government.

The Foreign Office, added Lord Rathmore, had acknowledged the letter, assuring the company that its claims and contentions would be carefully borne in mind.

The Premier Oil and Pipeline Company has received information to the effect that the Russian authorities have given to the company's representative possession, under restrictions, of a refinery situated in that part of Galicia which is now occupied by the Russians.

BULGARIAN NOTES.**The Wheat Crop Saved by Snowfall.**

Writing from Sofia on January 23, United States Consul-General D. I. Murphy remarked that "Bulgaria is now experiencing the first real touch of cold weather in the present winter. The recent snowfall probably means the saving of the wheat crop, which during the unseasonably warm weather of November and December had sprung up to a height of about five inches, but was menaced by the cold wave."

"Barley and rye had equally advanced, so that there is widespread satisfaction throughout the country on account of the impression that the snow is deep enough to save the crops. Outside the military zones the acreage of wheat, barley, and rye sown exceeded that of any previous year."

"The warm weather was favourable to the colza fields, as the seed had germinated and taken good root. The same is true of the fields of poppy."

"So unusual was the weather of these two months that geraniums and snowdrops bloomed in Sofia; violets appeared in the forests in quantities never before known; strawberries and raspberries ripened; and wild mustard bloomed in the plains of the Samokov district 3,168 feet above sea-level. The crocus and the hyacinth have been in bloom everywhere."

"In the Strumitza Valley, where twelve months ago war was raging, the people gathered tomatoes and green peppers until Christmas. Lettuce, garlic, broad beans, and other garden plants ripened everywhere under what seemed to be a summer sun. In many places plums, apricots, apples, peaches, and almonds ripened to bring gladness to the holiday season. In Gumuldjina new walnuts larger than the largest hazelnuts were gathered toward the end of December."

"The favourable weather enabled the farmers to finish sowing the winter wheat, barley, and rye, and to prepare their fields for the spring planting. In many places, noticeably around Xanthi, a good crop of hay was harvested in December, which was most unusual. Another good effect of the two warm months of November and December was that in the vineyards the growers were permitted to plant great quantities of American vines, which the phylloxera does not seem to attack, and which are most highly esteemed in Bulgaria."

BRITISH TRADE IN EGYPT.

At the annual meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce in Cairo on February 28, Mr. Jeffes urged the need to develop the British import trade as part of the economic war now being waged. He pointed out the opportunities for capturing the trade formerly in the hands of enemy firms now in liquidation. In the absence of travellers from England it was the duty of the Chamber to do all it could to help the development of British trade in Egypt. To do this he considered the Chamber wanted better weapons than it possessed. It should have a whole-time secretary, in fact each committee should have one with proper premises to work in and a suitable reference library. For this, money must be spent, and he advocated the use of the reserve fund of £E1,500 for this purpose.

He referred to the handicap under which the Cairo Committee laboured, without funds and without power of direct initiative, and invited an expression of opinion on the subject.

After some remarks from other members a resolution was passed with but one dissentient vote to the effect that the Cairo Committee should have further scope.

EGYPTIAN ACCOUNTS FOR 1916.

A Reuter telegram states that the Financial Adviser, in his note accompanying the Egyptian Budget statement, shows that whilst other countries are suffering considerably as a result of the war Egypt has been growing rich. Last year was one of undoubted prosperity. The Budget figures for 1917 are the highest on record. The estimated revenue totalled £E19,525,000, and the estimated expenditure was the same. The estimated increase in the revenue amounted to £E3,000,000.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Irrigation.—In Egypt.

Some interesting facts and figures, relating to irrigation in Egypt and India, were recently given to interested parties in Australia by Mr. W. R. Williams, late Inspector-General of the Public Works Department in Egypt. Apart from their instructive value, they show how British rule, without much ado or ostentation, works and accomplishes the development and practical progress of the countries under its care. Mr. Williams said reclamation in connection with irrigation on the Nile does not mean bringing arid desert land under cultivation, but the draining and irrigating of land which was once submerged. The soil served by the river is wonderfully rich and fertile because it has been deposited by countless floods for centuries past. There is an enormous depth of this alluvial, rich soil, but it practically terminates abruptly. There is a distinct line of demarcation between the alluvial soil along the Nile and the desert proper. One does not merge into the other by degrees, and irrigation enterprise does not mean taking water to it. Nothing can be done with the actual desert. But land is reclaimed that has for generations been submerged, or partly submerged, and is full of salts that have to be washed out. There are nearly 6,000,000 acres of land served by irrigation enterprise on the Nile, including partly-developed and high level land in Middle and Upper Egypt, which only gives one crop in the year. The land is practically all privately owned, but a large proportion of the land to be developed in the future will be Government owned. Nearly 2,000,000 acres will be developed; about 225,000 acres have already been partially developed by private owners.

Land Returning Two Crops.

Besides the development of the new lands there is a considerable area which has only inundation irrigation, and, later, will be

provided with perennial irrigation, both by gravitation and pumping schemes; this means that the land will return two crops. To effect this, water will be obtained from the upper reaches of the Nile, and eventually this will necessitate storage three or four times greater than the present capacity of the Assouan Dam—the greatest reservoir in the world at present. In addition, there is a Sudan scheme to develop the Gezira tract, some 3,000,000 acres in extent, which, it is believed, will be brought under cultivation if water is supplied.

Mr. Williams stated that the greater proportion of the irrigated holdings on the Nile are small, and are worked by the owners. There are also some large estates, worked under the supervision of the owners, and some of these are examples of what can be achieved by improved methods of cultivation. There is also a large area of country rented out to small farmers. Rents run from £6 to £12 per acre per annum. The cotton crop, which totals a value of £30,000,000 to £35,000,000 a year, shows an average return of about £20 an acre. Individual growers obtain a return up to £30 per acre. The land is watered once about every three weeks. There is no water tax, but a land tax has to be paid, whether the water is used or not. The land, however, is valueless without the water, so it pays for the privilege of being drained and irrigated by Government channels. Various crops—maize, sugar-cane, and barley—grow prolifically, in addition to cotton. Sugar-cane is a very profitable crop in Upper Egypt; and French and Belgian companies have established sugar refineries.

—In India.

Mr. Williams was for thirteen years an engineer in India, and interesting as he is in what concerns Egypt, he speaks with more enthusiasm of the work carried out by the Public Works Department in India. There are, he said, great irrigation works, works approaching in magnitude that of the Assouan Dam, not one, but twenty of which the out-

side world hears nothing. They are not in the "tourist track" like the work in Egypt, and escape notice. Irrigation in India goes back to ancient days, but where there were about 750,000 acres under irrigation in the country when the British took it over, there are now 24,000,000 acres and that great area includes what are termed protective works that are built in arid tracks to provide against famine.

New Fibre Decorticator.

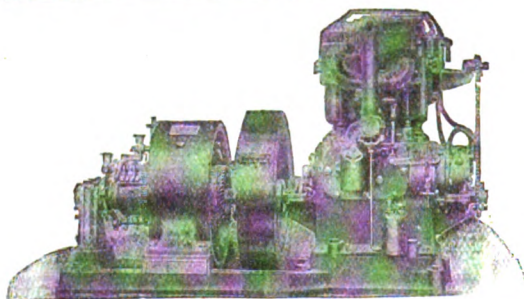
There is a small, interesting, but little known industry in the Near East in which thousands of women, girls, and men with small capital are engaged, and the products of which, although highly appreciated in the fashionable quarters of Europe and America, few know the origin. It is the manufacture of exquisite and fine laces, tablecovers, handkerchiefs, and such fineries, from the fibres of agave or American aloe. The impediment in the use of developing this industry on a commercial basis is the great difficulty experienced in extracting the fibre from the thick and spiky leaves of the plant—one often weighing from 4lb. to 8lb. The natives put them in water and leave them in it until they are thoroughly rotten. Then, by hand and a tedious process, the fibres are extracted, cleaned and prepared for lacework.

Production Limited.

By this process the production of fibre is, of course, limited, and the industry is making little progress. When the seven Ionian Islands were under the protection of Great Britain, the industry was much encouraged and supported in Cephalonia by English women residing there. Laces were sent to England in fair quantities and the example of Cephalonia was followed by other districts further east along the Mediterranean coast; but always on a small scale. The agave is a native of Mexico but has been successfully naturalized in Southern Europe, especially in the Near East, where it is used as hedges.

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, OIL AND GAS ENGINES. ENGLAND.

**Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.**



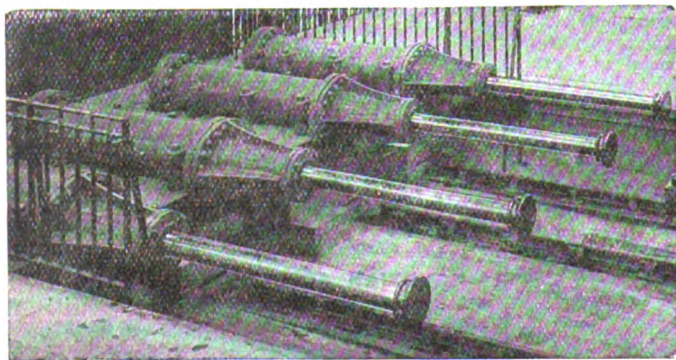
**Suitable for
driving :—
Dynamos, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.**

**Foreign Branches and
Agents :**

INDIA
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dilsiz Zade Han,
Stamboul, Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.,
Cairo.



7 feet Hydraulic Buffer Stops at Waterloo Station for stopping 400 ton trains at 10 miles per hour.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

— ALSO —

HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS

(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers) SUCH AS

and other
RAILWAY
PLANT

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes,
Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements. Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables : "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "SLUICE, LONDON."

The plant takes from ten to seventy years to arrive at maturity, flowers once, and then perishes. It requires no attention whatever and can easily be increased in hedgerows.

Failures Retrieved.

Many failures were experienced in trying to find a machine that could extract and prepare such fibres as those in the agave's leaves. American, Italian and other engineers tried but with little or no success, and it was interesting the other day to see a machine of British design and construction that could decorticate various leaf fibres such as sisal, sanseveria, agave, etc., with remarkable success. In the case of the agave, an attendant feeds the leaves in a set of crushing rolls, the object of this process being to crush the central rib and to bruise and partly cut the tough outer skin of each leaf. Endless grip chains convey the crushed leaves from the rolls to the first and then to the second of the two decortivating drums, each of which is provided with sixteen gun-metal strippers. The drums revolve against a cast iron shoe or curved plate, to which is attached a flat oblique phosphor-bronze bar on which the decortication takes place, and which enables the fibre to be easily extracted from the crushed leaves in the most effective manner, with a minimum of power and waste. During the process of decortication, the fibre is nicely washed. When it is separated from sisal or other leaves under the action of the beaters it has a tinge, usually green, due to the juice of the leaves left on the fibre by the decortivating action of the strippers. Without any loss of time, and before the fibre completely emerges from the decortivating operation, the water acts on it and frees it from all juice and extraneous matter. The cleanly decorticated fibre issues from the right of the machine, and is very conveniently piled on the floor.

THE SUDAN RAILWAY.

In his concluding article on "Railways in Africa" which appears in the current issue of *United Empire*, Mr. Evans Lewin writes as follows on the Sudan Railways:—

The railways in the Sudan, in view of the enormous size of the country, cannot be considered extensive. Nevertheless, the building of about 1,500 miles of track through a country which up to the year of the second Sudan campaign of 1897-98 was a prey to incessant warfare, and was then in a state of practical anarchy, may be regarded as a notable Imperial achievement. But for the outbreak of war certain extensions of lines and the construction of railways from Sennar to Singa, the capital of the Sennar Province, and from Tokhar to Suakin, would have been undertaken. With the conclusion of peace there can be no doubt that it would be true economic and strategic wisdom to continue most of the African railway schemes at the point where they have been temporarily abandoned. The future of Africa as the great storehouse of the raw products needed for the industries of Europe, and the source of many important foodstuffs, renders it imperative that its full resources should be utilised by those nations which are capable of exercising a just and righteous control over the teeming millions of the Dark Continent.

NEW GALICIAN OIL GUSHER.

Flowing wells are now not often reported from Galicia. This may be due to the censorship, though recent production figures (quoted last week in this column) are not large enough to leave room in them for many gushers. In these circumstances the news that the MacGarvey interests, who are among the largest producers and refiners in Austria, have got a new well with a production of about 200 tons a day, is noteworthy. These operators brought in a series of good wells during the few months before the war, notably Tloka No. 18, which gave 600 tons per day. This well was situated on property held by the MacGarvey's jointly with French capitalists.—*Financier*.

THE STROSS CASE.

Further Evidence in the Charge of Trading with the Enemy.

The charges against the members of the firm of Adolphe Stross and Co. are still before the Alexandria Court.

At the hearing on March 1, Mr. Hornsby, of the National Bank of Egypt at Cairo, gave evidence as to the account of the Assicurazioni Generale di Trieste with his bank. He adduced copies of letters from Athens in connection with the Bucharest Insurance Company to show the connection of the latter company with the Trieste company.

Mr. Joyce, sub-manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Alexandria, then gave evidence. He said he was appointed controller of the Stross business in March, 1916, and in the following June became the receiver for the purpose of liquidation. The extent of the business in Egypt of the Trieste company was very large, and the profits obtained were considerable.

Mr. Adolphe Stross had been the sole agent of the company for thirty-six years. Before the war the Trieste company was always considered Austrian, but it had an important Italian interest. Witness gave a number of details as to the transactions between Mr. Stross and the Trieste company for the purpose of liquidating various private debts that he had in Germany and Austria. The most important point raised by this evidence was as to the conduct of Mr. Stross in asking the Venice branch of the Trieste company to credit him with £6,000 in Egypt.

Mr. Max Stross, on the following day, was examined for the defence by Mr. Perrott, explained how he came to take up the agency for the Bucharest company, and described the manner in which the transactions with the Bucharest company and with the Trieste and the Venice company were carried out.

He was afterwards cross-examined by Mr. Halford for the Crown. He declined to admit that Trieste was interested in certain contracts. Referring to the letter asking for an introduction for Mr. Stross to be made agent for the Bucharest company after the Venice concern had been refused admission to the Alexandria Insurance Syndicate, Mr. Max Stross admitted that this letter was addressed to Trieste. Asked why he wrote through Trieste instead of directly to Bucharest, he replied that he knew that some of the men on the board of the Trieste company were interested in the Bucharest company.

Mr. Halford then asked why the firm applied at all for the Bucharest agency, and Stross said that at that time, October, 1914, everybody thought that the war would soon be over, and he wished to keep the portfolio which his father had made up with such difficulty. English, French, and Italian insurance companies had already asked the firm to pass its clients on to them. As to the letter in question, Mr. Max Stross accepted full responsibility. Referring to the reply from Venice in answer to that letter, the Venice company agreed to work the business on condition that it was done "exclusively through them," which meant, said Mr. Stross, that every facility would be afforded them as old agents of the Trieste company in Bucharest.

Asked to explain his belief that Bucharest would take on a business such as this without getting any profit from it, Mr. Stross said that he thought Bucharest was only doing a friendly service for Trieste until the war was over, as at that time nobody thought the war would last more than another six months. Mr. Stross, in reply to another question, acknowledged that before he became agent for Bucharest the correspondence sent to Venice had really been intended for Trieste.

The case was adjourned.

COMPANY NOTES.

British Maikop.

The report of the British Maikop Oil to July 13, 1916 (June 30, 1916, o/s), states that the production for the year was 154,921 poods (about 2,499 tons); add stock on hand at July 1, 1915, o/s 8,891 poods—163,812 poods. Less deliveries to pipeline, 143,802 poods; used for fuel and loss by leakage, etc., 13,009 poods—156,811 poods; leaving stock on hand, 7,001 poods. The average net price realised was approximately 48 copecks per pood (which, taken at the normal rate of exchange, as before, is about £3 2s. 7d. per ton).

National Bank of Egypt.

The accounts for 1916 provide for a dividend of 6 per cent. (12s. per share), £31,353 to statutory reserve, £80,000 special reserve, and £22,179 carried forward.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt. 3½ per cent. bonds coupon No. 25 will be paid by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C., on April 2, 1917.

The coupons of the 4 per cent. Greek loan of 1910 falling due on April 1, 1917, should be presented for payment between the hours of 11 and 2, at the Office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street, or of Messrs. Erlanger, 8, Crosby Square, E.C., where lists may be obtained.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Limited, give notice that tomorrow a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the Cumulative Preference shares of the Company, less Income Tax at the rate of 5s. in the £ for the six months to December 31, will be paid at the Bank of Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria. Holders of Preference Share Warrants to Bearer are therefore requested to present Coupon No. 37 for payment by that date.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week 22 tons. Hurgada production for week, 3,107 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week ended March 17, 67,900 poods. Decrease due to one day's strike of workmen.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended March 17, 19,776 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended March 18, 51,933 poods.

British Maikop Oil.—Week ended March 17, 2,244 poods.

European Oilfields.—Week ended March 18, 76,000 poods. Work interrupted for 24 hours.

International Russian Oilfields.—Four weeks ended March 3, 6,028 poods, or approximately 97 tons.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended March 17, 14,709 poods.

Maikop Pipeline.—Week ended March 17, 115,175 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended March 17, 47,300 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—Week ended March 18, 164,355 poods.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Week ended March 15, 150,476 poods.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	Weekly Situation.	
	1916. Week ended March 16.	1917. Week ended March 15.
Cattle markets	996 ..	1,117
General markets	350 ..	376
Cattle markets closed	4 ..	11
Receipts (£)	1,346 ..	1,493
Total from commencement of year (£)	15,405 ..	17,339

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.
For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—
THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

R. OTT AND CO.,

ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: "Ottimo."

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)
THROMMORTON AVENUE, E.C.

Thursday.

Business continues on very restricted lines alike in bank, land, and industrial shares; but there has again been a strong demand throughout the week for both Egyptian Unified and 3½ per cent. preferences. In the former a fairly large business has been done at advancing prices, to-night's quotation of 80½ showing a rise of about 2 on the week.

As regards Egyptian 3½ per cent. preferences, the price is nominally a point higher at 68, but there has been practically no business owing to the lack of sellers.

In Agricultural Banks some trifling transactions have taken place around 5 3/16-5½, and about 150 Nationals have also been done at about 13 9-16.

Anglo-Egyptians, after being rather firmer at 11½, finished unchanged at 11½. Agricultural deferreds have been wanted in the neighbourhood of £330, but there are no sellers, and Agricultural preferences have changed hands in a small way at 6½.

Some business has been done in Egyptian Markets round 26s., and in Salt and Sodas on the basis of 19s. to 20s.

Khedivial Mails have been an improving market, and on some sustained buying have risen 1s. 6d. to 28s. 3d.

In Greek securities, apart from some trifling transactions in Greek Rentes at about 4½, and in Greek Rails round 62, there have been no dealings owing to scarcity of sellers.

Oil Shares.

Inactivity has ruled pretty supremely in this market, and there is little change in values to report. Anglo-Egyptian "B's" were in the vicinity of 11s.; Ural Caspians, 1½; Russian Petroleum eased to 2s.; Premier Oil and Pipe Lines were a turn better at 2s. 3d., following the announcement that the Russian Government had made over, subject to certain restrictions, a refinery in the occupied portion of Galicia.

Paris Bourse.

Business has been restricted to the favourite securities. Egyptian Unified 4 per cents. advanced 50 centimes to 89.50 on Wednesday. Crédit Foncier Egyptians improved a point to 635, and Suez Canals 5 frs. to 4350. Other quotations of moment are:—Serbian, 1895, 54.50; Turkish Unified, 65.75; and Ottoman Bank, 420.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, March 29.

The week has seen an abundance of credit in the market, with practically no demand for money. At the opening to-day, day-to-day loans were called nominally 4 per cent. to 4½ per cent., but the last rate was rarely asked. Towards the close of the day lenders were glad to accept 3 per cent. for balances.

Exchange on Alexandria stands at 97 to 97½ piastres to the pound sterling.

Bar silver recovered sharply 7d. to 36½.

WHEAT, MAIZE, AND RICE CROPS.

The Board of Agriculture have received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute:—

The production of wheat in Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand is estimated at 121,218,000 cwt., or 7.7 per cent. below the average yield in the period 1909-13. The 1916 maize harvest in Spain is estimated at 14,321,000 cwt., or 7.9 per cent. above the average crop in 1909-13. In the United States, Canada, European Russia, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, and Egypt the total production of maize is estimated to be 1,420,757,000 cwt., a decrease of 5.1 per cent., as compared with the corresponding production in 1909-13.

The production of rice in Spain is 4,758,000 cwt., and in British India 1,049,642,000 cwt., or 27.3 per cent. and 19.21 per cent. respectively above the average yield in 1909-13. In Spain, Italy, the United States, British India, and Japan the total production of rice is estimated at 1,282,104,000 cwt., or 17.5 per cent. above the corresponding average yield in the quinquennial period. The area sown with wheat in 1916-17 in Spain and Japan is estimated at 10,134,000 acres (3 per cent. above last year) and 1,236,000 acres (0.4 per cent. above last year) respectively.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

City of Alexandria 4 % 1909	99	75
Egyptian 4 % United Debt	98	78½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 % 1890	88	67
Greek 5 % 1881	57	51
Do. 5 % 1884	56	51
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	45	47
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42½
Do. 5 % 1890	56	50
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	56	49
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71½
Do. 5 % Currant	88	88
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½
Persia 5 % 1911	—	72½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc.	—	—
£50p.	92	67½
Serbian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	74
Turkish 4 % 1891	94	73½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	66
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6½	6½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	3½	3½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	5	5
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	—	—
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½

RAILWAYS.

Egypt. Delta Light 5½ % C. Pf.	8½	5	5
Warrants to Bearer	17½	9½	9½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	10	75	75
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	61	53	53
Do. Do. 3 % Bonds	—	—	—

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	2½	2½
Béhéra Co.	8½	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/—	2/—
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/—	8/3	8/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/—	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	3½	3½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/6	8/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1½
Unified Egyptian Lands	1/9	—/6	—/6

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	25/9	25/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1½	20/—	19/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	1½	26/9	28/3
Do. do. Pref.	3½	3½	3½

OIL.

Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/3	10/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21/—	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6
Roumanian Consolidated	9/3	8/9

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON FEBRUARY 24.
Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E. 13½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. —	—	—
Alexandria Water Co. Ltd.	L.E. 12	—	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. —	—	—
priv.	L.E. —	—	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. —	—	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. —	—	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs. 68	—	—
Privillégiée	Frs. —	—	—
Cheikh Fâdl	Frs. 73	—	—
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E. —	—	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£ —	—	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ —	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. —	—	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. —	—	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. —	—	—
Unifiée	L.E. 81	—	—
Privillégiée	69½	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—	—
Fondateur	£ —	—	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ —	—	—
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½	—	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½	—	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ —	—	—
Ord.	26/9	—	—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£ 6½	—	—
Alex. and Ramlah Railway	£ 4½	—	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs. 5	—	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 101	—	—
Jouissance	Frs. 160	—	—
Egyptian Markets	—	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie	Frs. 280	—	—
Div.	Frs. 220	—	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 175	—	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	20/3	—	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptian	Frs. 635	—	—
1886 Oblig.	Frs. 325	—	—
1903 "	Frs. 260	—	—
1911 "	Frs. 258	—	—
Delta Lands	—	—	—
Port Said Salt	—	—	—
Cotton Ginners	—	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	—	—	—
United Lands	P.T. —	—	—
Levan S.S. Co.	—	—	—
Fond	—	—	—

NOTICE.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Saturday, the 7th April, 1917, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report.
- Receiving the Auditors' Report.
- Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1916.
- Declaring a dividend.
- Electing Directors.
- Electing Auditors for the year 1917 and fixing their remuneration.

All shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting, providing the Shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:—

In Egypt, at the latest, the 2nd April, 1917.

At the Head Office, Cairo.

At the Branch of Alexandria.

At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiout, Assouan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chabin-el-Kom, Damamhour, Fayoum, Kench, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod el Farag, Sohag, Tanta, Zagazig, and Moussy (Cairo).

At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

Bank of Athens.

Banque Belge pour l'Etranger.

Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Banque d'Orient.

Banco di Roma.

Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio.

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

Crédit Lyonnais.

In the Soudan, at the latest, the 28th March, 1917, at the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt, at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakim.

In Europe, at the latest, the 16th March, 1917.

In Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise.

In Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

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

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.

Cairo, the 27th February, 1917.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to January 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14, 1916, to February 13, 1917):—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps	Piræus Customs.
	Stamped Paper	Naxos Emery.
Gross Receipts, Jan., 1917	Drachmas. 3,173,884	Drachmas. 1,455,000
Do. do. do 1916	3,615,870	1,832,000
Estimated Receipts for 1 month (Law of Control)	2,408,333	851,666
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 1 month	1917 + 765,551	+ 563,333
	1916 + 1,207,537	+ 940,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49.15 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1883. The receipts in gold both from Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmas at par when the average rate of exchange of the month is par or below par, but when the average rate of the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
March 20	180,000	200,000
March 21	440,000	280,000
March 25	400,000	170,000
March 26	170,000	170,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flat Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packing), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoh, Manchester." Importers of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Dressing, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 309.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	517	TANGIER TO TEHERAN	528	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	524	Notes and News	531
Cairo	519	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	529	Sudan Government Budget	
Sudan	520	NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	528	for 1917	532
Cyprus	521	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		British Trade in Egypt ..	533
Syria (via Cairo)	521	Marko Kraljevitch (Mr. James		Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	533
SPECIAL ARTICLE—		W. Wiles and Miss M.		Trade Notes	534
The Campaign in Palestine ..	527	Edith Durham)	522	Engineering Notes	535
LEADING ARTICLE—		The Future of Palestine (Dr.		Company Notes	535
The Allies and Greece	526	E. W. G. Masterman)	522	On 'Change	536
NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		The Roumanian Relief Fund		Stock and Share List	536
In Asiatic Turkey	523	(The Lord Mayor of London)	522		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Last week, too late for reference in our columns, came the long expected news of the British advance into Palestine. On January 9 the frontier town of Rafa had been captured, and exactly two months later it was announced that the enemy had abandoned a strong position near Sheikh Nuran, some sixteen miles east of Rafa, in the direction of Beersheba. Thus the invasion of Syria could be regarded as properly launched, and further reports of the progress of the forces led by General Dobell and General Chetwode, under the command of Sir Archibald Murray, were awaited with some eagerness. The mention of railway construction in the official statement provides the explanation why the advance has not been more rapid. Raids, however sensational, are of little practical use in this part of the world, and have dropped out of the order of the day. As in Mesopotamia, the British are advancing methodically and consolidating their position in the territory won.

From the two reports now received from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, it is evident that the battle of Wadi Ghuzzeh was fiercely contested. Both at Rafa and at Sheikh Nuran the Turks had failed to make any stand, in spite of the strength of the defences, which at the latter place had taken two months to construct. Sooner or later, however, the advance would have to be challenged seriously, and a determined effort has now been made at the water-course five miles south of Gaza. The intention of the British force was to seize the Wadi Ghuzzeh for the purpose of covering the advance of the railway. The Wadi was occupied without a fight, and in order to test the enemy's mettle an attempt was made to capture Gaza by a *coup de main*. It only just failed. A dense fog delayed operations on the morning of March 26; consequently the Gaza position could only be attacked late in the afternoon. The enemy's first-line trenches were occupied and more than 700 prisoners were taken. Three Turkish columns under a German commander were moved up for the support of Gaza, but were engaged by British mounted troops, and suffered heavy losses, the commander and staff of the 53rd Division being captured.

Unfortunately the attack could not be pressed home, as the infantry were dependent for water on what they carried with them. The delay in starting caused by the fog had not been utilised to replenish their supply, and,

presumably at night, this force was withdrawn to a defensive position between Gaza and the Wadi Ghuzzeh. Here they were attacked on the following day, but the Turks, according to the official statement, were everywhere repulsed with heavy losses, "our Camel Corps completely defeating the Turkish Cavalry Division." A further withdrawal took place on March 28 to the Wadi Ghuzzeh itself, which remains in British occupation. As a result of the two days' fighting the enemy's casualties are estimated at 8,000; the prisoners taken amounted to 950. The British losses were less than 400 killed; but some small parties, numbering less than 200 in all, who are believed to have fought their way into Gaza and been cut off, are missing.

Sir Archibald Murray's comment is that "the operation was most successful, and owing to the fog and waterless nature of the country round Gaza just fell short of a complete disaster to the enemy." With this verdict there will be no disposition to find fault. The enemy was engaged and decisively beaten. But the account of the battle acquires added interest, if it be read in conjunction with the article which we publish elsewhere in this issue on the campaign in Palestine. In the first place, the course of the fighting bears out the expectation that the Turks will make as desperate an effort as possible to check the invading force. The capture of Jerusalem, the article suggests, is more likely to be the effect of successful operations to the west and north than to form the immediate objective of the expedition; but for the Turks the fall of the Holy City, however it may be brought about, will mean more than the loss of the surrounding district. It will inevitably carry with it the cutting of the Hejaz Railway and the loss of the whole of Western Arabia. Unless, indeed, General Murray's forces are out for big things, it would be thought that more was to be gained at once by a direct thrust for the Hejaz Railway than by one in a northerly direction. But the information regarding the Turks' powers of resistance must be the deciding factor, and in any case a campaign of intense interest is promised.

In the meantime the British and Russian forces now converging on the frontier between Mesopotamia and Persia continue to make progress. Sir Stanley Maude's troops are advancing on both sides of the Diala River. On the right bank they have reached Deli Abbas, on the road leading to Arbil and Mosul, which any Turks escaping from the Russians must endeavour to join either at Kerkuk or at some point south of it. On the

Khanikin road another British column is approaching Kizil Robat, some twenty miles from Khanikin. The Russians have successfully surmounted the obstacles which delayed their approach to Kasr-i-Shirin, and from where they now are the country falls to Khanikin and beyond. As far as can be gathered from the brief reports, the immediate object of the Turks must be to detain the British force on the Deli Abbas road, and the Russian troops operating south of Bana, in the neighbourhood of Panjevin, in order to give the remnant of the army falling back from Hamadan time to escape towards Mosul. The British advance has encountered strenuous resistance, in the course of which severe losses have been inflicted on the enemy, and near Panjevin the Turks have indulged in unsuccessful counter-attacks. These efforts have not affected the general situation, which is that on a wide front, reaching to the Euphrates on the west, the Turks are now in full retreat.

In the Near East there have been no events of importance during the past week. Minor operations both on the Roumanian front and in Macedonia are chronicled from day to day; but they amount to little more than a statement that the contending forces are in touch with one another. The weather still militates against more extensive activities, while in Roumania the time has not yet come for the Allies to attempt to force the pace. Better things were looked for from Macedonia, where the French and Italian successes which marked the opening of what was termed the spring offensive gave promise of interesting developments. But the operations in the immediate neighbourhood of Monastir have again died down, and the British command breaks silence for the first time to announce that "there have been no operations on a large scale on the fronts occupied by the British forces at Salonika during the past week."

After very long hesitation, for which the President, rather than the people, must be held responsible, the United States may be regarded as having taken the resolve to enter the war against Germany. The enthusiasm which greeted Mr. Wilson's Message to Congress showed that the country as a whole has long been ahead of the Government in making up its mind on the subject. Indeed, it will be difficult for President Wilson to defend himself against the charge that his delay has robbed the United States of all credit for altruistic motives. It is true that they enter the war as "one of the champions of the rights of mankind," but it was not until American rights had been repeatedly assailed that the step was taken. No manner of outrages nor breaches of the law of nations committed by Germany were allowed to affect America until they had touched American citizens, and Germany had to wage war fairly fiercely for some time before the President chose to face the situation. The die, however, has now been cast, and we may expect to see the United States play their part with all the hustle of which they are capable. One of their first contributions to the Allied cause ought to be the liberation of German shipping interned in their harbours for the general use.

The American declaration of war, it is understood, is intended to be restricted to Germany, and not to apply to Turkey and Bulgaria. It will be of interest to see how this situation is accepted by these two countries, and whether Germany will allow them to acquiesce in the distinction. The temptation of the German Government to retaliate as much as lies in its power will be strong, and a word from it will go far to compel both Bulgaria and Turkey to sequester all American property in their possession. But recent events may possibly have persuaded the Sofia and the Constantinople authorities that they are less able than Berlin to affect a splendid indifference to the enmity of the whole world, and they may welcome an opportunity of a tentative display of independence.

The claim made by M. Venizelos, that if the National Movement were given a free hand by the Allies, it would quickly make headway against the Athens Government and its autocratic hold on the country, is being borne out by recent developments in Greece. Discontent with the Royalist Government, it is reported, continues to spread. There is said to have been a definite rising in the island of Leucas (Santa Maura) and disturbances in Thessaly. But it is not by such means that those who wish Greece well will want to see her recover a constitutional regime. These isolated risings can generally be stamped out by the authorities, and cause suffering to many innocent people. What is wanted in Greece is that popular feeling, if it sides with M. Venizelos and the National Government, should have an opportunity of declaring itself without recourse to extreme measures, but in a manner so overwhelming that King Constantine will be compelled to accept defeat. As the days pass and the military position of the Central Powers sheds some of the glamour with which German war bulletins have invested it, the King can hardly fail to discover fresh points of resemblance between the situation in which he finds himself and the history of King Otho. The same Powers stood sponsors for the latter, but this fact did not prevent them from acknowledging Greece's right to change her ruler, if she could show good cause. King Otho had some excuse for supposing that he was hedged around by the divine right of kings. The present sovereign has no justification for forgetting that he is the constitutional monarch of a very democratic people. He has also forgotten, what was proved in King Otho's days, that the German and the Greek temperaments are poles asunder.

In this connection it is of interest to recall the statement made by Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a despatch dated November 6, 1862, to the British Minister at Athens. He wrote: "Her Majesty's Government have learned of these events without surprise; they have long lamented the blind policy pursued by King Otho, and they have long foreseen that it tended, sooner or later, to produce the catastrophe which has now happened. . . . The kingdom of Greece having by the transaction of 1832 been acknowledged as an independent State, the people of Greece are entitled to exercise the rights of national independence. . . . One of the rights which belong to an independent nation . . . is that of changing its governing dynasty upon good and sufficient cause." There should be no departure from such a standpoint at this stage.

Reference was made in these Notes last week to the action of the Germans in spreading abroad complaints of the internment of German and Austrian citizens as a preliminary to a policy of ruthless deportations applied to some, if not most, of the prominent Roumanians left behind in the occupied territory. From an official statement now issued by the Roumanian Government, it appears that the subject of an exchange of interned civilians has been discussed for some time past between Roumania and the Central Powers, and an agreement had been virtually reached with Austria-Hungary for an exchange of all males below seventeen and over fifty years of age. Subsequently, however, Germany intervened with a proposal to exchange all interned persons without conditions as to age, and seems to have set about equalising by wholesale arrests the number of Germans seized by the Roumanians at the declaration of war for espionage or attempted outrages. As the Roumanian Government demurred to this proposal Germany, with a view to bringing pressure to bear upon it, has sent an ultimatum announcing that unless Roumania accepts the terms and carries them out at once the number of Roumanian hostages will be considerably increased, and all will be deported to Turkey or Bulgaria. The action is thoroughly German, and from the threat we are led to infer that the Central Alliance recognises gradations in the amenities of *Kultur* as practised in Germany on the one hand and in her Balkan vassals on the other.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Garden Party at the Residency.

CAIRO, MARCH 7.

H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate made their official bow, so to speak, to the British, Egyptian, and foreign communities on Thursday afternoon last, when they gave their first garden party since their transfer to Cairo. There was an enormous gathering, including T.H. Princes Ahmed Fuad, Kemal-ed-Dine, Yussef Kamel, Omar Toussoun, and other members of the Sultania family. The weather was delightful, and the Residency grounds were at their very best; in short, everything combined to make the occasion a memorable one and an auspicious send-off for the new régime which has come into being.

One of the most noticeable figures among the guests was undoubtedly the Maharaja of Bikanir, who had hurried back from the Fayoum, where he had inspected the Bikanir Camel Corps, in order to be present at the garden party. The Maharaja and his two fellow delegates to the Imperial Conference, Sir James Meston and Sir S. Sinha, were entertained at a dinner-party which Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate gave in their honour in the evening, and have since left for Port Said en route for England.

H.H. the Sultan.

The Sultan is making steady progress. Every morning he proceeds to the village of Almaza, out in the Heliopolis Desert, where he remains the whole day, returning to Abdin Palace at night. Tents have been erected at Almaza for his accommodation, and His Highness is deriving great benefit from the excellent air and the complete rest which the sojourn in the desert is affording him.

The Sultan has this past week specially conferred decorations on various officials. Amongst them is Mr. A. T. McKillop, Inspector-General of Agriculture, who has received the high distinction of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, "in recognition of his long and excellent services."

The Hellenic Community.

General Sir Archibald Murray, as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the British Forces in Egypt, has just issued a proclamation, which is destined to have wide-reaching effects as well as to regularise the position in Egypt of the adherents to the Venizelist movement. The proclamation points out that the majority of Greeks resident in Egypt have declared their adhesion to the Salonika Provisional Government and their repudiation of the Athens Government and its representatives, but that, while the appointment of Consuls in Egypt by the Provisional Government has secured Consular protection for the adherents of the said Government, no judicial powers have been conferred on these Consular authorities, and that consequently the persons under the protection of the latter are left without the judicial machinery necessary for the protection of their rights. In the circumstances, since it devolves on the Commander-in-Chief, in the interests of public order, to remedy the situation by creating whatever courts may be necessary, and since to enable him to do this and grant to those courts the requisite powers, it is desirable that all for whose benefit those courts are to operate should elect to come under his protection, General Murray has ordered all Greeks resident in Egypt, who have already adhered, or who desire to adhere, to the Salonika Government to declare in writing not later than April 5 next that they place themselves under his protection. Recourse to the powers vested under martial law in the General was the only available means of setting a term to a state of affairs which had been brought into being by the recognition of the Venizelist representatives side by side with those of the Athens Government, who were bound to exercise and enjoy the judicial powers conferred on them under the Capitulations so long as they remained accredited to the Egyptian Government, and so long as the military authorities did not see fit to intervene. It will be interesting to watch developments, for there is no doubt that the promulgation of this proclamation foreshadows the taking of other measures in connection with the local Greek community.

March 14.

The Sultan's Health.

The Sultan has derived so much benefit from his daily outings in the desert beyond Heliopolis that his doctors have advised him to take up his residence for some time in the oasis. His Highness has, accordingly, moved out to the villa which he owns in "New Cairo," and according to present arrangements will stay there until the early days of April. It is expected that the Sultan will proceed earlier than usual to Alexandria this year. Already renovations are being carried out at Ras-el-Tin Palace.

The High Commissioner.

The day after Sir James Meston and the Maharaja of Bikanir left for England Lord and Lady Ronaldshay arrived here on their way to India. They spent the night at the Residency as the guests of Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, and then proceeded for a few days to Luxor. They have since left for Bombay.

The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate continue their round of visits to the various educational institutions of the city. Amongst the establishments inspected by them this week was the School for British Children, which was opened last autumn, and which, I understand, is proving a great success.

The Census.

The "numbering of the people," fixed for midnight of the 6/7th inst., took place last week. All the arrangements appear to have been excellent; everything went off smoothly, and there were no untoward incidents, in spite of the difficulties usually encountered in dealing with such a cosmopolitan community and such a relatively ignorant mass of people as Egypt possesses. The consular authorities rendered considerable assistance by issuing orders to their nationals to comply with all the census requirements. For once in a way, the city was tolerably quiet during the night, and there was a total absence of those bands of roving Berberin and other vagabonds who usually make the night air hideous with their raucous laughter and loud chatter. The reason for this was that for the purposes of the census the police had instructions to hale before the enumerators stationed at the various caracols (police-stations) all natives found wandering in the streets in the small hours of the morning. A very great number of Government officials (clerks, etc.) have acted as enumerators, and to enable them to repose after their labours through the previous night Wednesday was decreed a holiday for all those who had participated in the work. Most of the Government administrations had, therefore, to work on that day without any of their junior staff. Taking the normal rate of increase, the population of Egypt should turn out to be in the neighbourhood of fourteen millions, but a great many people are of opinion that the number will not fall short of fifteen millions, in view of the facts that they do not consider the 1907 census to have been complete, and that the present one is being conducted on much more efficient and scientific lines.

The Venizelists.

As was to be expected in the circumstances, the proclamation of General Murray, referred to in my last week's letter, has caused quite a flutter in the local Greek dovecote. The Venizelist Press welcomes it as setting a term to the anomalous and unsatisfactory state of affairs which has existed in the colony during the past year; the Royalist Press is somewhat guarded in its remarks, but is plainly disquietened as to what may be at the back of this step on the part of the British authorities. We may rest assured, however, that there will be very few, if any, of the members of the local Greek colony who will not avail themselves of the General's offer of protection, and will not subscribe themselves as adherents to the Salonika movement. I understand that the special Courts having jurisdiction over the local Greeks accepting General Murray's protection, and on which he will confer the necessary powers, will be merely ordinary consular courts attached to and working under the auspices of the Provisional Government Consulates in Egypt.

On Sunday a mass meeting of the Greek colony was held at the Kursaal. Rostovitz Bey, president of the community,

Incorporated
A.D. 1720.



Head Office
ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for
liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued
to cover loss
incidental to

FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE
GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUAR-
ANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK,
— THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —

at lowest
possible
premiums.

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. H. L. Bell, Manager.
EGYPT-CAIRO: Everard Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.
ALEXANDRIA: Societe Generale de Prestage et de Depots.
CYPRUS: NAJEM HOURY.

was in the chair, and on this occasion the new Greek Consul representing the Venizelist Government appeared for the first time before the colony. Several speeches were made, the most notable being that pronounced by M. Arvanitakis, who, in the course of his remarks, reminded his audience that the late King of Greece had always been opposed to any close relations with Germany, and informed them that when, after the military revolution of 1909 and the subsequent events of 1910, King George visited Vienna, he had at a public reception at the Greek Embassy made the following statement: "We have come through a very bad and very serious crisis. But all has ended well, because I know my people and because I have refused to listen to Constantine. God alone knows what will happen when I am dead and gone." This statement was corroborated by Rostovitz Bey, who added that the details of this incident were related in Cairo last year by one of the staff of the Greek Embassy who was present at the time, and who is none other than the present representative of the Royalist Government in Egypt.

The 1917-1918 Budget.

Practically all the departmental estimates for the new financial year have been passed by the Ministry of Finance, and the finishing touches are being put to the Budget, which must be in the hands of the public not later than the 25th inst. It is as yet not known when the Financial Adviser's Note will be published, but it will certainly be issued before Lord Edward Cecil returns to Egypt.

After the air raid on Cairo last November very strict lighting restrictions were introduced, and they have been rigorously enforced ever since. On Friday last, however, the military authorities decided to relax the regulations, and henceforward the city will resume its normal aspect after nightfall. The return to ordinary lighting seemed to have a very good effect on the population, which quickly took advantage of it and went abroad in a manner which it had not been accustomed to do since the raid. The removal of the lighting restrictions, followed so closely by the news of the British occupation of Baghdad, has indeed made a tremendous impression on the Egyptians, who see in it a tangible proof of the triumphant march of the Allied arms and of the ultimate defeat of the Hun, together with the eclipse of his vassal, the Turk.

BATTLE PICTURES OF EGYPT AND SYRIA.

Mr. James McBey, who, in the course of a few years, has won high reputation as an artist, has been commissioned to go to Egypt and Syria to work in that battle area on the same lines as those on which Mr. Muirhead Bone is working so splendidly on the Western Front. This is a happy choice, says the *Morning Post*, for Mr. McBey's peculiar vision, temperament and facility are admirably adapted to the presentation of the life and scenery of the desert and mountain lands. Moreover, he has already had considerable experience of nomadic races and of British soldiers. Some years ago he went to Morocco and brought back with him from that delectable country for the artist sketches and etchings which rank among his finest achievements. He has been engaged on war work in France for over a year, and quite recently, while on leave, was given a roving commission to make drawings at will in the Somme sectors vacated by the Germans "according to plan." Thus equipped, the opportunities now within his reach should be productive of most valuable memoranda of British operations in Sinai and Syria.

THE ORIGIN OF PELLAGRA.

At a recent meeting of the Egyptian Institute, a paper was read by Piot Bey on the "Etiology of Pellagra," in which he gave a résumé of the researches of the French doctor, M. Sambon, on the subject, and invited the doctors, and particularly the entomologists, in Egypt to make special researches with a view of discovering whether there were any insects which communicated this disease so common in Egypt. Dr. Sambon, he said, did not share the opinion generally held that pellagra was caused by the maize alimentation, as this disease was to be found in Great Britain, where maize was not an element of food.

Dr. H. W. Wilson, Professor of Physiology at the Kasr El Aini School of Medicine, remarked that though maize was not the direct cause of pellagra, the disease was common among the maize-feeders, as the protein found in maize was below the normal standard, and was not sufficient to make up the waste of protein from the human body. The protein contained in maize possessed one-third of the value of that contained in meat—i.e., in place of 30 grammes of wheat protein a man would require 100 grammes of maize protein, and as the body cannot consume this quantity, the result was that the waste of protein in the body was not replaced; hence pellagra was common amongst the poorer classes, who could not afford to nourish themselves sufficiently well. The same remarks held good for protein of other vegetables, while the protein in rice was equal, if not better, in quality to that of meat; hence pellagra was rare among the rice feeders. Pellagra epidemics had broken out in the refugee camps at Port Said and in Corfu and Bulgaria, and it would be very useful scientifically if investigation was carried out at Port Said and Corfu with the object of finding out the exact causes of this disease.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, February 23.

Boating Fatality.

On the afternoon of the 26th inst. Mr. Dupuis, the Inspector of Khartoum, and Mr. Kinmouth, the Superintendent of Police, went out in a *felucca* to get a few shots at some duck that were expected to flight over the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. A short distance up the White Nile there is a wire rope across the river for the purpose of calculating the pace of the stream. The river here is restricted by the presence of an island in mid-stream, and there is at this time of year a very strong current. The boat, which started a little way above this wire, was driven down the stream, and the mast caught in the wire and the boat was overturned. Although the distance from the bank was only a few yards the stream was too strong to swim against, and the occupants were hard put to it to keep above water. Fortunately there was a boat close by, upon which the two Englishmen drifted, and were hauled out. Meanwhile the native *rais* and one of the crew had succeeded in getting on to the bottom of the upturned boat, and were saved. The other sailor was seen in the water, much exhausted, a short distance from the boat which rescued the others, but just as he came within reach he was carried away by an undercurrent and never seen again. The treachery of these undercurrents is well known, and the survivors are to be congratulated on a fortunate escape. They were already much exhausted when picked up, and one of them was hampered by polo boots, as he had just come from playing polo.

News in Brief.

The Governor-General's Council has been meeting for the last two days, and is expected to continue to meet for several days more.

No English mails have arrived in the Sudan for a considerable time. It will be a full fortnight between mails, where in times of peace there were two weekly, or at least one and a possible second.

Very cool weather for the time of year is being experienced in Khartoum. Furthermore, there is an agreeable absence of wind compared to what is the custom.

CORONATION OF EMPRESS OF ABYSSINIA

Sir R. Wingate Represented.

Describing the Coronation of the Empress of Abyssinia, Router's Addis Abeba correspondent states that it was conducted with great pomp. The Ministers of the Entente Powers represented their Governments, time not permitting of the despatch of special envoys. Among those present were Mr. Leyland Buxton, representing the High Commissioner of Egypt; Mr. G. F. Archer, Commissioner of British Somaliland; Captain Dodds, British Consul at Harrar; the French Governor of Somaliland; the Italian Consul at Harrar; and the Italian Consular Agent from the Wollou district. Major Pearson, who was to have represented the Sudan Government, did not arrive in time. The German Minister and Turkish Consul-General were not present, being without orders from their respective Governments.

After the actual Coronation, at which no European was allowed to be present, the Empress took her seat on a throne in the centre of a large platform which had been erected in the courtyard of the Cathedral of St. George. The Bishop of Abyssinia, in a speech, dwelt on the incidents that had led to the dethronement of Lidj Jeassu and the proclamation of Princess Zaudito (daughter of the Emperor Menelik) as Empress. He said that this was not the first time that Abyssinia had had a Queen, and in Europe many Queens had ruled. He referred especially to England, over which country a queen had ruled for sixty years, and during that time England had become a great nation.

Since the beginning of the operations on the Monastir front the number of prisoners taken is 2,104, in addition to 29 officers.

The Turkish Chamber of Deputies has adopted an extraordinary Naval credit of £1,900,000 for the construction of six high-speed destroyers.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

CYPRUS NEWS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, March 6.

High Commissioner and Holy Synod.

The Greek Archbishop having intimated the desire of the Holy Synod (i.e., the Primate himself and the Bishops of Papho and Kyrenia) to see his Excellency, Sir John Clauson invited the members to tea on the 1st inst. After being entertained by Sir John and Lady Clauson, they explained the object of their visit through Mr. D. Carageorgiades, the chief Government Greek interpreter. This was that relief might be given by an increase of the grant-in-aid to schoolmasters throughout Cyprus, as had been done in the case of Government officials, on account of the greatly increased cost of living; £20,000 is being applied to the increase of salaries of the latter, and it was asked that £4,000 or £5,000 might be granted from surplus revenue to the teaching body. The Government, it was argued, always proclaimed that surpluses were reserved for times of difficulty. What time could be more difficult than the present? They also asked for early legislation to alter the system under which school fees are at present assessed on the people. His Excellency was not able to give his assent to the proposals, pointing out that the Government desired to leave matters relating to education as far as possible in the hands of the communities themselves.* Speaking of the work of the Synod, the members stated that, besides working for a higher standard of education for the priesthood, they were endeavouring to bring about a better administration of Church properties.

Excavations on a Classic Site.

Mr. Gunther and the co-manager of the American Mining Company's works, accompanied by Mr. Markides, Curator of Antiquities, have proceeded to Arsos, near Tremithousa, to start excavations, the cost of which will be defrayed out of the generous gift made by Mr. Gunther to the Cyprus Museum. The spot chosen is an interesting one, connected with the great Adonis myth. One mythographer at least records that Aphrodite, in her grief, found the body of Adonis "in the town of Argos, in Cyprus," in the precincts of a temple of Apollo. Dr. Simos Menardos, Professor of Modern Greek at Oxford, in an interesting contribution to the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* (1908), contends that this Argos (an unidentified site) is Arsos. There are two villages of this name in Cyprus—one in the Limassol, the other in the Nicosia district. It is the latter which is referred to. The correct reading of Argos is, he says, Arsos, which in reality is Alsos (ἄλσος), a holy grove. Modern Greeks like the Attics, pronounce λ as ρ. Alsos thus becomes Arsos. Dr. M. O. Richter discovered here some objects which point to the existence of a temple of Apollo. If we accept Dr. Menardos's theory, the truth of which seems most probable, it is likely that the present excavations will yield results of great interest and value.

General News.

A slight earthquake shock was felt in parts of the island on February 20.

The co-operative movement for bread-baking is being extended at Nicosia. A society is being formed by clerks of banks and others engaged in commerce for the establishment of a bakery, and similar associations will probably be formed at Papho and other places.

The prospecting work for copper and other metals which has been carried out near Athienou, in the Nicosia district, by the American company, has not been so far successful. But fossils of considerable interest have been found at a depth of about 80 ft., including marine shells and remains of fish.

The postal service from Nicosia to the picturesque and popular town of Kyrenia, on the north coast, will be carried by motor from April 1.

A Greek convicted of the murder of a fellow-villager in the Famagusta district has been sentenced to pay £173 as blood money to the heirs of the murdered man.

Good rain has fallen in most parts of the island, and agricultural prospects continue to be satisfactory.

After four years of negotiation the Italian Government has obtained, by means of the exchange of Arabs in their custody, the liberation of the Italian prisoners in Cyrenaica.

Two Athens Venizelist newspapers, *Hesti* and *Ethnos*, were published on March 28, for the first time since the December disorders, says *The Times* Athens correspondent. Altogether 57,000 copies were sold, 16,000 being the previous "record" for any one newspaper. The Gounarist Party, who imagined that Venizelism had been extinguished, have been sharply undeceived, adds the correspondent.

* Reconsideration was asked for.

NEWS FROM SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 8.

Direct news from Syria has been interrupted for some time, but a great deal of detailed information has been coming lately through Busreh, and the informants are presumably either captured prisoners of war or refugees who had fled from Syria to escape death from hunger or persecution. According to these informants, the total number of families exiled from Syria is 7,000, and the condition of those left behind is said to be pitiable in the extreme, on account of famine and epidemic disease.

Conflicts with Turkish Troops.

The Turkish Government is said to have detailed a purely Turkish battalion to the Ansairi Mountains, ostensibly for the purpose of tracking deserters, but really for taking over the new harvest. The brutal conduct of the troops was such as to have provoked the Ansairi to open revolt, and a battle ensued which ended in the defeat of the Turkish force, whose losses amounted to about 200 killed and wounded, while the Ansairi's casualties were only twenty killed and fifty wounded. The Turks, on this occasion, set fire to the village of Wady-el-Eyoun and four deserted hamlets. The remnant of the troops was then ordered back to Hama to await reinforcements, then to return to the mountains with a mountain battery to inflict condign punishment on the rebels. This punitive expedition, however, had to be abandoned; for, meanwhile, news arrived that the Druses of the Hauran had also refused to give up their crops to the Turkish force which had been sent for the purpose. As a result of this refusal, a battle, which lasted fifteen days, is said to have taken place between the five Turkish battalions and the Druses. In this case, too, the Turks were defeated, thanks to the strong help received by the Druses from the neighbouring Arab tribes. The Turkish losses are estimated at about 500 killed and wounded, while those of the Druses and Arabs were only 300.

Fear of a Rising.

Fearing that persistence in this policy of violence was likely to kindle the fire of revolt throughout the country, Jemal Pasha instituted milder tactics, and not only ordered the forces in Hama and Hauran to return to their respective bases, but caused some of their officers to be tried by court martial. He then sent a few emissaries to try and calm the popular effervescence, and, soon after, caused manifestoes to be published in the Ansairi and Druse mountains whereby the people were called upon to return to their peaceful occupations; and, while regret was expressed for all that had been committed by the troops, they were informed that the responsible officers were being dealt with severely. Then a mischievous and unscrupulous Druse chieftain, belonging to the infamous clique of Jemal Pasha, won over, by bribes, three persons of no consequence, who came over from the revolted districts to swear faithful allegiance to the Commander. These were, of course, rewarded generously with gifts and decorations in the hope of attracting the real leaders, but with these proud-spirited men this mean trick did not prevail.

Persecution of the Druses.

Smarting under their defeat in the Hauran the Turks, to satisfy their desire for revenge, set to persecuting some of the Druses of the Lebanon, accusing them of complicity in the revolt there. The emigration of some young Druses to Hauran in quest of food was taken as a pretext by the Government to increase the rigour of its revengeful acts. Some of the Druse chieftains were arrested, and two of their leading men were brought up for trial before the court martial at Damascus, which condemned one to forced labour and the other to death by crucifixion.

Following the revolt in the Hauran, and the incidents at Bsherre and Ehden in Northern Lebanon, which have been fully described in previous notes, the Turkish Government gave another downward turn to the screw, and tightened the cordon that it had drawn round the Lebanon to prevent the free access of foodstuffs thereto. The informant's pessimism is such that he actually believed the bulk of the Lebanese population would perish, if the then existing state continued for another month.

Turkish Immigrants.

In place of the 7,000 Syrian families that have been exiled, the Turkish Government has brought over a corresponding number of Turkish and Kurdish immigrants from Anatolia and Macedonia, who are said to be the object of special solicitude on the part of the authorities, and to be allowed to commit, with impunity, continual acts of aggression and violence on the native inhabitants.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE SERBS AND THEIR BALLADS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I see a correspondence is going on in your columns on Marko Kraljevitich. I think Miss Durham is very hard upon him. As one who has known Serbia and Serbs, north, south, east and west, both in war and peace, I have been tempted to wax indignant. I content myself, however, with translating for you the little Serbian poem, "Marko Kraljevitich and the Falcon":—

A sickness came on Marko Kraljevitich
While he did ride along a lonesome road;
He laid him down, his spear close at his head,
His white horse, Sharatz, tethered by his side.
Then in his pain and faintness he did murmur:
"Can there be none to bring me cool water?"
"Can no one me protect from this great Sun?"
"O that some helper might most quickly come,
"And God would surely grant him place in heaven."
A falcon grey o'erheard the hero's cry,
And swiftly flying brought to him cool water;
Him he did shelter too with outspread wing;
So Marko now revived, restored, refreshed,
With grateful gaze did eye the gracious bird,
The falcon bird which so had tended him.
"O falcon grey, now strengthen'd Marko said,
"What kindness have I ever done to thee,
"That thou dost do such loving deeds for me?"
To which the falcon grey thus answer made:
"By thee forgotten, not by me forgot.
"When on that field, that high-engirdled ground,
"The Serbs did battle fierce with unbelievers,
"And tyrant Turks did cripple both my wings.
"To earth I fell amid the legs of men,
"But thou at once didst pick me up again—
"How can I this forget?—and didst put me
"Upon a lofty branch of green pine tree.
"Therefore to thee a'one my life I owe,
"And mindful I now am my love to show."

If we may judge a man by how he treats his dog, perhaps we may judge Marko by how he treated the falcon.—Yours truly,

JAMES W. WILES.

Christ's College, Cambridge,
March 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I repeat that, in the lecture I recently gave at the Russian Literary Society, I made no attack whatever on the Serbian Army's conduct in the present war. I never mentioned it. I wished to spare Dr. Curcin's feelings in my last letter, and so refrained from publishing my reasons for stating that the constant reciting of these mediæval horrors and lack of other literature had had a bad effect on the people.

I quoted Veliki Voyvoda Mirko's poems as an example of how the constant perusal and singing of these national ballads (for he was a great "gusle" singer) had caused a man in a high position to retain a quite mediæval mind right into the nineteenth century. His songs are of much interest to the anthropologist, though of small literary merit.

The Middle Ages in all lands were cruel and bloody. Dr. Curcin can find many old English ballads of great ferocity.—I am, etc.,

March 31, 1917.

M. EDITH DURHAM.

[Miss Durham's reasons for holding the opinions she does certainly seem sufficient. The facts are, however, too gruesome for publication at the present time. This correspondence is now closed.—EDITOR.]

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In a letter to the current number of THE NEAR EAST Mr. H. Bentwich, on the strength apparently of some comment—which I have not seen—on my paper read recently at the Royal Geographical Society, accused me of "ignoring" "the interest of the Jewish people in their old fatherland." Although I am quite sure no one who heard my paper, or will read it after its publication in the *Geographical Journal*, would think of supporting such an idea, I feel, in justice to my own views, that I should point out that there was nothing in it to countenance such a view. I cannot believe that any fair-minded Hebrew can seriously differ from me on the importance of respect for the Moslem feeling about the *Haram esh Sherif* at Jerusalem, or the undoubted rights of the indigenous peoples of Palestine to their own land. I am not aware that a word was said about "Moslem prospects," and the purpose of the whole paper was to suggest, after a personal knowledge of Palestine ex-

tending over nearly a quarter of a century, some of the conditions which, in my opinion, require serious consideration and wisely directed effort in carrying out the very projects which Mr. Bentwich has at heart.

E. W. G. MASTERMAN.

March 30, 1917.

ROUMANIAN RELIEF FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I cordially commend to the citizens of London the National Roumanian Relief Fund, which is under the patronage of her Majesty Queen Alexandra and her Majesty Queen Marie of Roumania. The object of the fund is to provide Roumania with Red Cross equipment and to relieve distress among the civilian poor.

Although Roumania was ready to return blow for blow with her redoubtable foe, her medical services are admittedly inadequate to deal with the rush of wounded now pouring into the already crowded hospitals. Queen Marie of Roumania, to whom our country is bound by ties of blood and affection, and who is herself in charge of the Palace Hospital at Bucharest, has appealed to Britain for help, stating that field hospitals, motor ambulances, surgical equipment, etc., are urgently required by the Roumanian Red Cross.

We are all morally bound to stand by our brave Ally in her hour of difficulty and danger. Recent events have doubled her claims on British generosity, and, although the war's demands on our people are many and heavy, I feel sure that no one will hesitate to stretch out a helping hand to save these people from unnecessary suffering. Roumania is a poor country, and needs all the help we can send her.

I feel confident that you will find pleasure in giving to Roumania a tangible token of your sympathy and gratitude.

W. H. DUNN, Lord Mayor.

The Mansion House, London, E.C.

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Lord Mayor's Appeal for the National Roumanian Relief Fund, 30, Bishopsgate, E.C.

MISS DURHAM ON SOUTHERN SLAV CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS.

Speaking at the Royal Anthropological Institute in Russell Street, London, last Tuesday week, Miss M. Edith Durham said that until the wars of 1876-77 many exceedingly old laws still prevailed in Montenegro, the Primorje, the Herzegovina, and the Bocche di Cattaro, and that the tradition of those times still lingered in the villages—especially among people who could not read and write, and who had good memories. The law used to be administered by the Council of Good Men. These were the heads of houses, and the Council was summoned to make peace in the many blood feuds which raged until comparatively recent times. When two bratsvos were "in blood" with each other these head men would order a truce, and then summon the parties and balance the account. A dead man on one side was counted as equivalent to a dead man on the other, and a money value was put upon wounds, according to their severity. Further reconciliation was effected by making the parties to the feud swear blood brotherhood, or by ordering the head man of the injured bratsvo to be godfather to infants of the other bratsvo. Godfatherhood was reckoned as equivalent to consanguinity, and so would lead to peace. Miss Durham gave several examples of such verdicts as described. In Montenegro, she said, if the contending parties were unwilling to accept the ruling of the Good Men, the case was referred to the ruling Prince as final court of appeal. A curious case occurred in 1853. Two lads—cousins—quarrelled violently over the head of a wounded Turk whom both wished to decapitate. One wounded the other; the local head man could not reconcile them. For the one that was wounded wanted the other one's blood. The quarrel being referred to the Prince, he permitted the duel to be fought out before him and his Senators. Both lads were severely wounded, and then made the quarrel up. Many blood feuds arose over women, whom the old law regarded very much as chattels. Infant betrothal was common. Grim tales were told in some of the ballads of the punishment of an unfaithful wife—the custom of cutting off the nose of a woman suspected of infidelity only died out in the nineteenth century. The Southern Slav practice of exogamy was amply illustrated in the ballads, for the bridegroom almost always sought his bride from afar; and a vivid picture was given of the marriage ceremonies and customs. The fetching of the bride by a large party of the bridegroom's male relatives, the gun-firing—possibly a relic of marriage by capture—the feasting and the gay garments of the guests, were told in great detail. The ballads as a whole probably gave one of the best and most complete pictures of life in the Middle Ages which had come down to us. We found traces of many interesting beliefs in them. The Vila occurred often, and belief in this mountain spirit had not quite died out yet. Other relics of Paganism were to be found in the references to the Virgin Mary as the hurler of lightning, and to St. Elija as the Thunderer.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee (8, Grosvenor Gardens) has presented to the Serbian Relief Fund the sum of £500, to be used exclusively in providing food for sick and wounded Serbian prisoners of war in Germany.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

IN ASIATIC TURKEY.*

At a time when there is much talk of the Turk being bundled out of Europe for good and all, it is distinctly startling to find Mr. Warfield asking in his first chapter: "Who can doubt that Turkey is a European Power?" The question is posed in connection with the explanation given of the title of the book, so it need not, perhaps, be debated here. All that is necessary is to explain that our author "would . . . draw the line between East and West in such a way as to leave the Turkish Empire to the West and Persia to the East." One of the gateposts of Asia is placed in the Persian Gulf, the other in the Black Sea; and we must conceive of the "gate" as following the course of the Turco-Persian frontier. It was on the Turkish side of the "gate" that Mr. Warfield and his companion did most of the travelling described in this volume.

They met at Karachi and journeyed up the Gulf together in the usual fashion. Mr. Warfield's comments on the Gulf ports and Gulf politics are shrewd enough, but he has little to say on the subject that will be fresh to most English readers, and occasionally he writes in a way that is rather misleading. Thus, to talk of Muskat as a "British port" a few years ago is inaccurate. The accounts of the gun-runners and the wiles they employ against our naval men are, however, quite interesting.

The description of the journey up the Tigris and of modern Baghdad are entertainingly written, and our author shows a nice appreciation of the picturesque side of the City of the Khalifs even in its fallen condition. We are unable to agree with his estimate of Haroun-al-Rashid as "a weakling," and we do not regard much of his history as quite satisfactory; but we do enjoy his visits to the coffee shops and the bazaars. It is, by the way, interesting to note that even in 1913, when our travellers asked to be allowed to see the work on the Baghdad Railway, they "were courteously but firmly refused." The Huns certainly made a great mystery of their pet project. Mr. Warfield's remarks upon "England's weakness in permitting this German interest to be pushed forward to Baghdad," are still worth reading, even though we may hope that there will be no further displays of such weakness on our part in the future. From Baghdad the travellers made a "side trip" to Babylon before striking north. They visited the German excavations, and we get a not uninteresting theory regarding the "writing on the wall," put forward by one of the Teuton professors; but the reader is spared the infliction of long accounts of the ruins.

From Baghdad the travellers went north with their own caravan—hired after the usual troubles and disappointments—and came at last, after many wanderings and several excitements, to Bitlis. Thence they turned east, to Urmia and Tabriz, and eventually they came to Batoum by way of Julfa. Much of the region that they traversed has sprung into prominence since their journey was made; and this fact enhances the value of the book for English readers at the present time. Thus, Mosul, Kerkook, Erbil, and other places likely to figure conspicuously in military operations in the near future, are visited and described in some detail; and Mr. Warfield tells us also a good many stories, old and new, that will amuse the reader who comes upon them for the first time.

At Kerkook Mr. Warfield was arrested as a spy—in the English service apparently!—but his native wit took him through the somewhat trying situation with flying colours. What stands out most clearly from many passages describing the ups and downs of the journey is the extraordinarily difficult nature of much of the "road." It is bad country for a small caravan; it would, one thinks, be impossible for an army. Stragglers are like to meet with no enviable fate in this debatable land, where might is right, and has been for generations untold; and if the Turks have to retreat here in disorder, they may look for a bad time indeed. The author makes it very clear that no love was lost between Turk and Arab in Irak so long ago as 1913; and the other elements of the mixed population are not much better disposed towards their rulers than are the Arabs.

The Yezidis, or "devil worshippers," receive a good deal of attention from the author, and what he writes of them (in Chapter VIII.) is well worth reading. But more valuable by far are his remarks, in Chapter X., on the constant quarrels between the various peoples who go to make up the population of this region. These quarrels are often represented by interested parties as due to religious differences, and, of course, to Moslem intolerance. Mr. Warfield points out that "in this part of the East religion is a matter of race, not of conviction"; and that: "The

reason that these quarrels are so largely on a religious basis is that the simplest way to make trouble and to arouse racial hatreds here and in all the East, is to call upon the name of God." The descriptions of the various native Christian Churches and their methods of proselytising hardly make pleasant reading.

Consistency in spelling proper names is not a feature of the book; we have "Buzrah" and "Busra" within a very short distance of one another. The transliteration of Arabic is not happy; "Allamdu illah" is shocking! And to write, as Mr. Warfield does (on page 220), of any particular date in the Gregorian calendar corresponding with one in the Moslem calendar is likely to mislead the uninitiated. Moreover, one notices numerous minor slips (such as "amounting" for "amounted" on page 12), which seem to indicate somewhat hurried proof reading!

We can, however, readily forgive these shortcomings, for the book as a whole is good, and the author tells us many quaint stories. Thus, he writes of the military hospital at Mosul:—

When we were there it had had six patients. Their experiences are eloquently set forth in the pages of the hospital record book. Each of these is divided into four columns, headed, "Received," "Cured," "Died," "Ran Away." In the first column were six names, in the second none, in the third two, and in the fourth four.

BOOK NOTES.

In his new book, "Turkey and the War" (Mr. Fisher Unwin), Mr. Vladimir Jabotinsky, late military correspondent of a leading Moscow newspaper (*Russkii Vedomosti*), considers the destruction and partition of the Ottoman Empire as the principal aim of the present struggle. He discusses the different schemes of partition, dwelling in particular on the question of the Straits, on the importance of Syria for the protection of the Suez Canal, on the Arab aspirations, etc.

Messrs. J. B. Rye and H. G. Groser's book, "Kitchener in His Own Words," which has been announced for some time, will be published this month by Mr. Fisher Unwin. After a careful examination of the published writings and speeches of Kitchener, the authors have constructed a narrative of the events of his life, told as far as is possible in his own words. They have incorporated in it a large collection of his pronouncements, e.g., on the Administration of Armies, the Functions of a Staff, General Joffre, Lord French, Sir Douglas Haig, Lords Cromer and Milner, the Development of Egypt and the Sudan, Turkish Misrule in Asia Minor, the Cotton Industry, the State in Relation to Trade and Commerce, Education—Military and Civil, Hunting and Polo Regarded from a Military Standpoint, and the Boy Scouts.

According to a Sofia telegram received in Amsterdam, M. Radoslavoff has announced in the Sobranje, in the name of his Government, his agreement with the declarations of the Imperial Chancellor and Count Czernin regarding Russia.

The name of Gallipoli brings in these days sad and disastrous recent memories. But March 28 was the 391st anniversary of the death, on March 28, 1526, of a "Bishop of Gallipoli" in *partibus*, who bore the very English name of John Young, remarks the *Guardian*. He was consecrated on July 3, 1513, by Richard Fitzjames, Bishop of London, in the Church of St. Thomas of Acre, London, and was, according to Bishop W. Stubbs, Rector of St. Martin's, Oxford, Warden of New College, Archdeacon of London, and Dean of Chichester, besides holding other preferment. For thirteen years, until his death in 1526, he acted as Suffragan in the Diocese of London, and it is safe to assume that he never saw Gallipoli, which was then in Paynim hands.

Mr. BERNARD SHAW says:

"The New Witness' employs more specific literary talent to the square inch than most of our journals could enlist even if they liked literary talent (which they mostly don't)."

Mr. G. K. CHESTERTON contributes each week an article on current events, under the title: "AT THE SIGN OF THE WORLD'S END."

Mr. HILAIRE BELLOC writes special articles on matters of public import connected with the national crisis.

Mr. ERNEST NEWMAN, our Musical Critic, writes weekly.

M. ERNEST DIMNET, whose articles on French politics have attracted so much attention, will continue his series, entitled "France at War."

Mr. RAYMOND RADCLIFFE, the City Editor of THE NEW WITNESS, replies to any queries accompanied by a coupon.

Mr. HERBERT VIVIAN, our Special Correspondent on the Italian front, contributes a series of striking articles from Italy.

DRAMA: THE NEW WITNESS follows closely all dramatic performances.

LITERATURE All books worth reading are reviewed by distinguished literary critics.

THE NEW WITNESS.

Every Thursday. Edited by G. K. CHESTERTON. Price Sixpence.

Terms of Subscription: Post free to any address in Postal Union, Twelve months, £1 8s.; Abroad, £1 10s.

OFFICES—20-21, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, LONDON.

* "The Gate of Asia." By William Warfield. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style.)	Julian (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. April. 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	1917. March. 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	1335. Jumada II. 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	5677. Nisan. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

The Prime Minister gave evidence before the Dardanelles Commission on Monday. His evidence occupied an hour and three-quarters, and he was followed by Mr. H. J. Creedy, C.B., of the War Office.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Cowans, Sir Charles Harris, and Lieutenant-General Sir James Wolfe Murray were examined by the Dardanelles Commissioners on Friday.

The Press Bureau on Friday issued the following denial:—The statement which has appeared in some of the morning papers to the effect that M. Venizelos is in London and has visited the Foreign Office is totally without foundation.

Among the callers at the Foreign Office on Monday was M. Gennadius, Agent for the Greek Provisional Government in London.

It is confirmed by the *Frankfurter Zeitung* that after the occupation of Bucharest the Germans took prisoner as hostage Mme. Bratiano, mother of the Prime Minister. Mme. Bratiano is 75 years of age.

Colonel Rudeano, the Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission in Paris, accompanied by Captain Prince Callimacki, left London on Friday for the French capital.

Our Cyprus Correspondent, writing on March 5, states that the new Chief Secretary, Mr. Stevenson, from Ceylon, was expected to arrive in the island in about a month.

Mr. A. B. Geary, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul at Alexandria, who accepted a temporary commission in the Army last August, and has been attached for the last few months to the political branch of the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, has returned to Egypt and reported himself for duty in Cairo, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

In *The Times* of March 12 it was stated that Mr. Marko Vuletitch, formerly President of the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, had been arrested in Belgrade and deported to Hungary. The Austrian authorities at Belgrade have since published a statement that Mr. Vuletitch is fully at liberty in Belgrade. The correspondent who furnished *The Times* with the information explains that the error was due to a confusion of names.

"The recent beautiful message to the people of Baghdad was, as Mr. Bonar Law said, 'the work of several hands,' but the main part of it was written by Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P." (writes the Lobby Correspondent of the *Daily Express*). "It is understood that he is now engaged in writing a message from the British Government to the people of Jerusalem."

It is not generally known that Colonel John Ward, the story of whose fine control of his battalion of "Die-Hards" on the unfortunate Tyndareus has stirred the public imagination, was a member of the Railway Construction Corps under Graham in the Sudan in 1885, and won the Khedive's Star, a medal and a clasp for his services on that occasion.

Mesopotamia Day on April 13—a flag day without flags—promises to be a great success, and Miss Stella Maude, who is directing the affair from headquarters at 26, Regent Street, S.W.1, is hopeful of beating all flag day records. Miss Maude is the daughter of the conqueror of Baghdad, General Sir Stanley Maude; therefore her interest in the day is a strong personal one.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes under date of March 11:

Major Besant, who was one of the first party of officers who were transferred to the Egyptian Army, has arrived in Khartoum on a visit. He is going to Kosti to see some of the Sudanese officers who served under him, and will go to Merowe to visit Colonel Jackson, who is one of the few that survive of the officers who laid the foundations of the Egyptian Army and still remains in the country.

The Rev. R. Burroughs, who came to Khartoum as the emissary of the Archbishop of Canterbury, has gone to Atbara, en route for Halfa and thence to Cairo. His mission was a great success, and there was a very good attendance at the Cathedral to hear his addresses.

Mr. Woodland, the Senior Inspector of the White Nile Province, arrived in Khartoum on the 10th for a few days. It is expected that he will be leaving that province for Kordofan at the beginning of next month.

Mr. Corbyn, who has come from Kordofan, has begun to take up his duties as Assistant Civil Secretary.

Major Fielden is expected to leave the Bahr-el-Ghazal shortly to take up the position of Civil Secretary. He was in charge of the personal section of the Civil Secretary's Office before he went to take charge of that province.

Captain Dumbell has returned from the South, where he has been on a tour of inspection. By the same boat also returned Mr. and Mrs. Echlin. Major Hart also arrived from the Bahr-el-Ghazal on his way North.

Mr. P. W. Carver has resigned his position as trustee and hon. treasurer of the British Protestant Cemeteries at Alexandria, in consequence of a disagreement with the Consul-General. Dr. the Rev. G. M. Mackie and the Rev. Mr. Fry have been appointed trustees in his place. No hon. treasurer has yet been found.

Lady Murray, wife of the General Officer Commanding in Egypt, is on the committee which is organising Soldiers' Day, fixed for May 3. On that day everyone will be asked to buy a flower or a flag for the benefit of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, which since October, 1914, has been sending comforts to the troops.

The wedding arranged between Lieutenant Holly H. Patchell, R.A., and Miss Ethel May Simmons took place, in March, at Holy Trinity Church, Eltham, Kent. Miss Simmons is the only daughter of George Charles Simmons, of Constantinople, and has been engaged in V.A.D. hospital work in England since the outbreak of war. Lieutenant Patchell is the youngest son of Robert R. Patchell, of St. John, N.B., Canada, and has recently returned from overseas to take up a post as instructor at the Canadian School of Gunnery here. The bride was given away by Mr. H. Lockwood, while the groom was supported by his brother, Lieutenant Robert T. Patchell, Canadian Infantry. Only the immediate friends of the young couple attended. They have now taken up their residence at Hythe, Kent.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has been pleased to appoint Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G. (Governor of British Honduras), to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of British Guiana. Sir Wilfrid, who is in his 61st year, has been Governor of British Honduras since 1913. He was educated at University College School, London, and entered the Fiji Civil Service in 1881. He afterwards acted as Secretary to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and later as Receiver-General of Cyprus.

Mr. Andrew Weir has been placed in charge of a new Department at the War Office, which will take over from the Departments of the Quartermaster-General, the Master-General of the Ordnance and the Finance Member of the Army Council such of their functions as relate to the commercial side of the business of supplying the Army (except as to munitions). He will be styled Surveyor-General of Supply, and will be made an additional member of the War Council. Mr. Weir is head of the large shipowning firm of Andrew Weir and Co., who have considerable interests in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. John Stavridi has been appointed Honorary Counsellor to the Greek Diplomatic Agency in London, which represents the Venizelist Government. Mr. Stavridi is the Consul-General of that Government, and a partner in the firm of Messrs. Westbury, Preston and Stavridi, solicitors, of 40, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Miralai O. C. Parker Bey, Commandant of the Egyptian Police School, who has been attached for special service with the military authorities since the outbreak of the war, has now been finally appointed as Governor of Sinai Province. Parker Bey spent several years in Sinai before his appointment as Commandant of Police and as Governor.

Parker Bey has been succeeded in the Police School by Miralai Jennings Bramley Bey, late Governor of Sinai, who, since the war started, has been representing the Intelligence Department in the Canal zone.

Temporary Lewa M. Coutts Pasha, Director-General of Stores, Sudan Government, C.E. Wilson Pasha, Governor of the Red

If you are willing to help
THE SERBIAN ARMY
SEND YOUR DONATION FOR
THE SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."

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

Sea Province, E.C. Midwinter Pasha, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager of the Sudan Government Railways, and M. R. Kennedy Pasha, C.M.G., D.S.O., have been granted the substantive rank of Lewa.

Mr. Greg, formerly of the British Residency in Cairo, who recently arrived in Egypt from England, has, according to the *Egyptian Gazette*, been appointed Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Arab Art Preservation Committee have decided on the appointment of Mr. Patricolo as Chief Engineer to the Arab Art Department in Egypt and as member of that committee, in succession to Herz Pasha, its former chief engineer.

OBITUARY.

LORD MUNCASTER.

We regret to announce the death of Josslyn Francis Pennington, fifth Baron Muncaster, which occurred on the 30th ult. at Muncaster Castle, Ravenglass, Cumberland. Born on Christmas Day, 1834, Lord Muncaster was educated at Eton, and obtained a commission in the 90th Light Infantry, with which he served in the Crimean campaign, taking part in the attack on the Redan on September 8, 1855. Subsequently he exchanged to the Rifle Brigade, and retired from the Army with the rank of captain just before he succeeded to the title in 1862. The following year he married the second daughter of Mr. Edmund L'Estrange, of Tynte, co. Sligo, and a niece of the seventh Earl of Scarborough.

It was in 1870 that the event occurred with which his name will always be linked. On April 11 of that year a party of ladies and gentlemen, among them members of the British, French, Italian and Austrian Legations at Athens, were captured by brigands at Oropos while on an excursion to Marathon. Among the party were Lord and Lady Muncaster, the Hon. Edward Herbert, and Mr. Frederick Grantham Vyner, the two last-named being respectively nephew of the third Earl of Carnarvon and brother of the first Marchioness of Ripon. The party was not unguarded, a number of gendarmes having been told off for their protection, but this protection proved hopelessly inadequate, as two of them were shot and the rest speedily overcome, and the captives were rapidly taken away into the bushes. The ladies experienced much ill-usage, but, with the children, were shortly set free, as the brigands hoped to obtain a ransom by means of the men captives, whom they conveyed to the mountains.

Then the brigands commenced to negotiate, first asking £32,000, then £50,000, and finally half that amount, and a free and full pardon, and also the release of certain comrades who had been imprisoned. It was decided by lot that Mr. Vyner should go to Athens to raise the money, but he, being unmarried, with splendid self-sacrifice, insisted on Lord Muncaster taking his place. Eventually Lord Muncaster consented, and left for Athens, with the parting threat ringing in his ears that the party would be murdered if any pursuit was attempted. The English Envoy at Athens urged the Greek Government to accede to the demands; but, rating the threat too lightly, the Government despatched a body of troops to seize the brigands. Learning of the scheme, they carried their captives further into the interior, and, after keeping them in pitiful anxiety, brutally murdered them. When the bodies were recovered it was found that, besides being shot, many of the men had been stabbed in the back.

Needless to say, there was great indignation at the outrage, and several members of the Parliamentary Opposition in Greece were arrested and tried, with seven of the brigands, for complicity with the massacre. Several of the brigands had been killed by the troops, and those who were placed on trial were all condemned to death, and five of them were executed.

The rest of Lord Muncaster's life lacked any outstanding event. He was created a Baron of the United Kingdom in 1898, having previously represented West Cumberland in Parliament from 1872 to 1880, and the Egremont Division of Cumberland from 1885 to 1892, in the Conservative interest. He had no children, and there is no heir to the barony.

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. H. WESTERN.

Lieutenant Colonel James Halifax Western, C.M.G., late R.E., whose death took place at his house at Hurstpierpoint on Monday, joined the Royal Engineers in 1860, but spent most of his career in the service of the Indian Public Works Department. In 1863 he became Assistant Engineer for the North-West Provinces, and Executive Engineer in 1868. In 1862 he went to the Punjab as Superintending Engineer, and two years later was appointed Officiating Chief Engineer and Joint Secretary for Irrigation for the Punjab, and afterwards Director-General of Works. In 1890 he went to Egypt as Engineering Inspector for that country, and held the position for ten years. He retired from the Army with the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1887. Lieutenant-Colonel Western, who was 75 years of age, married in 1869 the third daughter of Mr. Guy Atkinson, of Cangort.

The death occurred on Monday, at Thrumpton Hall, Derby, of George Frederick William, ninth Lord Byron. He was born in 1851, and was the son of the late Hon. Frederick Byron, nephew of the eighth baron, and a kinsman of the poet.

Colonel J. H. Beasons, formerly Military Attaché of the United States Embassy in London, whose death, at the age of 60, is announced, went to Egypt in 1896, in the hope, which was not fulfilled, that he might be able to accompany the Dongola Expeditionary Force.

Captain Somerset Charles Godfrey Fairfax Astell, D.S.O., North Staffordshire Regiment, who died on March 24 in a military hospital, from pneumonia, only son of the late Major-General and Mrs. Charles Astell, West Lodge, Dorchester, took part in the Expedition to Dongola in 1896 (Egyptian and British medals) and fought in the Boer War in 1900-2.

Lieutenant Arthur Edward Durham, R.N., who was killed at sea on March 23, had seen service in the Persian Gulf in 1910-11, in H.M.S. Odin. In her he also served on the East Coast of Africa; and he held both the Persian Gulf and the Somaliland medals. Since the outbreak of the war he has commanded three destroyers. He was the younger son of Prebendary and Mrs. Durham, of the Rectory, Newton Abbott, South Devon, and was 28 years old.

The death took place at Khartoum, on March 6, of Mr. J. H. Thring, of the Posts and Telegraphs Administration. Death was due to heart failure. The deceased had gone on the previous evening to the British Barracks to visit some friends. He was taken ill and could not return home. Arrangements were then made for him to sleep there. In the morning he was found dead in his bed, and the post-mortem examination showed that death was due to heart failure. The funeral, which took place the next day, was conducted by Rev. H. B. Rivington, and was attended by a large number of the Posts and Telegraphs officials and employees and other friends of the deceased. Mr. Thring leaves a widow and child in England.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BOYD.—On the 8th March, in Cairo, the wife of Fielding Boyd, Egyptian State Railways, of a son.

DEATH.

WESTERN.—On April 2, at Halifax Lodge, Hurstpierpoint, Lieut.-Colonel James Halifax Western, C.M.G., late R.E., aged 74. Funeral at Hurst, 2.45 on Saturday, 7th inst. No flowers.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,

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

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.

Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURS'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.
FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

FOR SUMMER SEASON—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel. TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.
4,000 feet above sea level. 6,000 feet above sea level.
Open from May till October. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.
Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURS & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.
Head Office and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone: No. 518 London Wall

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1917.

THE ALLIES AND GREECE.

A point consistently maintained in these columns, that whatever the Entente Powers may wish or do, the present situation in Greece, for which they are largely responsible, represents no permanent adjustment of the country's difficulties, receives significant confirmation from an important statement made by M. Venizelos to a collaborator of *The New Europe*. For the first time in a public statement, as far as we are aware, M. Venizelos accepts the implied revolutionary character of a movement which was the outcome of a loyal desire to see Greece honour her treaty obligations and to defend her territory from attack, and he indicates very clearly that the movement relies upon being able in good time to attain its logical conclusion—the restoration of a constitutional regime for Greece. In these circumstances it is well that there should be among the people of the Allied nations a clear understanding of the course of events and the influences that have been at work in shaping Hellenic affairs during the war. The actual history of the period can be briefly summarised. In January, 1915, M. Venizelos submitted to King Constantine two memoranda, in which he suggested the reconstruction of the Balkan League in order to strike a death-blow at Turkey in Europe. When, however, there was ground for suspecting the intentions of Bulgaria, M. Venizelos abandoned the idea of a Balkan League, and suggested to the King that Greece should take part in the war on the side of the Allies, who at that time asked for the use of Greece's harbours and territories as bases for their naval and military operations, and for Greek co-operation in the Dardanelles expedition. King Constantine was within his rights in refusing to endorse M. Venizelos's policy, and the latter, according to constitutional practice, resigned on March 6, 1915. After M. Zaimis had refused the Premiership, the King appointed M. Gounaris to form a Cabinet. The Chamber was dissolved and new elections took place in June, 1915. M. Venizelos was returned with a substantial majority; the Government was defeated when the Chamber met in August, and M. Venizelos was again in power on August 23. On September 21 Bulgaria mobilised; four days later the Greek army was mobilised, but King Constantine refused to allow any steps to be taken for the assistance of Serbia. The first contingent of the Allied troops landed at Salonika on October 2, and it was owing to a statement made by M. Venizelos to the Chamber, which seemed to contemplate action on the part of Greece that might bring her in conflict with the Central Powers, that King Constantine sent for M. Venizelos and requested him to resign. He was succeeded by M. Zaimis, who in November made way for M. Skouloudis. Fresh elections, from which the Liberal party abstained, took place in December. Towards the end of May, 1916, came the surrender of Fort Rupel and the overrunning of Macedonia by the German-Bulgarian forces. M. Venizelos does not hesitate to charge King Constantine with having "organised, in connivance with the Germans and Bulgarians, the invasion of Western and Eastern Macedonia." This action, followed by a fresh refusal on the part of Greece to make common cause with the Allies when Roumania entered the war at the end of August, 1916, finally led M. Venizelos to send

a message to the King that he would consider it his duty to revolt. He left Athens with Admiral Coudouriotis and General Danglis, and they "at once decided to raise the standard of revolt."

There could be no question of a "revolution" in Athens at that time. The Army was with the King, and the latter still enjoyed a measure of personal popularity which prevented unanimous action on the part of the people on a constitutional question. Accordingly, it was the intention of M. Venizelos and his associates to plead their cause where there were no troops, and where the majority of the population was known to be for them. Thus they hoped to gather strength and gradually to carry the whole of Greece with them. The Provisional Government went to Crete and other islands, and coming to Salonika made common cause with the Committee of National Defence, which had already been constituted independently of it. From Salonika M. Venizelos intended to go to Thessaly, Epirus, and the Aegean and Ionian Islands; but it was at this stage, when he applied to the Entente Powers for official recognition of the Provisional Government, that the Allied Governments began to put spokes in his wheel. The Boulogne Conference refused recognition, but promised financial and material means for the organisation of the national army. Just when the Provisional Government was prepared to extend its operations to Thessaly and Epirus, the Allies instituted a neutral zone at Katerini, and debarred the national movement from access to those districts. The action of Admiral du Fournet at Athens on December 1, 1916, exposed Venizelists to a reign of terror, and the Allies' blockade checked the exodus of those who were anxious to make their way to Salonika. At no time up to that point had M. Venizelos wished to give the movement an anti-dynastic character; but the Allies made it an "express stipulation" of their indispensable aid that the movement should not be anti-dynastic. Further, "at the Rome Conference you were induced to concede to the King guarantees under the terms of which 'to avoid all misunderstanding,' you gave the Greek Government 'formal and categorical assurances that the Allies will neither on land nor on sea allow the extension of the Venizelist movement in the territories hitherto occupied by the state of the kingdom of Greece'; and it was even added that the Entente also promised that 'Venizelist authorities and officials will not be accepted in any places occupied in Old Greece.'"

M. Venizelos is too sound a statesman not to recognise what is behind the Allies' embargo, and not to bow to their decision for the time being; but he points out that "if the National Government were free, it would very quickly be strong enough to put a definite end to 'the Government of the kingdom of Greece.'"

The present situation is that the Allies have bound themselves to give certain guarantees to their avowed enemy, King Constantine, which they made no attempt to give to one of their number, Nicholas II. The late Tsar has been driven into the wilderness; however great his responsibility for what took place in Russia, he was essentially loyal to the Grand Alliance; he meant well and was as much sinned against as he may have sinned. King Constantine has been consistently hostile to the Allies, and personally treacherous; he means ill and does ill whenever he can with impunity; and any sense of provocation he may have acted under is primarily of his own creation. But the Allies have gone out of their way to stand between him and his deserts, and in so doing they have done violence to the interests of Greece and injustice to those Greeks who are their staunch friends. This state of affairs cannot continue indefinitely. One result of it is that in Greece to-day Allied officers are counting rifles and checking railway trucks; and Allied troops and Allied ships are on duty when they could be more profitably employed elsewhere. The policy is not only unjust, but from the Allies' point of view pernicious. At least, King Constantine might be given to understand that, if his attitude remains unsatisfactory, the guarantees will be withdrawn and the National Government will be left free to adopt its own methods of restoring national unity. Such a stage will be reached in any case when the war is over, and in the meantime it is well that the reasons why the process has been delayed should be generally known.

THE CAMPAIGN IN PALESTINE.

Although we are still in a state of suspense regarding the actual military situation in Palestine, there can be no doubt that an active offensive has now begun. In April the land is at its best climatically. The fields of Philistia are green with young corn, affording abundant fodder for horses and camels; the ground has hardened since the winter's rains, and fresh breezes and occasional showers mitigate the heat. The malaria, which makes camping dangerous in the plains during the summer and autumn months, is now of a mild type, and can usually be avoided. Once fairly in Palestine, north of, say, Gaza, there should be no lack of water or provender for the army.

Those watching from afar may ask what is the next objective. Is there to be a rapid advance on Jerusalem—vague rumours of British cavalry half-way there float about—or is the Holy City, for the present, a secondary consideration? If one may judge by the teaching of history, not to say geography, it is difficult to think that the capture of the city will be attempted before at least all the coastal region is secured, a stage which may take some time in the conditions of modern warfare. The strength of Jerusalem for defence is very great. This does not lie in her ancient walls and towers, nor even in any possible trenches in the neighbourhood, but in the fact that the city lies some 2,400 ft. above sea level, encircled by rugged mountains, and the few passes are in deep valleys, capable of easy defence. It was these conditions of natural strength which enabled the kingdom of Judah to outlive that of Israel by considerably more than a century; that made possible the success of the Jewish uprising against the Greco-Syrians, and—over two centuries later—so greatly prolonged resistance of the Jews against the Romans (A.D. 64-70).

When, too, after the battle of Hattin (1187), when the flower of the Crusaders' army was destroyed, and the city, bereft of its defenders, passed into the hands of the conquering Saladin, the Franks, although they hung on for a century more to the coast lands, were never able to recapture the city itself.

Against an army advancing from Egypt Jerusalem is secured by wilderness frontiers to the east and south, while no attack is possible from the north until the Plain of Esdraelon is secured. The western frontier presents a long wall of mountain. South-west the new-made military road running to Beersheba and beyond would present a very long line of difficult advance. The pass up the valleys Es Sant and Es Sur—up which the army of Antiochus V., with camel corps and elephants, made a successful attack on Jerusalem in B.C. 163—would, if successfully negotiated, bring our troops rapidly astride this great southern road, which runs north to Bethlehem and Jerusalem. But this pass would only be suitable for mountain guns, and could hardly be used as the main attack. The direct routes are by way of the railway through the Valley of Sorek, a long, winding track through a deep gorge very easily defended, and the more open, but still difficult, high road a little further north. Probably the entries to both these valleys will by now be fortified. Even their approaches are not improbably guarded by earthworks at Tell-el-Jizer—ancient Gezer; this site, which is still scarred with the trenches made in the cause of archaeology, is one well suited even now for the defence of both the road and railway. The difficulties are indeed so great that one cannot help thinking that a modern military expedition would, as has occurred several times in history, leave Jerusalem itself as the last aim of the campaign. If the approaches on every side are captured, the city itself must fall; indeed, in all probability the Turkish army would hasten to extricate itself before the last avenue was closed. The fate of Jerusalem has several times before this been settled in the plains.

Most suggestive at the present juncture is the record of the expedition of Napoleon to this land in 1799, a very clear résumé of which, by the late Sir Charles Watson, is given in the January number of the Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund. This expedi-

tion was, like our present one, undertaken for the defence of Egypt, and was, one may add, by no means the failure which some of our historians would make us believe. Indeed, Sir Charles Watson points out that it is a misfortune that we did not profit by this example of aggressive advance early in the war. "It would," he says, "have been a far more effective way of stopping an invasion of Egypt from Palestine than sitting down in front of a long line of the Suez Canal and waiting until an attack upon it was developed." Napoleon went to Palestine to defeat the oncoming army. He did that thoroughly, and also managed to get back to Egypt in time to destroy at the Battle of Aboukir, a second Turkish army coming by sea.

The narrative of this expedition is of extraordinary interest at the present time. The force consisted of some 12,507 men—mostly infantry—and over 50 guns. It advanced from Katieh, February 7, 1799, reached El Arish the following evening, occupied Khan Yunus, five miles north of Raia, on the 22nd. A few days later it advanced and captured Gaza, the Turkish army retreating before them; on the 28th they reached Ashdod, and the next day Ramleh. After some days spent in reducing Jaffa, the army resumed its advance on March 14, reached Haifa on the 16th, and encamped east of Akka on the 18th. While engaged in besieging Akka, in the defence of which England gave assistance by sea, Napoleon sent Murat to occupy Safed—on the direct road to Damascus—Junot to occupy Nazareth, that he might watch the road by the Lake of Galilee, and Vidal to Tyre, to prevent assistance coming to the Turks from Beyrout. Having been warned from Nazareth of the approach of large forces from over the Jordan, Napoleon advanced from Akka and engaged them in the famous "Battle of Mount Tabor," fought at El Fuleh in the Plain of Esdraelon. He defeated a host of 20,000 irregular horsemen, some of his mounted troops pursuing the flying remnants to the Jordan. How Napoleon raised the siege of Akka on May 20 and skilfully and rapidly withdrew his army, so that in a month he was back in Cairo, does not concern us here. The itinerary, however, is worth study when we notice that Ramleh is to-day the meeting-place of two railways (Jaffa-Jerusalem and Damascus-Beersheba lines) and of the Jaffa-Jerusalem carriage road, and that Haifa is now the starting-place of the western branch of the Hejaz railway, which joins the Damascus-Hejaz railway at Daráa (ancient Edrei). Further, to-day a new military road runs from Akka through Safed to Damascus, so that the mountain stronghold of Safed is still an important place at which to sever connections with the East. Lastly, close to El Fuleh, the scene of Napoleon's battle, is now the junction of the Samaria-Ramleh-Beersheba branch of the Hejaz railway. All these places which figure in Napoleon's war are thus of at least as great strategic interest to-day.

We have before us to-day a more definite goal than had Napoleon in the main Hejaz line itself. It is hardly possible for us to reach this except through Palestine itself, and for the sake of the Arabs in Arabia, who are seeking to maintain their long-fought-for independence, as well as for the conquest of Palestine, it is of paramount importance that an attempt should be made to cut this line. It lies some thirty-five to forty miles east of the Jordan, but is exposed to attack at many points, if once the Jordan is crossed. This seized and held, the fate of Jerusalem is sealed. Some talk and write as if Palestine were already within our grasp; but it is to be feared that a campaign of much difficulty and on a large scale will be necessary before this happens. The German-led Turkish forces will certainly resist to the utmost any attempt to wrest from their grasp any part of a land on the retention of which for varying reasons both Germans and Turks set such store.

E. W. G. M.

According to the German newspapers, Enver Pasha, during his recent visit to North Germany, narrowly escaped being killed. He visited the submarine base at Wilhelmshaven, and then left by motor for Oldenburg to visit the Grand Duke. When near the village of Rastede his car collided with another carriage. His chauffeur was seriously injured, and splinters of broken glass hit Enver in the face. Enver admitted that he was within a hair's-breadth of being killed.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The news of the big fight south of Gaza can hardly have surprised many people; for all the signs had been pointing to something of the kind for some little time past, to say nothing of rumours that found their way some time ago into Syrian and Armenian quarters in London, apparently from Egypt. But if not unexpected, the news was none the less welcome, and the capture of an entire Turkish Divisional Staff, with a sprinkling of Austrians and Huns, did nothing to diminish the satisfaction it afforded us. The only "fly in the ointment," when first the news came through, was, I fancy, the difficulty in finding the "Wadi Ghuzze" of the War Office announcement on our maps. I turned at once to the Palestine Exploration Fund's Annual for 1914-1915, feeling tolerably sure I should find the wadi on the map therein given. I was disappointed, and half a dozen other maps failed to satisfy my thirst for knowledge. Finally I ran the name to earth, so to say, on the R.G.S.'s map of Turkey-in-Asia, etc., and even there it was marked "W. Chaza or Rozze." Curiously enough, a branch of this wadi, known as the Wadi-el-Sharia, is marked on many of the maps that ignore the main wadi.

Of course, there was never any doubt in our minds as to the position of the wadi; for the War Office announcement expressly mentioned that it is "five miles south of Gaza." But many of us find a lot of satisfaction in hunting up any place mentioned in despatches and so forth, and the more difficult they are to find, the better the fun—if only you do find them at last. Our trouble over the "Wadi Ghuzze" was due to our excitement, no doubt. We should have remembered that Gaza is spelled in various ways—"Ghazze," "Azzah," and so on. But excitement ought surely to have died away sufficiently by the following day, for one of the morning papers to avoid printing "Radesh-barnea" for Kadesh-Barnea.

Of Gaza's biblical and historical associations you have probably read enough—if not more than enough—in the daily papers since last Thursday, and I do not purpose going over the well-worn ground again. But a small point may be worth mentioning. The place has been since very early days, and still remains, rather well-known amongst the Bedouin for its pottery, which is ribbed and very hard. The site has been occupied for many centuries, of course, and if only excavations could be undertaken on a large scale they would certainly yield valuable results. West of the town there is, I am told by a friend with archaeological leanings, a most tempting tell, with traces of an important wall of unbaked brick and very much early pottery. Perhaps here, as elsewhere, the Soldier will prove the friend of the Archaeologist.

Feloojah (or Feluja), the place on the Euphrates which, it is announced, our troops occupied on March 19, is known to all travellers who have followed the overland route from Baghdad homewards. It is—or was when I last saw it—a tiny place, consisting of a khan and a few Arab hovels; and it had only one feature to distinguish it from quite a number of similar caravan halting-places: its khan had five octagonal upper chambers, each of which was provided with a peculiar umbrella-like roof, such as I never saw anywhere else in the country. These somehow suggested to me the idea of pagodas; and they are so utterly unlike any other buildings in the neighbourhood that I feel almost sure they must owe their design to a foreigner—probably a Chinaman! That they are still standing I should much doubt, for the whole khan was in a desperately tumbledown state. If it has survived, we may hope to see a picture of it ere long in one of the illustrated papers, for it is not the kind of building that the amateur photographer would overlook.

In his letter to the Editor on the subject of "Witchcraft" "Veritas" pays me the compliment of referring to a paragraph on the subject that I wrote a few weeks ago. I am grateful to him for his hint about Mr. Rawson's book, which, judging by its title, ought to be very well worth reading; and I hope to benefit by it as soon as I can find time for reading. I am also interested in the explanation given of the reason for the "witches" piercing images of their victims. But I do not know why "Veritas" should conclude, as he appears to have done, that I think there is little or nothing in "witchcraft." I have no faith at all in the "witch," or the dabbler in "magic" of any kind, who is willing to exercise her (or his) "art" for any pecuniary consideration; but I am very ready to admit that there are many forces at work which we by no means understand, and in the power of "will" to work wonders I have great faith.

The last paragraph of "Veritas's" letter raises a point that interests me greatly. Unfortunately, it has nothing whatever to do with the Near East, and therefore I should be wandering outside my appointed sphere if I were to deal with it at length. But I cannot refrain altogether from referring briefly to it. "Veritas" writes:—"Modern psychology now teaches that every thought a man thinks has an effect," etc. Up to a certain point this is undoubtedly sound. It is the modern recognition of the principle that was embodied in the Ahriman and Ormuzd belief. But at what point does the contest between the rival forces begin? In other words, when does the "idea," swift and fleeting, often elusive, become a "thought," capable of having an effect?

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mosquito Netting for Troops.

March 29.

MR. MACPHERSON informed Major Palmer that mosquito netting would be issued to the British troops at Salonika this summer.

British Success in the East.

MR. BONAR LAW, in reply to Mr. Asquith, read the communiqué received from the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt reporting the success achieved by our troops. The House cheered the news with great heartiness.

Greece and the Allies.

April 2.

MR. LYNCH (N., Clare, West) asked whether the fall of the Russian despotism would have any effect in modifying the policy of the Allies towards Greece; whether King Constantine was in constant communication with the German Emperor; and whether, in view of the new political situation, a more energetic programme would be adopted in the Balkans.

MR. BALFOUR. The answer to the first and second parts of the question is in the negative, and I am unable, for obvious reasons, to make any observations in answer to the last portion of the inquiry.

MR. LYNCH: Does not the condition of Greece represent, on a smaller scale, the condition of Russia before the fall of the Emperor, and are you not, by your policy, supporting those parties in Greece favourable to the German cause?

MR. BALFOUR: Historical parallels are dangerous and treacherous, and I would not venture, at all events, to traverse those points by way of question and answer.

The Turkish Defeat near Gaza.

April 2.

MR. BONAR LAW, replying to Sir A. Williamson, read an additional report from the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, describing the fighting near Gaza on March 26 and 27. The report, which states that the Turkish losses are estimated at 8,000, while our total of killed was less than 400, is dealt with elsewhere.

British and Turkish Prisoners.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that extremely distressing accounts had been published of the treatment of British prisoners in Turkish hands, showing that they were not only cruelly neglected, but were suffering from diseases of many kinds and from starvation, and that some had succumbed to their ill-treatment. He asked for information concerning these cases.

LOID NEWTON, in reply, said that a Red Cross Commission which recently visited a number of the camps in Asia Minor reported that, while the condition of the officers detained in them was not unsatisfactory, that of the men was almost intolerable, as, indeed, anyone would understand must be the case where Europeans were the captives of an Oriental Power. A recommendation was made that as many of these men as might be possible should be exchanged, and he was happy to say that the consent of the War Cabinet had been obtained to a proposal of that kind being made. It had been suggested that a preliminary exchange of 600 men should take place. That number was chosen because 600 men could be conveyed in a hospital ship, and it was hoped that it would be possible for such a ship to take 600 Turks from Egypt to a port in Asia Minor, and to bring back an equal number of British captured and wounded. There had not been sufficient time for a reply to be received; but from private information he had reason to hope that the proposal would be acceded to, and he trusted that this would be only preliminary to a larger exchange.

At a meeting of 3,000 Zionists, held at Odessa, a resolution was passed urging the inclusion at the Peace Conference at the close of the war of the question of ceding Palestine to the Jews.

It is understood that, subject to the possible recalling of some witnesses on small points, the Dardanelles Commissioners have now concluded the hearing of evidence, and will proceed with the consideration of their report on the second section of their inquiry—the conduct of the operations. The Commissioners will not sit again for a fortnight.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Arab Responsiveness.

The difference between the Arab and the Turk is very clearly brought out in an article, entitled "The Arab World: its Past and its Future," which appeared in last Friday's *Times*. The writer begins with a reference to the Arab world as "that world of noise, bustle, passion, and rhetoric which has lain under the deadening influence of the various Turkish dynasties near upon a thousand years," and he acknowledges that the Arab race, "divided, scattered, and battered by war, revolution, conquest, and deliberate misgovernment," presents a sad spectacle. There is, however, no need to despair:—

When the Arab has met civilization in the past the marriage of intellects has been fruitful. The nature of the issue is demonstrated by the ruins which scatter Syria, Mesopotamia and Irak. The groves of columns at Tadmor, the vast temple of Baalbek, the palace of Al Hadhr, the hippodrome of Gerash, the theatre of Amman, the basilicas of the Hauran and North Syria, the mosques and tombs of Damascus, the desert castles of Kerak, Salkhad and El Nejin, are witnesses to results of the mating of the Arab mind with the successive cultures of Greece, Rome, Parthia, Persia, Byzantium and the Franks.

A very necessary distinction between the "Arab" of Northern Africa and the true Arab is then drawn:—

Though Egypt is Arab in tongue, the western desert in name, it is not until you arrive at Baghdad that you reach that roaring, chinking, clattering, arguing, bellowing, demonstrative world of Rabelaisian jest, caustic satire, plaintive poetry, majestic verse, calculated rhetoric, comprehensive invective, subtle flattery, remorseless logic, and strident, ear-piercing din which stretches to the Mediterranean coast on the west, the Kurdish hills on the east, and the rugged fringes of the Taurus on the north, that space of earth which the old Arabian geographers named Irak, Jazirah, Shamiyah, Suriya and Filistin.

After reminding us of the prosperity and the advanced state of civilization of the great empire of which Baghdad was formerly the capital, the article contrasts these things with the "desolation and wretchedness of to-day." It then continues:—

Has the Arab degenerated? What explanation can account for the utter collapse of this people? Degenerate in the true sense the Arab certainly is not; you will find his memory as acute, his wit as nimble, his sense of humour as keen, his observation as direct, as in the days of Ibn Batuta, Abu Nowas, or Ed Tabari. Lithe and supple, of good physique, his perfect features, glossy hair, small hands and feet, show he is in body as true to type as his puns, oratory, wit and astuteness prove his mind to be unaltered; yet he who gave civilization and order to a third of Asia and the whole of North Africa now lives on a dunghill amidst flies and ruins. What is the answer to the enigma?

I think the answer is that the Arab intellect is one that only produces itself to the utmost by contact with other minds. For centuries the Arab of Arabia, which is the Arab of isolation, has remained in the same position, neither advancing nor retiring, absolutely changeless. In the days of the Prophet the Arabs of Arabia were, as to-day, intensely aristocratic in sentiment as regards birth and breed, desultory but courageous warriors, brilliant poets, fine conversationalists and astute diplomatists. The Arabs that Arabia has put forth have been whatsoever the contacts they established with the outer world made them.

—And Turkish Distinctiveness.

The Turk's policy towards the Arab has been simply and consistently destructive. He "has not been able to oppress an Arab and reduce him to slavery and sullen bondage, as he could the Armenians, Bulgarians, and Greeks," but he has done his worst. He has sowed dissension among the tribes and the sheikhs; he has bartered away the assets of the country "in rascally concessions to Levantine financiers"; in the cities he has "encouraged faction and feud until every municipality is a seething mass of intrigue and hatred"; and the peasant has been overtaxed, unprovided with proper means of communication, conscripted, oppressed in every way:—

The Arabs, under such influences as these, have seen their cities and agriculture wither away, and, being easily divided, have sunk back into the misery from which they had emerged in a blaze of glory. . . . Yet though the Arabs are brought to this pass, there are sure and certain indications that after centuries of deforming and errant circumstance they have within them still that eternal spark of vitality which enabled them to beget greatness in the past. . . .

To-day a little breeze of life is stirring in the Arab world. Isolated, dispersed, sundered by creed and geographical circumstance, warped as they are by misfortune, nevertheless there is among the Arabs a movement toward cohesion, a new sense of being. There is an Arab movement, vague, undefined, at times almost imperceptible, yet it exists. The common tongue, the common vitality, the pride of race, the great memories of the past, combine to stimulate through the Arab world a little throbbing pulse of life. The Arabs are so ancient and so unconquered a people that there is not yet a sense of nationalism; the Arabs are in a pre-nationalist state; but the racial sense is strong and deep, the pride of race is deeper still, the desire to realize their destiny is a growing force.

A Great World-Asset.

How soon will that desire be realized? Much will depend upon Great Britain; and the article concludes with a paragraph that should help us all to realize how serious will be our responsibility if we fail to help the Arab along that path of progress which he has so long been debarred by the Turk from following:—

At this moment the British are in Baghdad. The Turks, please God, are going from the lands they have ruined and broken. The Arabs are on the verge of a new contact—contact with the post-war Europe that is not yet. What may come of it who can tell? Approached as "natives" or in "a white man's burden" manner, the Arab will shut up like an oyster. Approached as what he is, in the light of what he was (and in the teachings of 2,000 years of history mean anything, again shall be), the Arab of the future will prove to be one of the great world-assets. Firmness, tolerance, humility and understanding are the qualities which those who would help to raise this people must pray for. To help the Arab once again to greatness, to partnership in the fruitfulness of the earth, to break the spell of the Turanian destroyer, and begin afresh the great story of Semitic civilization, is more than an Imperial task—it is a contribution to the fulfilment of the destiny of mankind.

M. Venizelos Interviewed.

The *New Europe* for March 29 contains an interview with M. Venizelos. This gives in some detail M. Venizelos's reasons for effacing himself to the extent that he did—and to a certain extent, continues to do, for going to Salonika instead of continuing the fight in the capital, and for not giving his movement an anti-dynastic character. It also explains how it is that the Venizelist movement, "whose avowed aim was to rally Greece in arms against the Bulgars and the enemies of the Entente, could, at the end of four months, only send some 10,000 men to the front." These points were all put in the form of direct questions to M. Venizelos, and what he had to say with regard to the last one may be fairly well guessed from his remark, "It is not to me that your last question should be addressed." The Entente does, in fact, seem to have shown less delicacy in regard to Venizelist susceptibilities than in regard to those of King Constantine and his followers. As to his reasons for not giving an anti-dynastic character to his movement, although he had declared that King Constantine had betrayed his country, M. Venizelos said:—

It is because the Entente had been good enough to promise me their indispensable aid, under the express stipulation that the movement should not be anti-dynastic. Besides, I did not myself dream of changing either the form of government or the reigning House. What I desired was to fulfil, so far as possible, our treaty obligations to Serbia, to join the Allies in driving the Bulgars from our territory, and to contribute, according to our modest powers, to the final victory, thus bringing Greece back into the path of her traditional policy by the side of the Protecting Powers. After the war and the success on which I reckoned, we could have restored our Constitutional liberties by convoking a Constituent Assembly.

Who is to Blame?

It capitulates some of the things that the Entente compelled M. Venizelos to do (as set out in the *New Europe* article), and continues:—

Who was responsible? We know something now of the treachery to our cause which emanated from the Russian Court. Have we to look to the same quarter for the "hidden hand" that protected Constantine and muzzled Venizelos? Were there other similar influences at work? If so, where were they and what were they? These questions will be asked, and they will have to be answered. Europe is in no mood for concealment any longer. It will want to know who its enemies are, and it will not be fobbed off with diplomatic equivocations. Let us not forget that the darkest feature of the whole story is that, in permitting Constantine to make waste paper of the Constitution, the Allied Powers were betraying their trust as guarantors of the liberties of the Greek nation. It was not the Greeks who were faithless to their bond. They returned Venizelos to power in the teeth of the King, and even now the Liberal leader says that if the Allies will put the King aside and secure an election he is sure of a large majority. It was the Court that was the enemy, and it is the Court to which the interests of the Allies have been sacrificed.

This interview forms the subject of a leading article in the *Daily News* of March 30. The *News* is moved, and not unnaturally so, by the shabby treatment of M. Venizelos; and it believes that it is not only by King Constantine that he has been shabbily treated:—

What is new in the revelations and what will, we believe, move democratic Europe to indignation is the light they throw on the conduct of the Allies throughout the time when Venizelos was taking his life in his hands on their behalf, and when Constantine was engaged in helping the Kaiser to defeat them. The simple fact that emerges is that, but for the interdict of the Allies, Venizelos would and could have defeated Constantine's schemes, and would and could have brought Greece into the scale on our side. At every stage he was checkmated, not by Constantine so much as by the Allies.

The Turks and Palestine.

Commenting on Sir Archibald Murray's victory near Gaza, *The Times* (March 30) considers that the Turks have received a blow which is likely to weaken them grievously for

a long time to come. The effect of our success would have been serious in any event; it will be greatly enhanced by the fact that it has followed so hard upon our capture of Baghdad. As to the value of Palestine:—

The Turks and their German mentors are well aware of the military importance of Palestine and of the routes which lead through it. It is, indeed, believed that they neglected to strengthen their forces on the Tigris in order to reinforce those which guarded the way towards Damascus, and perhaps towards other points which the projectors of the Baghdad Railway and its extensions watch with anxiety. The nationality of the inhabitants and the consciousness of the barbarous cruelty exercised upon them since the outbreak of the war may well increase the uneasiness of the oppressors. For the Jews and the Arabs, who form the majority, the Allies are carrying on a real war of liberation. It was, indeed, the savage inhumanity with which the Young Turks treated the Arabs of Syria that roused their brethren in the Hejaz to revolt. A Turkish retreat through Palestine and Syria will be a retreat through hostile populations.

It is to be hoped that the retreat, if carried far, will be so hurried that the Turk will have no time to vent his spite (further) on the poor people whom he has driven into hostility towards him by his own sheer bad government and brutality.

The Future of Palestine.

In *Palestine*, the organ of the British Palestine Committee, the future settlement of that country is discussed, and, in particular, a proposal made by Commander Wedgwood that it should be put under the sovereignty of the United States:—

"What evidence is there," it is asked, "that she desires to undertake the serious responsibility for her involved in the annexation of Palestine? The proposal has been ventilated in *Harper's Weekly* by Mr. Norman Hapgood, but it cannot be said that it met with a particularly cordial reception. There is good reason to believe that precisely the argument which appeals to Commander Wedgwood repels many Americans. They do not want America to become involved in Europe, as a lodgment in the Mediterranean would involve her. Of the strength of that sentiment the British Palestine Committee has received evidence which convinces it that the American solution of the Palestinian question is not practical politics. That does not mean that America is indifferent to the revival of a Jewish national life in Palestine. She could not be unless the very powerful Jewish community in the United States were indifferent, and unless she had lost her sense of generous ideas. America will lend all her support, short of taking over Palestine herself, to the recreation there of a centre for the Jewish people. As we have the best of reasons for knowing, American Jewry favours a British Palestine. It cannot be doubted, therefore, that American influence at the Peace settlement will be directed to that end."

The Berlin-Baghdad Mirage.

The *Rheinisch Westfälische Zeitung*, dwelling on the Berlin-Baghdad dreams, which are again occupying the attention of the German public, says:—

The railway line from Constantinople to Baghdad is at present militarily important for Germany, which greatly desires to maintain a strong Turkey. But Turkey's military weakness lies in the little developed railway system in Asia Minor. If it were developed the railway would materially assist Turkey in her defence. German dreams about Berlin to Baghdad can, economically, only end in a fiasco. It is out of the question for the railway to achieve economic importance or even to replace the sea route. Whoever coined the words "Berlin to Baghdad," whoever defends them, is obscuring the eyes of the people from the fact that Germany possesses one outlet to the world—namely, across the North Sea, and that we want the freedom of the North Sea and its highways in order to be a free people in the future centuries. The fight with England would not have been spared us if we had tried to gain a free sea through Baghdad and Koweit. We must either free our sea towns from England or not be free at all.

Articles to Note.

"Lessons from the Dardanelles Report," by John Leyland, in the *Nineteenth Century* (April).

"The Early German Settlers in Transylvania," by the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B., and Jean V. Bates; and "The Dardanelles Report," by Archibald Hurd, in the *Fortnightly Review* (April).

"Germany's Real Ambition," by Count Gleichen, in the *National Review* (April).

"The Scene of War: VII.," by Odysseus; "Besieged in Kut—and After," by C. B.; and "Musings Without Method," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (April).

"The Dardanelles Inquiry," by A. MacCallum Scott, M.P.; and "The Armenian Massacres," by Lewis Einstein, in the *Contemporary Review* (April).

An Admiralty notice in the *London Gazette* states that preparations are being made for the intended distribution of the Prize Bounty awarded for the destruction of a Turkish gunboat by H.M. submarine E.14 on May 1, 1915.

The Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John has just received a donation of £199 for Red Cross work in Mesopotamia from natives of Baghdad residing in Marseilles. The gift was handed to the British Consul-General at Marseilles "in grateful recognition of the occupation of Baghdad by British troops and its liberation from the Ottoman yoke."

GERMAN INTRIGUES IN MOROCCO.

A paper which Captain A. J. A. Douglas, of the Cameron Highlanders, read before the Royal Geographical Society last Monday, which described two journeys in the High Atlas in 1911 and 1912, was remarkable for its revelation of German intrigues in that country. In Mogador he had found a small international club and had been introduced to the leading European residents. He learned that the German firm of Mauesmann Brothers had a branch there. This firm was subsidised by the German Government, and had native and European agents scattered in the hinterland. The Germans were friendly, and in conversation with Captain Douglas took every opportunity of running down the French. They tried to dissuade him from going inland, telling him he would be killed by the Berbers of Atlas. They did not trust him, nor did he trust them.

Captain Douglas described the country he travelled through, the people and the castles in which the headmen of the clans lived. He said that he and his party were regarded with open disfavour by the natives as Christians. They were made to feel their inferiority, and insults were hurled at them as they passed through the streets of Morocco. He was nevertheless well received by the Governor of this city and by the headmen of other places to which he went, thanks to letters of introduction which he carried. At the castle of Arballo, however, the Khalifa would have nothing to do with the party, and they consequently found it impossible to push on to the castle of Glawi, for they had finished the supply of food for the mules, and the natives would not sell them any more. Captain Douglas, obliged to change his plans, made his way back, by another route, to Mogador, from which town he had started. In this part of his journey he had great difficulty with the headmen of the villages wherever he wished to stay. Once, having passed a villainous-looking man on horseback and armed with a long gun, he turned and saw that this individual had dismounted and was pointing the gun at him. Captain Douglas covered the man with his Mauser pistol, whereupon the would-be assassin remounted and rode off. An explanation of this and the other incidents appeared when Captain Douglas learned that the Germans had sent an emissary ahead of him to bribe the Berbers to put every obstacle in his path, and to kill him if a suitable opportunity of doing so quietly presented itself. He had been represented as an agent of the British Government sent to spy out the land preparatory to returning with an armed force to seize and occupy it. Next year when he visited the western end of Atlas he had a similar adventure. He and his party had got as far as the valley inhabited by the Ait Tubb tribe, a spot to which he was told no European had been before. The Sheikh was friendly, but refused to let the party go further, fearing they would be killed by hostile Berbers. They stayed ten days with this tribe. On the ninth day, as they were making ready to depart, two men arrived from the main range, saying they were sent by their Sheikh to invite the party to their village. Here again it was discovered that the intention was to ambush and kill the travellers, and that a German native agent had bribed the Sheikh who was to have committed the crime.

Of the country itself, Captain Douglas said that Morocco would be an extremely valuable asset to the French when they had time to devote their energies to its development. The climate of the coast belt was ideal, with a temperature seldom over 70 degs. in the summer, or under 60 degs. in the winter. There was sufficient rainfall, and the crops, even under native methods, were surprisingly rich. Under the hands of French agriculturists Morocco might well become one of the granaries of the world. Until now the system of native government had retarded and, in fact, almost prevented development. Under French protection this would be changed. The one great defect was the want of a good harbour on the Atlantic coast. Already the old order was changing, and it was not hard to foresee that under firm and wise government Morocco would come into her own. Her Atlantic coast might some day be a second Riviera.

In the course of a short discussion that followed, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, who presided, said that of the two things that had struck him most when visiting Morocco, one was the extreme barbarism of the people. He had felt while there that he was more among primitive surroundings than he had been in any other place in the Near or Far East that he had been to. The only place where he had had quite the same feeling had been in the heart of Central Africa. The other thing that had struck him was the unexpected greenness of the part of Morocco that he had visited. Strategically Morocco was extraordinarily important. From its coast could be controlled the shipping to the Cape, and largely that to South America also. It was, too, very convenient for the Mediterranean. No doubt the Germans had these facts in view when they attempted to get some kind of settlement or harbour either on the main coast of Morocco or on some of the islands not far off.

For the fifth time within a month, says Monday's French report from Macedonia, enemy airmen have bombarded the Allied hospitals at Eksison, although these are plainly marked with red crosses. Among the victims of the latest raid were 20 Bulgarian prisoners.

In a message from Salonika, Mr. Ward Price says that the monastery community of Mount Athos has sent a telegram to say that after a religious ceremony, attended by the principal Ecclesiastical personages, a proclamation was made of the community's formal adhesion to the Venizelist Government.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

All the indications that have been forthcoming in the last few months go to show that Germany has been badly off for an adequate supply of cotton for her textile industries, a fact in which Egyptian mill interests will take more than a passing interest. The reports received regarding the spinning industry show that the available supplies of raw material have been meagre, and there is little probability that the old sources of supply can ever again be tapped—at least, for some years. This is, probably, one of the reasons why the Germans have cultivated Turkish friendship with so much assiduity. In recent months extensive experiments in cotton growing have been made in those parts of Asia Minor which are served by the more westerly sections of the Baghdad Railway. We are told that these experiments have been pushed along on scientific lines, that extensive irrigation work has been undertaken, and that the Germans and Austrians have joined in the establishment of a cotton-buying association in order to develop a market for purchase of the raw material when it has been grown.

The project appears to be more or less a desperate one, and those who have studied the rapid deterioration of the Ottomans as a fighting factor will appreciate this fact. The British advances in Syria and in Mesopotamia lead to the hope that the Turks will presently be so busy in preventing the fissures in their Empire from growing that there will not be much time or space for experimental cultivation. The feeding of the Turks themselves will become a more urgent matter than the provision of cotton for idle mills in Germany, and it will not be surprising to learn that the Turks have revolted against the economic helotry to which their Hunnish masters appear to have condemned them. All the evidence there is shows that Turkey wants food and other domestic necessities, and the result of her need can have only one end. It will scarcely be toleration of further exploitation by her allies.

General Dobell's fine victory over the Turks at Gaza has had a gratifying effect on the Stock Exchange here, where Egyptian securities have appreciated in value. It must not be supposed, however, that we have ever believed that the boast of the Turks and the Huns that they would cut into the Suez Canal and over-run Egypt has ever received serious attention. We are able to judge the value of such vapourings very well; but there has been the possibility that the enemy might cause trouble, retard national developments, and, perhaps, thus interfere with crops and such like essential branches of trade. This possibility has now been eliminated, and nothing remains to obstruct the splendid wave of prosperity which has been washing the shores of the Protectorate.

I am glad to observe that the country receives increased attention in the British financial and commercial Press. The *Financier* and *Bullionist* devoted its leading article to the subject on March 31, and, while I was surprised to learn from my excellent contemporary—as all good

Britons in Egypt will be surprised to learn—that the country "is under the rule of the ex-Khedive, now known as the Sultan," it discussed in an informed and lucid manner the various industrial and commercial concerns operating in the country.

A report is published elsewhere in this issue of the further development in the establishment of the Anglo-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce. It will be seen from the list of the members of the Council that the new Chamber is composed of stalwarts, and that if human agency can avail in the rehabilitation of trade success is assured. Lord Bessborough is the chairman, a sufficient guarantee in itself; and with a strong staff, which is also in evidence, and the complete support which the personnel of the Council indicates will be forthcoming, the work of the Chamber should be definite and enduring.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, on the other hand, does not appear to be as effective as the needs of the country demand. A spirited discussion took place at a meeting held early last month, in the course of which it was pretty freely admitted that all was not as it should be. Lack of vitality and enterprise and narrowness of scope were some of the allegations to which no real defence was offered. Conviction of sin, however, is the first step to conversion, and with the new opportunities for trade which now present themselves in Egypt, and along the East Mediterranean littoral, I hope soon to hear that conversion has really taken place.

I have referred on many previous occasions to the fact that America—a welcome to our new Ally!—is engaged busily in study and penetration of Near Eastern markets. I was interested recently in a note submitted by the United States Consul at Mombasa (Mr. Henry P. Starrett) to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington—the source of those very interesting reports on the commerce of the world—in which he described Mombasa, not only as a port of entry to a vast territory in East and Central Africa, but also as a model, so to speak, on which the requirements of the natives of countries in which my readers are interested can be gauged. He is worth quoting.

"When it is stated" (he writes) "that Mombasa serves as a port of entry to a vast territory in East and Central Africa within which there are not less than 20,000,000 natives, and that goods designed to meet their taste and pocket-book are equally appropriate for the important markets of the Red Sea coasts, Somaliland, Abyssinia, the Sudan, the Belgian Congo basin, and even parts of South Africa and the West Coast, it would seem that the prospect for the sale of prints, dyed goods, and blankets, made up to meet the peculiar requirements of this trade, might well be worth very careful consideration. Although present conditions may not warrant immediate action in this respect, plans should be laid for an extensive campaign looking to the introduction of such goods just as soon as shipping conditions become normal. Such a market can only be developed by careful preparation and energetic execution, and

by being able to keep actively in mind the peculiarities of the trade, the unquestioned development which is taking place in Africa despite the war, and the enormously increased future demand which this progress will stimulate." This is real, scientific commercial intelligence, and I commend it to the attention of British manufacturers, shippers, and all public bodies entrusted with the protection and development of trade interests.

Mr. D. E. Pachundaki, a member of the Egyptian Institute, in a lecture at Cairo recently, pointed out some of the defects in the Egyptian fishing industry, and offered remedy. "Egypt," he declared, "with a sea-coast of 2,800 kilometres, and with a great river cutting it through from south to north, should afford an extensive field for the development of the industry. Unfortunately, we find it as primitive now as it was in the days of the Pharaohs. The Red Sea side of the Egyptian coast is practically neglected, and fishing is restricted to the Mediterranean. Only a few Italian fishing boats work the coast near Alexandria on a more or less scientific basis. At Port Said there are only four fishing vessels!"

Little wonder is it that the quantity of the weekly haul is less than it was ten years ago, and the quality inferior; and I think some effect ought to be given to the suggestions which Mr. Pachundaki made by way of remedy. He believes the remedy would be for the public to interest themselves in the question with a view to making a special study of it on scientific lines and to the establishment of special study stations for marine biology, similar to those in Europe. A "reserve of fish" should be kept for breeding purposes, and it might be found feasible to carry out also artificial fecundation as is done in sixty different lakes of the United States.

Another famine in Egypt! The tobacco stock, writes the *Egyptian Gazette*, reduced by constant withdrawals without imports, now consists of 50,000 bales. This quantity will be consumed in a period of from two to three months; and the tobacco crisis is accordingly becoming very acute, and unless the Government takes steps either to revive the cultivation of tobacco in Egypt or to have tobacco imported from some sources abroad the country will find itself entirely without tobacco in three months' time." Prices, we are told, have soared, and Greek leaf of "the lowest quality" is now sold at from P.T. 55 to P.T. 70 by wholesalers, while retailers take the oke at the rate of from P.T. 88 to P.T. 90 and even P.T. 100. "The Turkish tobacco known as Samsoun and Basma has become very rare, and is kept for special clients."

The paper mentions a rumour that the Government has begun to study the revival of tobacco-growing in Egypt in the present circumstances, but admits that this lacks confirmation. The statement seems to have come from the fact that the authorities at the Tobacco Customs asked the wholesale merchants, when they withdrew their goods, about the qualities and values of the tobacco taken to the market. In the opinion of some merchants this new examination by the authorities means that the Government is anxious to know the kinds of tobacco which ought to be grown in the country.

COMMENTATOR

Sudan Government Budget for 1917.

Increased Revenue Due to Trade Expansion--Darfur's First Balance Sheet.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 7.

The Sudan Government has just issued its Budget for the current year. Revenue is estimated at £E1,806,000 and expenditure at a like amount, the time-worn custom of balancing the estimates without showing a surplus or a deficit—surviving from the day when a subvention was annually received from Egypt to make both ends meet—having been followed this year. This estimate is 10 per cent. above that for 1916, when the figure was fixed at £E1,642,500.

The principal increases on the revenue side are Provincial (in which are included royalties, animal, land, date and traders' taxes) by £E31,200, to £E520,600; Customs by £E20,000 to £E200,000; Posts and Telegraphs by £E10,800 to £E76,000; and Railways by £E95,000 to £E765,000. On the expenditure side the main increases are:—Provincial, £E34,597; Finance Department, £E13,700; Agriculture and Forests, £E8,312; Post Office, £E8,184; and Railways, £E85,543.

The increases in expenditure are, in the case of the provinces, due to normal expansion, provision for which, for the reasons stated in previous reviews of the country's finances, is imperative if the Sudan is to follow the proper course of its development. The £E85,543 additional railway credit is almost entirely due to the high cost of coal and materials. Although, for similar reasons, an increase had to be granted to the Steamers Department, that increase has been more than set off by the elimination of non-recurring expenditure, which it has been possible to effect this year, with the result that the actual figure against this Department is £E8,486 less than it was last year. To compensate for the increased expenditure on coal and materials an extra 10 per cent. has been added to the railway rates, making a total addition in this direction of 20 per cent. since the outbreak of war. The balance of the increase in the railway receipts is due to improved traffic returns, despite reduction of trains, whilst the improvement in Customs receipts, though in a measure brought about by the rise in the price of articles on the world's markets, is at the same time due to increased foreign trade, and the expansion registered in the provincial receipts to improved internal trade conditions.

An Interesting Innovation.

One interesting feature in the new Budget is the inclusion for the first time of the newly conquered province of Darfur. The latter stands for the modest sum of £E10,800 on both sides of the account. As regards revenue, this figure is naturally but a rough estimate, owing to the imperfect knowledge which the authorities possess at present of the province's capacity at this very initial stage in its history. In the case of the expenditure the total outlay will be much more than £E10,800, but as the major portion will be borne by the War Department, which will still be very much taken up with the administration of the country, only what can be reasonably set against the civil administration has been allowed for in this part of the Budget.

A Comparison with 1913 Budget.

A comparison of the current year's Budget with that for 1913, i.e., the last normal one issued before the war, shows that, allowance being made for the extra 20 per cent. added to the railway rates, which has been included in the estimated receipts as well, the total revenue this year is expected to be £E42,000 better than was anticipated four years ago, whilst an additional expenditure of £E72,000 has been allowed for. Again, leaving out of consideration the Railway receipts, which despite the fact that they are inflated by the extra rates, show an expansion

in traffic, it is interesting to note that the Provincial Receipts and those from the Customs are this year assessed at practically the same figure as four years ago. The former are put down at £E520,600 against £E519,000 and the latter at £E200,000 against £E203,000. In the first case this plainly shows that the effects of the bad rains and low flood, which made themselves felt in 1913-1915, have worn off, and that the country has completely recovered; in the case of the Customs, although, as already stated, some of the increase must be assigned to the general rise in the world's markets, nevertheless the statistics show that the foreign trade of the country is flourishing. The combination of these two factors with the fact that railway traffic has improved may be taken as a sure indication that the economic condition of the country and of its inhabitants has not suffered one whit from the war.

A Cautious and Fair Estimate.

That the figures, on which these deductions are based and which have been fixed in the Budget for this year, are not exaggerated, that in fact they are fully justified, is proved by the latest statement of accounts to hand for the period ending November 30, 1916. In that statement the revenue collected is shown as £E1,666,101 and the actual expenditure incurred as £E1,430,456. During the concluding months of the financial year the revenue and expenditure are always proportionately greater than the average of the other months; usually the outgoings are much higher than the incomings. As it happens, November shows an excess of revenue over expenditure during the month. If we allow revenue for December at the average of the preceding months and instead of basing the expenditure on the same average take the higher figure of December, 1915, we find that the estimated revenue for the current year is slightly below what should in the circumstances be the final revenue for 1916, and that the expenditure is about £E160,000 higher than what the total should be for the past year. Thus it is evident that the Budget for the current year has been framed with the prudence and skill which Bernard Pasha, the Financial Secretary, has consistently displayed throughout his long direction of the Sudan finances, and that it presents a very fair estimate of what the country's financial resources may reasonably be expected to be during the current year.

The Past a Record Year.

In conclusion it may be pointed out that at the end of November the revenue collected had exceeded the estimate for the entire year and that a surplus of just under a quarter of a million was available. As already explained, however, it is highly probable that the December account will show that the debit side increased out of proportion to the receipts during the month, with the result that the above surplus will be considerably reduced. Even so we can safely count on a surplus of well over £E100,000. This is eminently satisfactory and is in reality more so than would appear at first sight, for on looking up the statistics we find that this constitutes a record for the Sudan, the previous highest surplus having been £E97,301 in 1912. What makes this even more noteworthy is the fact that in 1912 the Sudan was in receipt of a subvention of £E163,000 from Egypt, whereas to-day she does not receive one red cent of financial support from outside. There can be no doubt whatsoever that the whole position in the Sudan reflects the greatest credit on all concerned, especially on the staff of the Financial Department and on the Provincial authorities, without whose cordial co-operation the retrenchment rendered necessary during the early period of the war could not have been carried into effect with such little ill effects, indeed with such happy results as the political and economic situation of the Sudan reveals to-day.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN TRADE.

Establishment of the New Chamber of Commerce.

A meeting presided over by the Earl of Bessborough was held at the London Chamber of Commerce on April 2 for the purpose of taking the initial steps to form a British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, having for its object the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and Roumania. A number of influential business men were present, including his Excellency the Roumanian Minister (M. N. Misu), who was elected President of the Chamber. The Earl of Bessborough, Chairman of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., and Sir Albert K. Rolit (Consul-General for Roumania) were elected Vice-Presidents, and an Executive Committee was appointed to settle the memorandum and articles of association and by-laws and generally to conduct the affairs of the Chamber until the first general meeting of the members. Mr. H. Locke (London manager of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd.) was elected honorary treasurer of the new body and Mr. Charles E. Musgrave (secretary of the London Chamber) honorary secretary.

The formation of the Chamber is the outcome of an expressed desire on the part of those connected with Roumanian trade that some active steps should be taken to embrace the opportunity, which will present itself after the war, of considerably extending Great Britain's trade with Roumania, having regard to the fact that signs are not wanting that Roumania is not prepared to extend to her present enemies the trade welcome they enjoyed before the war. The British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce will be solely devoted to British-Roumanian interests and a number of influential firms have intimated their intention of giving it their fullest support.

The following have agreed to serve on the Council:—Mr. Edward T. Agius (E. T. Agius Ltd.), Mr. E. W. H. Barry (Director of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd.), Mr. R. Blenkinsop (Director of May and Baker, Ltd.), Mr. George Bonar (Low and Bonar, Dundee), Mr. G. Bonesco (Commercial Attache to the Roumanian Legation in London), Mr. A. Borneman (Ruston Proctor and Co., Ltd., Lincoln), Mr. H. Ernest Crawley (Crawley, Dixon and Co., Ltd.), Mr. J. F. Cleeves (Cleeves and Co.), Mr. J. P. Dickson (Denny, Mott and Dickson), Sir Trevor Dawson (Vickers Limited), Mr. Edward Dean (R. Hood, Haggie and Son, Ltd.), Mr. H. C. Field (Alfred Field and Co., Birmingham), Lord Furness (Furness, Withy and Co.), Mr. H. C. Godfrey-Ashton (Wilkinson, Heywood and Clark, Ltd.), Lord Goschen (Chairman, London County and Westminster Bank, Ltd.), Mr. Frederick Greenish (John Greenish and Sons), Sir Clarendon Hyde (S. Pearson and Son, Ltd.), Mr. Samuel Lamb (Coddington and Lamb, Manchester), Mr. E. H. Langdon (S. L. Behrens, Manchester), Mr. J. K. Lees (A. and A. Crompton and Co., Ltd., Shaw), Mr. H. Locke (Manager of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., London), Mr. Edward Manville (Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd.), Mr. S. F. Mendl (F. Mendl and Co.), Mr. E. W. Morgan (Managing Director of Howse, Mead and Sons, Ltd.), Mr. Percy Quilter (Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields), Mr. C. C. Railton (Chairman, Calico Printers Association, Ltd., Manchester), Mr. James Spence (Debenhams, Ltd.), Mr. T. M. Thornton (Levy Bros. and Knowles Ltd., Manchester), Mr. W. M. Watson (Watson and Youell), Mr. F. P. Archbold (Watson and Youell).

It is stated, with reference to the Greek Debt, on page 37 of the recently-published annual report of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, that it had been decided to centralise in Paris the administration of the funds applicable to the service of the debt. The Council desires to correct an omission inadvertently made in this statement, which should read that centralisation was only contemplated in the event of a rupture of diplomatic relations between the Greek Government and the Allied Powers.

BRITISH TRADE IN EGYPT.**Criticisms of the Chamber of Commerce.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 7.

On Tuesday evening last a meeting of the Cairo members of the British Chamber of Commerce was held at the offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank. A discussion ensued as to the promotion and consolidation of British trade interests in Egypt, and it was unanimously decided that an improvement in the status of the Cairo Committee was imperative, so as to enable it to extend its scope of action and respond more to the needs of the situation than it has done in the past. This decision is a most welcome one, and it is sincerely to be hoped not only that it will speedily be given effect to, but that it will prove to be the forerunner of a radical revision and reorganisation of the Chamber as a whole and of its methods.

The Chambers' Journal.

For some time there has been a decided feeling abroad that the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt has not been satisfactorily filling the rôle towards British trade interests that it should have done, and that it has lacked vitality and enterprise. Certainly, if the *Journal* may be regarded—and there is, after all, no reason why one should not so regard it—as an outward reflection of the inward energy, activities, and intelligence displayed by those responsible for the direction of the Chamber's labours, it is not in the least bit surprising that dissatisfaction is expressed.

There can be no doubt that if we are to emerge as successfully as we ought from the general trade war which lies ahead of us we must be more efficiently and more intelligently organised abroad for the defence and promotion of British trade interests. For that organisation the existing system of Chambers of Commerce should find a place, but those chambers, if they are going to play a useful part in the furtherance of British trade interests, must necessarily be directed by the most able, the most active, the most broad-minded, and the most enterprising members of the local British commercial communities. They must not be over-conservative and hidebound in their ideas, but accustomed to move with the times and to strike out in fresh directions and readjust their methods as new circumstances arise—men who thoroughly understand the requirements of the situation and are fully alive to the great responsibility they have assumed towards their fellow traders. They must be men, too, who, whilst naturally watching over local interests, will not be inclined to take too parochial a view of questions that may arise, but will study them and take action in regard to them from the Imperial standpoint as well.

Change Foreshadowed.

It must be admitted that individual members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt have repeatedly shown marked initiative, public spirit, and enterprise, but it cannot, I think, for one moment, be contended that the Chamber, as a corporate body, has hitherto satisfied the conditions which, in the future, even more than in the past, should characterise the work of all representative bodies instituted for the protection and furtherance of British trade interests abroad. It is therefore to be hoped that the decision of the Cairo members will be carried out without delay, and that a radical reorganisation of the Chamber will follow, so that the latter may, before it is too late, be enabled to take up its proper rôle towards Imperial trade in general and British trade in Egypt in particular.

The Greek steamer *Mentor* is reported to have been sunk after being in collision with a British steamer.

The Russian Provisional Government has decided upon simplified procedure in the creation of limited companies. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry will now deal with such matters, which will not have to be referred to the Cabinet.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.**No Activity and a Poor Outlook.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Tuesday.

This has been a short week in the market and no activity can be recorded in any direction. Buyers continue to mark time and the prospects remain poor. It is understood representations have been made to the Government with regard to the small amount of tonnage available for the export of cotton goods, but it is doubtful whether the authorities are in a position to give special facilities to Lancashire traders. In raw cotton circles there has been some nervousness owing to the possibility of changes in prices as a result of political developments in the United States. A fair amount of buying continues to take place by Lancashire spinners in Egyptian cotton and supplies are by no means plentiful. Shippers of piece goods to Egypt have acted with caution and although occasional sales have been put through in sized cloths most of the buying is said to be to replace goods lost in transit. Fancies have not attracted much attention. For India comparatively few offers have come through from the other side and shippers here are in no mood to anticipate future wants. Some inquiry has been about in grey shirtings for China but very little progress has been made by buyers and sellers. Miscellaneous cloths have been in fair request for South America. Numerous manufacturers have made arrangements to stop the sheds for a longer period than usual this Easter time. American yarns have been rather firmer in quotation partly owing to the extended holidays in the Oldham district, and some spinners are hoping to obtain relief by the curtailment of production. Fresh business of any importance has been scarce. No revival of demand in export yarns can be recorded and shipping difficulties continue to check trade. A little more activity has recently occurred in the finer numbers of Egyptian yarns but there is plenty of room for improvement in coarse carded numbers and producers of 60's twist would appreciate more orders.

GERMANY AND THE FLAX INDUSTRY.

German spinners and weavers of flax have been well employed during the past few months. Not only have goods orders been received from the military authorities, but there has also been a large demand for civilian goods. Owing to the development of flax cultivation, about 23,000 acres have been put under seed; wherefore Germany expects to be largely independent of foreign sources. Furthermore, a large percentage of the territories occupied in the east and west is highly suitable for flax cultivation, and it is hoped that Austria-Hungary, the Balkans, and Asia Minor will become sources of future supplies, while Russia may soon be boycotted in this respect. Up to the outbreak of war Germany was Russia's chief customer, taking 80 per cent. of her total production of flax.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The Board of Directors of the Sultania Agricultural Society have just arrived at two important decisions.

First.—The extension of the technical works of the society by (a) the appointment of an agricultural counsellor to direct its experimental farms at Baltim, as well as its entomological, botanical, and chemical sections in order to be able to unite the works of these sections together for the realisation of a programme which meets the requirements of the country; (b) the appointment of a new inspector for Lower Egypt, possessing the diploma of the Higher School of Agriculture at Giza, thus raising the number of its inspectors in Lower Egypt to three. (c) Increasing the number of its employees who are graduates of the Higher School of Agriculture by reserving for them the posts of delegates and controllers in the provinces which may become vacant, as well as the posts in the technical sections.

Second.—The purchase of 8,000 more tons of nitrate of soda and fixing the selling price of this article at P.T.2,375 per ton, delivered at its Alexandria depot. This price represents the purchase price plus the price of sacks and expenses.

ADEN SKINS MARKET.**Rapid and Substantial Fall in Prices.**

We referred recently to the prices of skins in the Aden markets at the end of November, 1916. The upward tendency of the prices then paid for goat and sheep skins apparently reached its limit at the end of the year. So far as can be learned, the highest price paid for skins was Rs.55 per score, which is more than twice the normal price. Sales at this figure were reported during the last week in December.

Beginning the new year prices began to fall, and prime skins could, on January 15, be bought for Rs.35 per score, as against Rs.55 per score paid less than a month ago. The tendency is still downward, and well-known buyers predict a return to the normal price of Rs.20 to Rs.25 per score. Most of the experienced dealers have temporarily ceased buying. It is said that probably only one local firm stands to lose heavily, because of large stocks acquired at the high prices prevailing just before the break came. Other firms will have some loss.

Several causes are reported as responsible for the decline in prices, but the four principal ones seem to be as follows:—

(1) Large stocks purchased and accumulated, awaiting freight space, which is scarce and costly. One firm with unusually large stocks is said to have recently bid £26 a ton on space for skins from Aden to New York. Even at that figure the firm was able to secure only a limited amount of space.

(2) Heavier arrivals from Abyssinia and Somaliland, which always occur during the winter months.

(3) Scarcity of ready cash to pay native sellers of skins.

(4) A weakening of the demand under the abnormal advance in prices. The demand has not yet recovered, and it is predicted that prices must and will decline still more before there is a recovery.

In the nine months from April 1, 1916, to December 31, 1916, the number of goat and sheep skins shipped from Aden to America was 3,571,565, valued at £471,025, as against 3,773,726 skins, valued at £281,892 for the entire year ended March 31, 1916.

GREEK LUMBER MARKET.

Before the outbreak of the European war this district received its chief supplies of lumber from Austria-Hungary, wrote Mr. A. B. Cooke, U.S. Consul at Patras, to the Bureau at Washington on December 29. After this source was closed, local lumber importers turned to the American market for their supplies, and during 1915 and the first half of 1916 large supplies of both lumber and staves were bought. Freight rates, insurance, and the costs of transportation in general had risen to such a high mark by the summer of 1916 that importers found it difficult to do business in the United States. The ocean freight amounted to three or four times the original cost of the lumber or staves on the American market.

Importers, looking for some source from which they might secure supplies at less cost, turned to Spain, and during the last half of 1916 considerable purchases were made in that country. The lumber imported was a species of elm and of poplar, which was brought in by small sail ships either in the form of heavy boards of a six-foot length or in small cuts of the same length. Freight and insurance were, of course, much cheaper than those covering shipments from America. This lumber was for the construction of currant cases or barrels. For such purposes it appears that the Spanish article is inferior to the American. The staves turned out are crude in appearance and make a much less satisfactory container than the stave brought from America; the case makes also a less attractive container than that made from American wood.

Returns from India show that no jute bags were shipped from India to Egypt and Levantine ports in January, 1917. The figures for the same month last year were 250,000.

TRADE NOTES.

Licences.

The following notifications appear in the *Egyptian Journal Officiel*:—The following have been granted licences to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain:—Ratcheff, Ivan Mintcheff, 2, Rue Varda, Alexandria; Toumangheloff, Dincho Luca, 19, Rue Sidi Metwalli, Alexandria; Picciotto, Raphael Mayer de, 7, Rue el Achi, Abdin, Cairo; Barbouleff, Petre Nentcho, 2, Rue Abou Varda, Alexandria.

Licence No. 120, dated January 25, 1916, granted in respect of the business of Kunzler and Co. for the purpose of liquidating only, is this day withdrawn, and all remaining assets of the liquidation are forthwith vested in the Public Custodian of enemy property. The appointment of Mr. R. E. Moore as controller of the liquidation is cancelled.

Notwithstanding the prohibition against trading with "The Anatoli Insurance Company, of Athens," contained in the Proclamation of January 19, 1917, licence has been granted to the company's representative in Egypt to continue relations with persons in Egypt insured with the company prior to January 25, 1917, subject to the limitations and control set out in the licence.

The licence granted in respect of the business of "Steava Romana" for the purpose of liquidation has been withdrawn, and the assets have been vested in the Public Custodian of Enemy Property, Egypt.

A similar announcement has been made in respect of the business of Escher Jesumann and Co.

Contracts.

The Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs has placed the contract for the supply of winter clothing for the winter season, 1917-1918, with Messrs. C. J. Webb and Co., Ltd., London, as follows:—Blue uniforms, for cawasses, double and single breasted, at £E2,400 mills, and £E2,198 mills, respectively. Ordinary, at £E1,711 mills. Dark grey uniforms ordinary, at £E1,197 mills. For Loco. Department watchmen and sailors, etc., at £E1,303 mills. Blue overcoats, for cawasses, double and single breasted at £E2,048 mills, and £E1,760 mills respectively. Ordinary, at £E1,650 mills. Light grey overcoats, ordinary, at £E1,150 mills. Dark grey overcoats, for Gaffers and Bridges Department employees, at £E1,231 mills. For Loco. Department watchmen, at £E1,352 mills. These prices are per overcoats and uniforms, including packing in bales and delivery free into the Administration's Central Stores at Boulac, Cairo.

Liquidation.

The Société d'Exportation Hongroise-Levantine, Caïre, is liquidating its affairs, and the Receiver, Mr. W. B. Delaney, notifies that all persons having any claims or demands against the firm are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands addressed to the Receiver at Standard Building, Shawa

Soliman Pasha, Cairo, on or before April 15, 1917.

CASTOR-OIL SEED PRODUCTION.

At a recent meeting of the Egyptian Institute, Cairo, M. Victor Mosseri read a paper on the "Influence of Soil and Climate on the Weight and Oil Production of Castor Oil Seeds." He referred to the experiments carried out by him at Kom Ombo with seeds brought from France, and those carried out at Belkas with the same variety of seeds produced at Kom Ombo.

These experiments, said M. Mosseri, showed that the same number grown at Kom Ombo was in Lower Egypt or even in France. The weight of 100 seeds brought from France was 53.10 grammes, that of the same number grown at Kom Ombo was 54.30 grammes, while that of those grown at Belkas was 46.80 grammes. He concluded from these experiments that the same variety of seeds becomes richer in hotter and drier climates, and that the fertility of the soil was not so important in determining the production of castor oil. He also referred to experiments carried out by Mr. F. Hughes, Chief Chemist of the Ministry of Agriculture, in seventeen different varieties of castor oilseeds.

Mr. Hughes then explained that, as a result of the experiments carried out by him, he had come to the conclusion that the different varieties showed the same result as regards the chemical and physical character of ricinolic oil, if grown side by side.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Agricultural Machinery in Egypt.

In a recent issue of the *Egyptian Gazette*, a correspondent discusses the dearth of agricultural machinery in Egypt, which, he says, is due to two main causes: (a) the cheapness of labour, which renders such labour-saving devices less indispensable, especially in the case of the small cultivator whose means are limited; and (b) the lack of roads,* to enable threshing and other machines to be transported from place to place. It is true that a few of the larger estates and dairas employ threshing and ploughing machinery, but the number of these large enough to warrant such an outlay is small. If more agricultural roads existed it would be easy for several neighbouring estates to combine and purchase a threshing machine, which could be transported in turn to the different properties at harvest time. The same system could be adopted in the case of steam-ploughing tackle, and the motor tractors of which so much has lately been heard in England. Besides the private combination of landowners suggested above, it is probable that, with a better road system, good profits would be assured to a company or society who carried on business by hiring out agricultural machinery to individual cultivators, charging so much per ardeb for threshing and so much per feddan for ploughing.

Steam Ploughing.

The advantages of steam-ploughing would be: (a) deeper ploughing, and consequently larger yields; (b) a decrease in the number of working cattle, with a corresponding reduction in the barley, bean and bersim areas,† whereby the land so economised could be devoted to wheat and maize for human consumption; and (c) a saving to the farmer of the cost of keeping a large number of animals mainly employed only for ploughing. By the employment of threshing machinery, a great improvement in the conditions of the grain would be obtained, which would mean a higher price to the cultivator. The time saved in threshing by machinery would enable him to sow his summer crop earlier than if he had to wait to finish his harvesting by the old methods.

Need for Agricultural Roads.

It has frequently been stated that the chief objection to the employment of harvesting machinery in Egypt is that, by this method, the *tibn*, or chaff, is not bruised and broken up into fine particles as by the *norag*, but is merely cut into small pieces. By means of the bruising attachment now supplied by makers of harvesting machinery, this objection could be easily overruled. Any straw not required for horse and cattle feeding could always be utilised for paper-making, etc.

Without an improved system of agricultural roads, however, we have seen that little can be done to encourage the use of agricultural machinery in Egypt, but at this time, when every feddan possible is required for the production of human food, it seems a pity that, for lack of such roads, large areas should be yearly devoted to the raising of food for working animals, not to mention the other advantages which would accrue from a more extended use of agricultural machinery in the country. It may be objected that the present is no time to suggest any extra outlay

of public money on road-making, but the Imperial food-supply question is one for all time. It is true that, during the war, it would be almost impossible to import agricultural machinery even if a demand for it existed in Egypt, but, after peace has been signed, it will be necessary to develop to the utmost the food-producing capacity of the Empire, and an increase in the number of agricultural roads will be necessary to enable Egypt to contribute her share, as well as to render her independent of foreign food supplies. Much encouragement to importers of agricultural machinery could be afforded by the Government if the latter were to reduce or entirely suspend, as is done in Russia, the import duty on such machinery. The fuel question seems likely to be solved as the result of the experiments conducted by Mr. John Wells on behalf of the Egyptian Government, for the production of charcoal from cotton-sticks, etc.

Gezira Canal Works.

Work on the construction of the excavator for the Gezira canal is going on apace at Makwar. The excavator, the *Egyptian Gazette* understands, will be ready within a month. The designer, Signor Fiorentino, has gone to the Sudan in order to start it working himself. The excavator is a huge machine in the style of a dredger movable on rails, which will be capable of excavating a canal about twenty yards (sixteen metres) wide, depositing the earth excavated on the sides of the canal, thus making an embankment or a level road. Another excavator is going to be put up also and possibly others still, which, when in full operation, will considerably expedite the excavation of the canal. Trial pits, or shafts, for the Barrage are now being sunk on the eastern bank of the river at Makwar. The object of these, as of those which have already been dug on the western bank of the river, is to ascertain the nature of the strata where the Barrage is to be built, and select the most suitable site for it.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

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

	1916.	1917.
March 27	Francs. 130,000	Francs. 110,000
March 28, 29	410,000	320,000
March 30†	340,000	450,000
March 31;	130,000	100,000

The following items appear in the British Treasury Accounts for the financial year ended March 31, 1917:—

RECEIPTS.	
Shares drawn and paid off	£10,795
PAYMENTS.	
Issued to reduce debt under the Finance Act, 1898	£10,795

The Board of Directors has decided that from July 1, 1917, the Transit Dues will be increased from 7fr. 75c. to 8fr. 50c. per ton for Loaded Ships, and from 5fr. 25c. to 6 fr. for Ships in Ballast.

The Times writes: "It would seem unwise to suggest that the rise in the Suez Canal dues as from July next, is likely to prove the forerunner of an increased dividend on the shares in May. Although the dues have been advanced altogether by 2fr. 25c. since the outbreak of war, owing to the abnormal conditions, the dividend has declined from 165fr., paid in 1911-13, to 120fr. for 1914 and 1915. The expectation at present seems to be that the dividend for 1916 may fall to at least 100fr. and may possibly be reduced further. A falling off in receipts and greatly increased working costs were to be anticipated, and the forthcoming rise in the dues is only expected very partially to counteract the unfavourable experience of the company. That this view is the correct one receives confirmation in the fact that on the Paris Bourse the price of the shares fell 30 points to 4,360fr."

A serious outbreak of plague has broken out among the fowls in Egypt. The fowls die twenty-four hours after the first symptoms have made their appearance, and there seems to be no remedy. The Government have attempted to localise the disease, but the veterinary surgeons have been unable to effect any serious progress in this respect owing to the distrust of the fellahs, who refuse to notify outbreaks of the malady.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments etc.

The half-yearly coupon for interest due on the Ottoman 4 per cent. Loan on April 10, 1917, will be paid on and after that date by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited, announce the payment by warrants on May 1 of interest for the half-year to April 30 on the 4 per cent. mortgage debenture stock.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C., make the following announcements on behalf of the Roumanian Government:—4½ per cent. redeemable gold bonds 1913:—The half-yearly interest due April 1 was payable on April 2 and any succeeding day.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. have received additional funds in respect of the coupons and drawn bonds, the payment of which has been delayed owing to temporary exhaustion of funds. Such coupons and bonds may now be lodged at their counting-house.

The directors of the Ionian Bank, Limited, recommend a final dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, together with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of income-tax, subject to audit, for the half-year ended December 31-January 13, 1917, making with the interim dividend 6 per cent. per annum for the year 1916.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due on April 15 on Egyptian Preference Bonds: the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

Company Meetings.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the head office of the Bank in Cairo, on Wednesday, April 25, 1917, for the purpose, among other things, of:—Receiving the directors' report; receiving the auditors' report; approving the accounts for the period ended January 31, 1917; declaration of dividends; election of directors; election of auditors and fixing their remuneration; and the transaction of the general business of the ordinary general meeting.

The ordinary general meeting of La Société Egyptienne d'Irrigation will be held in Cairo on April 14.

Oil Outputs.

British Maikop.—Week ended March 24, 2,202 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended March 25, 879 tons.

Cheleken Oilfields.—Fortnight ended March 24 (N.S.), 382 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week ended March 24, 71,800 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended March 24, 298 tons.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended March 24, 240 tons.

It has been finally decided to transfer the Technical Department of the Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration to the Ministry of Public Works, where it will form a branch of the Mechanical Department of that Ministry, with effect from April 1, which is the beginning of the financial year.

It is now believed that Mr. Dudgeon, Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, has prepared a report on the question of tobacco growing, objecting to the revival of this cultivation in Egypt for certain reasons. According to the *Ahram* the Adviser, who has drawn up that report after a careful study of the matter, will present the document to the Agricultural Commercial Council.

* According to the Egyptian Government Almanac for the year 1917 (page 208), only 3,810 kilometres of main and agricultural roads are maintained by the Main Roads Department of the Ministry of Public Works, say 2,386 kilometres in Lower Egypt, and 1,424 kilometres in Upper Egypt.

† Areas under barley, beans and bersim, in feddans:—
1913-14 .. 383,342 .. 428,497 .. 1,323,097
1914-15 .. 445,615 .. 623,321 .. 1,318,337
1915-16 .. 422,765 .. 502,812 .. 1,206,907

(“Annuaire Statistique de l’Egypte,” 1916, pp. 114 et 115.)

GRANT & CHINN.

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

R. OTT AND CO.,

ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLAIS-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.

EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.

Telegrams: "Ottimo."

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, E.C.

There is a firm tone in our market, but business is still short. All the advices from Egypt are of a favourable nature, and, sooner or later, this is bound to be reflected in the share market.

The feature of the week has been the rise in Egyptian Unified Bonds, which are a further $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 82. Agricultural Banks have been done in a small way at $5\frac{1}{2}$, and the deferred shares have changed hands at the advanced level of £345, with buyers at the finish at £350.

In National Banks some transactions have taken place round 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, showing a slight advance since last week. The dividend of 12s. per share, against 8s. last year, is satisfactory in view of the fact that the earnings have been largely in excess of this distribution.

There has been a revival in Delta Light, which, on some small lock-up purchases for after the war, has improved from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$. Both Delta Lands and New Egyptian have been wanted at 8s. 3d. In Salt and Sodas about 500 shares changed hands at 9s. 3d., closing buyers at this price, with sellers at 20s.

In Egyptian Markets 25s. 6d. has been paid and the shares are still in demand. Gharbiehs are wanted at 16s. 3d., but sellers are scarce. United Lands have changed hands at 6d. Khedivial Mail have been firm round 28s. 3d.

The Behéra preliminary financial figures for 1916, just received, show a much improved financial position, the bank debt having been reduced from about £91,000 to about £26,000. The net profit, after providing for all expenses and debenture service, is £38,311, against £22,562 for 1915, which is equal to the full 5 per cent. on the prefs., and over 5 per cent. on the ordinary. But no dividends are paid, £12,000 being written off for extraordinary depreciation on work-shops, plant, and material, and £7,881 against discount on debentures; while £18,430 goes to swell the balance at credit of profit and loss account to £74,918.

In Greek securities the demand has continued, but lack of sellers has restricted business. Some business took place in Currant Bonds at 88. Rente has been done at $41\frac{1}{2}$ ex div., and Funding at 49 ex div.

Oil Shares.

This market has been exceedingly quiet. An improvement has been shown by Anglo-Egyptian "B" at 11s. 3d. One or two deals were recorded in Roumanian Consols on the basis of 9s. 3d. Spies also came to business a few times either side of 14s. Russian Petroleum changed hands at 1s. 9d. North Caucasians were done at 27s. and over, and Urals were dealt in at 32s.

Paris Bourse.

While there has been no improvement in the general demand, the quantity of available securities has been smaller, and prices have been maintained. Suez Canal shares eased to 4.360. Other quotations are:—Egyptian Unified, 91.50; Turkish Unified, 63; Credit Foncier Egyptien, 635; Ottoman Bank, 418.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, April 5.

There has been a better demand for money, due mainly to the fact that on Tuesday payment had to be made for £50,000,000 Treasury Bills issued last week. Short loans have commanded from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although, later, balances were offered at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and less.

The discount market has been weaker, two, three, and four months' bills having been quoted at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and six months' at 4 9-16 to $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Treasuries were easier at $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Exchange on Alexandria varies between 97 and 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ piastres to the pound sterling.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for eight days ended February 28, 1917.

	1916.	1917.
Feb. 20-Feb. 28	£5,253	£5,134
April 1-Feb. 28	171,956	197,234

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Mean Price July 27, 1915.	Price Mar. 30.	Pre- sent Price.
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	82
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	68	68
Greek 5%, 1881	57	51	51
Do. 5%, 1884	56	51	51
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	47	47
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5%, 1890	56	50	50
Do. 5% Fng., Ln., 1893	54	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 4% Rente, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5% Currant	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	88
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Persia 5% 1911	—	—	—
Roumania 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £500.	92	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	74	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	66	67
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52

BANKS.

Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. wat.)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. wat.)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Athens	£2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Roumania	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

RAILWAYS.

Egypt. Delta Light 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % O. Pf.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Warrants to Bearer	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	90	75	75
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	61	53	53
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	—	—	—

LAND.

Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Béhéra Co.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. Pref.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Daira Sanieh	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. and Foreign Trust	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gharbieh Land Co.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
New Egyptian Co.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sidi Saleh Co.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Unified Egyptian Lands	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alexandria Water Co.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25/6	26/—
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	19/6	19/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	28/3	28/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

OIL.

	Price on Feb. 15.	Feb. 22.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/3	10/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21/—	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6
Roumanian Consolidated	9/3	8/9

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON MARCH 15.

Supplied by G. L. Mortier, Alexandria and Cairo.	
National Bank of Egypt	132 to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	12 —
Soc. Anonyme de Béhéra	—
Lois Turcs, oblig.	—
Bons de Panama	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	63 —
Privilegiée	—
Cheikh Fadi	74 —
Urbaines et Rurales	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	—
Building Lands of Egypt	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	—
Société des Immeubles	—
Bonded Warehouses	—
Unifiée	81 —
Privilegiée	70 —
Land Bank of Egypt	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
Fondateur	—
Pressage et dépôts	—
Nungovich Hotels	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	—
Ord.	26/—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
Alex. and Ramieh Railway	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	101 —
Jouissance	160 —
Egyptian Markets	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	300 —
Div.	225 —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	180 —
Egyptian Salt and Soda	20/—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	600 —
1886 Oblig.	332 —
1903	261 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
1911	258 —
Delta Lands	—
Port Said Salt	—
Cotton Ginners	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ —
New Egyptian Co.	—
United Lands	P.T. —
Levant S.S. Co.	—
" fond	—

NOTICE.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that the FOURTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, on Wednesday, the 25th April, 1917, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1917;
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 4th April, 1917), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.

In London—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.
Cairo, 23rd March, 1917.

EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL MARKET.

We take the following review from the monthly *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt:—

The great feature of the past month, financially, has certainly been the tremendous success of the new British War Loan, constituting a real victory for the Allies, for, more than ever now, money forms the sinews of war. Egypt has taken a very honourable place in the list of subscriptions, the total of which, some £5,000,000, being a fresh proof of the prosperity of this country. In spite of this enormous drainage of capital, our financial market has, none the less, maintained its interest in local securities, and scarcely had the lists of subscriptions to the War Loan closed than regular buying began again, not only of Egyptian Government stock, but of nearly every other class of shares. The most noticeable advance has been in the shares of the brewery companies, due chiefly to the approach of the final dividend for the year, which, with the interim dividends already paid, will make a total of 60 fr. a share for each of the two companies. Besides this distribution of profits, both companies have passed large sums to the reserve, thus fully justifying the present high value of their shares.

The purchase by the Société Générale des Pressages of a controlling interest in the Société des Presses Allemandes not only constitutes a guarantee of security for stockholders in this latter company, but shows that German controlling influence in commercial concerns in this country is gradually but definitely becoming a thing of the past.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended March 23.	1917. Week ended March 23.
Cattle markets	926 ..	1,201
General markets	338 ..	388
Cattle markets closed	11 ..	11
Receipts (£)	1,264 ..	1,589
Total from commencement of year (£)	16,669 ..	19,428

In the House of Commons, Colonel Yate asked the Secretary for India whether officers and men of the troops serving in Persia and on the Persian and Afghan frontiers would now be given the same rate of exchange of rupees into krans as that granted to gazetted and non-gazetted officers of the Indo-European Telegraph Department in Persia. Mr. Chamberlain: The Government of India referred this question to a Committee, whose recommendations are now under consideration. A decision will be arrived at as soon as possible.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packing), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Sanloht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Tinning Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 310.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	537	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		A Son of the Balkans ..	542	Notes and News	551
Cairo	539	TANGIER TO TEHRAN	541	The Egyptian Budget for	
Sudan	540	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	544	1916-17	552
Cyprus	540	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	542	Trade of the Sudan	553
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT..	549	Engineering Notes	554
Conditions in Sivas	540	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	554
"The Mountain of Inherit-		The Future of Palestine		Trade Notes	554
ance" (Estelle Blyth) ..	547	(Lieut.-Com. V. L. Trumper,		Company Meeting	555
LEADING ARTICLE—		R.N.R.).. ..	548	Company Notes	556
The New Russia and the				On 'Change	556
Balkans	546			Stock and Share List ..	556

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The war time-table is conforming with the calendar rather than with the weather, and the Allies have no fault to find with the initial instalments of the spring offensive. On one sector of the Western Front the Germans sought to disorganize Franco-British plans by a withdrawal on a line stretching from Arras to Soissons; but the Allies accepted the challenge with an alacrity for which they had not been given credit, and the enemy's retirement took place under constantly increasing pressure. Before it had come to an end the British Army launched an attack of its own from Arras northwards, and no comfortable theories regarding a Hindenburg line help the Germans to explain away the loss of 9,000 prisoners in the first day's fighting, apart from the capture of such an important position as the Vimy Ridge. The success is a heartening earnest of what may be looked for from the real spring offensive; and it has the additional advantage in coming at this moment that it is a very practical contribution to our Russian Allies in the trying stage of transition through which they are passing.

Germany's well-directed blow on the Stokhod shows that she would have taken full advantage of the upheaval in Russia, if she had been in a position to do so. It is more than probable that she has been deterred so far from any greater attempt than this one attack by the danger threatening her in the West. In the withdrawal to a shorter line west of Bapaume she may have hoped to secure sufficient respite for a serious effort in the East—a plan which might not have been altogether checkmated by the Allies' rapid pursuit. The subsequent attack north of Arras, however, will have convinced the German Higher Command that it is possible to underestimate the Allies' capacities, and perhaps the most important result of the British achievement will only be seen when the Russian Army, having emerged from the temporary difficulties caused by the revolution, is able to resume the offensive fortified by the knowledge that its bravery and generalship in the field are being adequately supported at home.

The junction of the British and Russian forces operating in Mesopotamia and Persia respectively has taken place at Kizil Robat, which has been occupied by our Allies. Sir Stanley Maude's troops are now operating in four more or less distinct districts over a front stretching from Feluja on the Euphrates to Kizil Robat, contact with the enemy being maintained on a front between the railway line to Samarra and the

Diala River. On the railway we have occupied Belad and Harbe stations, some twenty miles from Samarra. Another force is astride the Shatt el-Adhaim, which runs into the Tigris sixty miles north of Baghdad, and a fourth column is keeping touch with the Russians on the east and advancing up the Kifri Road from Deli Abbas. According to the latest reports the retreating Turks have received reinforcements, and an attempt is to be made to drive back the British troops, while the Russian advance is contained.

A stand by the enemy may well suit the Allies' plans, as in this part of Mesopotamia they must be more anxious to account for Turkish troops than merely to occupy additional territory. If the British advance has been carried out as systematically north of Baghdad as it was south of that city General Maude should have an ample margin for meeting any force that the Turks may bring against him. Moreover, the longer the enemy is detained south of Kifri the more time will the Russian force in the Penjvin district have for developing its offensive to a point at which it will threaten the communications of the southern Turkish army. The distances, however, between the two fronts are great enough to prevent any rapid developments of this nature, and before they can take place we shall know what value attaches to the Turkish rally. Even if our own forces should be hard pressed, we ought to be able to count on the Russians turning the enemy line by an advance from Kasr-i-Shirin, which is well to the north of the flank of the line on which the Turks are expected to make a stand.

From the Desert Army which is now in sight of the Promised Land there has been no further news during the past week. The methodical progress by means of railway construction was interrupted to deal with the enemy force based on Gaza before it received useful reinforcements. General Dobell wisely decided to attack the two units separately before they could combine, and only the incidence of the fog on the morning of March 26 prevented the plan from being a complete success and Gaza from falling into our hands. As it was, the Turks were handsomely routed. From this point, accordingly, the former method of progress will have to be resumed; but as the enemy has been given due warning of the strength of the British force, the work ahead of the latter is likely to prove more formidable as it advances.

A statement attributed to the Russian Minister for Justice to the effect that Russia would be content with the internationalization of Constantinople has been

seized upon as offering an opportunity for modifying the terms set out in the Allies' Note to the United States as the basis on which they were prepared to accept peace. It is hoped in certain quarters that by "letting Turkey down gently" in this way the Allies may be able to detach her from the Central Powers. With Major Chapple's contention that in regard to the Near East political strategy must not be lost sight of in the strategy of arms we are wholly in sympathy, and we are convinced that there is a good opening for the former at this juncture. But care must be taken not to confuse the meanings of words. In the first place, the actual views of the Russian Provisional Government must be learned officially. There would seem to be some contradiction between M. Kerensky's ideas and those expressed by M. Miliukoff, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to a Press representative in Petrograd on April 7. M. Miliukoff is reported to have said that in regard to the acquisition of the Dardanelles by Russia there could not be two opinions. "In the event of the neutralization of the Dardanelles the free entry of foreign ships of war into the Black Sea would force Russia to think perpetually about the fortifying of the Black Sea coasts and to maintain a powerful fleet. Such a condition of things would be worse than that which existed before the war."

It is true that M. Miliukoff spoke of the Dardanelles, while M. Kerensky referred to Constantinople. But the point which the Allies feel obliged to establish, it may be presumed, is that for the future the important waterway between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea shall not be allowed to be a factor in the designs of any Power or group of Powers likely to challenge the peace of Europe. In Turkey's hands Constantinople and the Dardanelles must always be exposed to playing this part, and the Allies have decided that in the interests of Europe as a whole the control of the waterway must be taken from the Turks. As far as the latter are concerned, it must be more or less a matter of indifference whether the control passes to one Power or to a group of Powers, if Turkey herself is no longer to be pre-eminent on the shores of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. It would be a *reductio ad absurdum* to allow the principle of nationality, to which Major Chapple appeals, to apply to this comparatively small strip of territory. In any case the position of the Turks in Europe, as well as their record in dealing with the original inhabitants, would have to be taken into consideration. On the other hand, there need be no compulsory deportation of the Turkish inhabitants who elect to remain under foreign jurisdiction, and the expression "the expulsion of the Turk from Europe" is surely to be understood as restricted to Turkish rule.

There has been much play with the word "internationalization" in connection with the future of Constantinople. We should prefer to see it erased from the political dictionary. The unanimous verdict of experience is that international administration sooner or later proves unworkable, unless, as in the case of the international settlement at Shanghai, all practical control is centred in one Power. To attempt to administer Constantinople on international lines with the representatives of a dozen or more Powers having an equal voice in its affairs, or by means of a Council in which international politics would exercise a dominant influence, would be more likely to engender strife in Europe than to make for peace. It might be possible to introduce the theory of joint ownership, but responsibility for the actual administration should be vested in a single Power. In such circumstances there would seem to be little chance of the Allies being able to modify their peace terms without perpetuating the evils which it is one of the objects of this war to remove.

Even if it be not desirable to open up negotiations with the present Turkish Government, means should be found of acquainting the people of Turkey with the fate in store for them and with the fact that their salvation lies in cutting their losses at the earliest possible moment. Elsewhere in this issue an attempt is made

to elaborate a similar method for dealing with Bulgaria. The Allies can have no more intention of accepting King Ferdinand as the responsible head of the Bulgaria with whom terms of peace have to be settled than they have of allowing the same rôle in Germany to be filled by the Emperor William II. Apart from other considerations there is good reason to believe that King Ferdinand has himself intervened to prevent the alleviation of the lot of Allied prisoners in Bulgarian hands. If President Wilson's contention that the United States are making war not on the German people, but on the military system that dominates them, be accepted by the Allies, the principle will hold good in regard to Bulgaria. It will be of use, therefore, to make sure that the Bulgarians are fully acquainted with the situation. Already, if report be true, dissatisfaction with the powers that be has found expression in riots in several towns. The nation would, doubtless, feel on still stronger ground, if it had the assurance that its existing rulers constitute an insuperable obstacle to any understanding with the Allied Powers.

Such information as reaches the outside world from Greece indicates that the Athenian public has not yet grasped the full meaning of the recent changes in the general military situation, nor indeed does it seem to have appreciated the significance of the United States' declaration of war upon Germany. There is still a tendency to indulge in pinpricks at the expense of the Allies. The British Minister has had to warn the Greek Government that in case any violence should be committed against the Venizelists in Old Greece, the Entente Powers would consider as annulled their guarantee against an extension of the Venizelist movement into Old Greece. As has already been pointed out in these pages, the attempt of the Allies to hold the balance even between the King and the Venizelists has had the effect of doing grave injustice to the latter. It has prevented them from sweeping the country in favour of M. Venizelos, and virtually shields King Constantine on his throne from his deserts at the hands of the Greek people. As the event shows, the Venizelist movement continues to spread without the instigation of the National Government. The island of Zante, encouraged by the presence of French troops, has revolted against the Athens Government, and the local officials of the latter have withdrawn to the mainland. It is satisfactory to find the Allies threatening to remove their embargo on the extension of the Venizelist movement; such action at least implies recognition that the policy is a disservice to the National Government.

A lurid light on the disaster which overwhelmed Roumania has been thrown by General Ilescu, formerly Chief of the Roumanian General Staff, and the explanation deserves attention on the strength of the source from which it comes. In July, 1916, General Ilescu declared, in a statement reported by *Le Matin*, Roumania, who had had to increase her army from 180,000 men to 820,000, was still not ready for war, but it was "towards this period that a sort of summons from Russia reached us." At the same time an elaborate plan of campaign was submitted to the Roumanian Government; it took no account of Bulgaria, and on the omission being pointed out, M. Stürmer replied that the Bulgarians would never be willing to fight against Russia. As the Russian Government refused to undertake the operations against Bulgaria asked for by the Roumanians, the latter fell in with its plan and invaded Transylvania on the understanding that the Russians would advance from Dorna Vatra. They made no move at all, and the Roumanians essayed the hopeless task of a rapid thrust with a view to shortening their line between Orsova and Bukovina, with the results already known. When it came to a stand on the Argesh line west of Bucharest, the division commanded by General Sococ, since condemned to penal servitude by a Council of War, failed. The General himself had left for Bucharest, and when the enemy attacked at this point the position was not held, and the whole line was broken.

Summing up his indictment, General Iliescu continued, according to *Le Matin*, quoted by *The New Europe*: Roumania's entry into action was connected with a double plan, political and strategic. M. Stürmer's Government forced us to declare war because he needed our troops to cover the left flank of the Russian army in Bukovina. The troops in this region were intended to remain where they were, contrary to the assurances given to Roumania and to France. The defeat of Roumania was foreseen and organised by M. Stürmer, who wished to finish the war by this striking fact. So from the month of September the Russian armies organised the lines of the Sereth with full knowledge of the development of events. In my opinion this was M. Stürmer's plan when he forced our hand and organised our campaign:—"To allow Roumania to be invaded as far as the Sereth, to allow the triumph of the military power of the Central Empires, to conclude a separate peace in consequence of a defeat which would not be a Russian defeat, and consequently would not shake either his power or that of the Tsar at all." In conclusion, General Iliescu is careful to add that there was no failure on the part of the Russian leaders or troops; those sent were excellent, and the Russian Staff officers were eminent men. The Roumanians were beaten because they were inferior in armament and leadership to the enemy, but the initial cause of the defeat "was the disloyal plan of the Germanophil Government of Petrograd, who played with the fate of Roumania in order to facilitate a premeditated act of treachery." In the interests of the Grand Alliance and of the Roumanians themselves the whole matter ought to be officially cleared up; but some time may elapse before the new Government in Russia is in a position to deal exhaustively with the question. If General Iliescu's version be substantially correct, it will supply a strong incentive to the Russians to make good the shortcomings of the old regime, and at the same time will fill the Roumanians with a strong confidence in themselves when the army is once more in a position to move forward.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 20.

Egyptian Opinion and Entente Victories.

The good news from the Western front is having an excellent effect on the local population and is successfully counteracting the unfortunate impression at first made by the revolution in Russia. When the cables arrived reporting that the Tsar had abdicated and that a Provisional Government had been proclaimed at Petrograd, practically every Egyptian I met regarded these events as portending no good for the Allies and as being tantamount to a bloodless victory on the Eastern front for Germany. Further inquiry only confirmed that this was the prevalent impression in most indigenous circles. The vernacular Press soon came to the rescue, however, and, especially *Al Mokattam*, gave a clear explanation of the situation, which quickly cleared the atmosphere and revealed the true aspect of the Muscovite *coup d'état*. The announcement of the entry of the Russians into Van and of the rout of the Turks north of Baghdad, following the news from France, has further confirmed the feeling of confidence in the triumph of the Allied armies, and with characteristic lack of sense of proportion people out here are now talking enthusiastically of a peace with honour for the Entente this summer.

The Closing of Port Said.

Now that, in view of the progress made by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Sinai, the military authorities have reconsidered their decision with regard to the lighting of Cairo, and have decreed a return to normal conditions, it is to be hoped that they will give similar favourable attention to the embargo placed on residents wishing to visit Port Said—an embargo which, undoubtedly necessary when first enforced, appears to have lost its justification owing to the change in the situation on the Canal. For just about a year now that town has been closed to the public. With great difficulty people have been able to obtain permission to visit it, but they have had to show very good cause for their journey, and in but very rare instances have they been allowed to make a stay of more than a couple of days; whilst officials and residents return-

ing from leave have been hustled out of the town with a haste which was only rendered bearable by the knowledge that the restriction was in the public interest and by the extreme civility with which the local responsible officials carried out their task.

Of late years Port Said has tended more and more to become a summer resort, and before the outbreak of war residents whose turn it was to spend the hot weather in Egypt were taking to send their families down there in preference to Alexandria, where it has become increasingly difficult to find decent accommodation at reasonable terms. Last year it was possible for those who did not mind risking the sea journey to go to Europe or Cyprus; but even then Alexandria was overcrowded, and the opening and development of new resorts such as Borollos Beach and Ras-el-Bahr did not alleviate the situation at all. This year women and children are not to be allowed to go to Europe or Cyprus; so that the summer resort question will become more acute than ever. To the ordinary layman Port Said appears now to have lost the military importance which it had a year ago, and there would on the face of it seem to be no valid reason why the town should not revert to its normal state in so far as concerns the reception and sojourn of visitors. Granted, however, that there are considerations unknown to the "civil" mind which make it undesirable to open the town generally to the public, it should surely be possible to permit bona-fide officials and respectable European residents to send their families down there for the hot weather. The military authorities have probably not realised the situation which has now arisen, and no doubt it is only necessary to bring the matter to their attention for them to take action in the required direction. It is to be hoped that some decision will be taken without delay. A spell of warm weather has just set in, warning us that we may expect an early summer, and it would certainly be a great relief in every respect to residents if they could be informed that Port Said would be open to them this year.

The Mixed Courts.

Recently I announced that Mr. W. H. H. Thorne, President of the Larnaca District Court, had been appointed to the vacant English judgeship in the Mixed Courts of First Instance. Mr. Thorne has now been selected as one of the British members of the International Commission at Athens, for which city he has already left, and Mr. S. H. Carey, of the Native Courts, has been appointed to fill his seat on the Alexandria Mixed Bench until his return.

The National Mission.

The "National Mission" movement is still going strong. Mr. Burroughs has just returned from a most successful visit to the Sudan, where he held meetings at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Atbara; and he has arranged to stay on in Egypt for the next few weeks. He is about to leave for a short tour in the Canal zone, and will return to Cairo for Holy Week, during which he will deliver a series of addresses. Meanwhile, Dean Storrs, who has happily made a complete recovery from his illness, is fulfilling the engagements at Alexandria which he had been compelled to break. After a visit to Port Said he will leave for Cyprus for a short tour extending over Easter, and on his return the National Mission work in Egypt will be brought to a conclusion, it is hoped, by a final series of meetings.

On Thursday the Bulgarian Sobranje adjourned, after passing a Bill for the sequestration of all enemy property in Bulgaria and forbidding commercial relations with enemy countries.



Incorporated
A.D.
1720.

Head Office
ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

No Company offers better Security or is more favourably known for
liberality in the treatment of its Policyholders than the

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE.

TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

Policies issued
to cover loss
incidental to

**FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENTS, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE
GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUAR.
ANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, LIVE STOCK,
— THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, —**

at lowest
possible
premiums.

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. H. L. Bell, Manager.

EGYPT—CAIRO: Edward Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.

ALEXANDRIA: Société Générale de Passage et de Dépôts.

CYPRUS: NAJEM HOUY.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, March 17.

Military Training for British Subjects.

An Ordinance has just been published enjoining on the British-born subjects resident in the Sudan the duty of military training. Every British-born subject between the ages of twenty and fifty is called upon to become "efficient." The new Ordinance is so consistent with what is being done in all parts of the Empire that it requires no explanation. The precise nature of the scheme to be carried out by the training is not yet known, as the Ordinance was only published to-day. The general idea seems to be parallel to the corps maintained in India. Owing to the small number of British subjects in the Sudan the training will be only possible in Khartoum, Atbara, and Port Sudan, and in the last-named places there has been a Volunteer Company since the declaration of war between England and Turkey. Amongst the residents of the Sudan there are a number of retired soldiers, who should form an admirable nucleus for the new service and provide many of the officers and N.C.O.'s.

Arabs and the Fall of Baghdad.

Great satisfaction is expressed throughout the country at the taking of Baghdad. The wildest Arab has certain literary and historic feelings that enable him to have some, if vague, knowledge of the great period of Arab culture that is represented by that city, and the wresting of it from the Turk is greeted with profound satisfaction. Amongst the more civilised natives it is realised how important this development is to the success of the Shereef of Mecca, to whom the Arabs will flock when they see that the power of the Turk is really broken and there is no fear of reprisals in the future.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Excavations at Arsos.

The work that is being carried out at Arsos has already yielded good results. The ruins of a temple of the Gorgian Aphrodite have been discovered, and a few objects of gold and various other articles of value have been unearthed. Golgi, one of the principal seats of the cult of Aphrodite, is located between Idalium (the modern Dali) and Tremithus, as we know from Pausanias. Catullus (Carm. 36) mentions it as a favourite haunt of Venus, together with Idalium and Amathus (in the Limassol district). It is probable that further interesting discoveries will be made, among them, it is to be hoped, inscriptions, which so often throw light on doubtful points connected with the mythology of ancient times.

The Venizelist Cause at Limassol.

A large gathering of persons who support the policy of M. Venizelos has been held at Limassol. The Hon. John Kyriakides, for many years member of the Legislative Council for the Limassol-Papho division, spoke strongly in favour of the great Greek statesman. During his speech he stated that the policy of M. Venizelos has an important bearing on the situation in Cyprus, and that through it might be found a solution of questions regarding the island's future. It was resolved that a club, to be called the Union of Liberals, should be formed, and a committee was appointed with a view to drawing up rules to be submitted to a general meeting.

The Nicosia Poorhouse.

Figures relating to the recently established poor-house at the capital, which is for the poor of Nicosia only, show that the total number admitted is 47 (Greeks 27: 17 male and 10 female; Moslems 20: 15 men and 5 women)—not a formidable number for a population of over 15,000. Should the number increase, enlargement of the building, or the hiring of other premises, will become necessary. The poor-house also distributes food daily at midday to about 80 persons. Of beggars not belonging to Nicosia some, in consequence of the anti-mendicity regulations, have departed to other towns and districts where such rules are not in force. Others remain in suburbs outside municipal jurisdiction, but will not be able to find support there for long. The application of the new order has shown, as is not unusual in such circumstances, that some beggars were hoarders or misers. One applicant for admission had in his purse £32 in English gold. Another, a blind beggar who was forcibly taken to the poorhouse, protested loudly, saying that he had property of over £30, besides owning a small house. The municipality, having verified his statements, released him on the following day on condition that he would abandon the profession of a mendicant, or quit the city.

CONDITIONS IN SIVAS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Last November a small party of refugees from Sivas succeeded in penetrating the Turkish lines, and, after a most exhausting and roundabout journey across the snow-covered hills, made their way to Erzeroum. Eventually they went on to Erzeroum; and from a correspondent in that city I have received the following account of conditions in Sivas and the neighbourhood, as given by them:—

Towards the end of last July the capture of Erzinjan by the Russians caused a serious panic amongst the Turkish military authorities in Sivas. It was the general opinion that should the Russians advance farther westward without giving the Turks time to reorganise the defence of the city, there would be but one thing to do in order to save the forces on this front—that is, to evacuate Sivas and fall back on Angora, the terminus of the railway from Constantinople. Hajji Hamdy Bey, a Turkish general of Circassian origin, who, much against his will, had had to retire from Erzinjan at the head of a demoralised division, made himself conspicuous in Sivas by declaring publicly that the Germans, who were conducting the operations on the Caucasus front, did not care one jot about defending Ottoman territory to the full power of the Turkish forces. As a result of his outspoken criticisms this Circassian general was granted some months' furlough and ordered to leave Sivas.

As a "measure of reprisal" for the fall of Erzinjan the Turks put to death 1,700 Armenian soldiers and artisans, who up to that time had been employed upon road-making and in Government workshops.

In consequence of the heavy strain placed upon the Turks by the relentless way in which the Russians pressed on operations in spring and summer last year, most of the Turkish battalions were actually reduced to half their normal strength, and sickness was rampant amongst the rank and file. Munitions, too, were running short; for means of transport were daily becoming less; hundreds of pack-horses and camels employed in carrying military stores and supplies from Angora to Sivas fell by the roadside owing to overwork and ill-usage. There were days on which the soldiers were fed on ground corn or millet. The distribution of military supplies was just as bad as it could be. As for the civilians, open discontent was rife amongst every class and race; everybody longed for peace, but nobody dared to indulge in any demonstration.

During the flight of the Turkish troops from Kighi, south-west of Erzeroum, some Kurdish tribes swept down from the hills, attacked the retreating forces in the rear, and robbed and killed many of them. The Turks later returned in great numbers and wiped out whole Kurdish districts as ruthlessly as possible.

For some time past the Turks had been deporting Greeks from the towns and villages of the Black Sea coast. There had been no massacre of the Greeks, but many had died, in the same way that the Armenians had suffered.

The Turks were distinctly losing faith in a German victory, and their feeling was manifested now and then by their hostile attitude towards German officers serving in the Turkish army.

Last November the Sivas authorities undertook to organise a new army corps, but up to the time when the refugees left, the endeavour to do so had met with very little success. On the other hand, great numbers of men were deserting from the army every day, and the hillsides were infested with hungry robbers and marauders.

MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF

**HIDES AND SKINS,
TANNING MATERIALS,
DYEWOODS.**

**KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.**

Established
over 50 Years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

To-day is "Mesopotamia Day," and it behoves us all to do our best to see that Miss Stella Maude's hope of beating all flag day records is fulfilled. Think what a satisfaction it will be to her if she can report to General Maude that her hope has been justified, and consider for one moment what a satisfaction it will be to General Maude and every member of his force to see the folk at home showing their appreciation of all that has gone to convert the Mesopotamia campaign from a failure into a success! It is our first real chance of showing this. Surely we shall not miss it. Mesopotamia has sent us grand news of late; now we have a chance to send good news to Mesopotamia. Besides, we must prove once and for all that Friday is not an "unlucky day" and that 13 is not an "unlucky number." I hope I am not really superstitious, but I own that I used to feel a little nervous about Fridays and the number 13. Then, some years ago, I found that, far from being "unlucky," both were very lucky indeed, for me at any rate. And so may they prove for "Mesopotamia Day," which, by the way, has its headquarters at 26, Regent Street—twice 13—doubly good luck!

A writer in the *Daily Chronicle* states that "General Maude is said to be aiming" for Aleppo. I do not know on what authority this statement is based, but, with all due respect, it seems to me to be a trifle premature at least. If the great "Baghdad" Railway were to be left quite intact by the enemy, and if it were nearer completion than is supposed, General Maude might quite reasonably "aim for" Aleppo; though even so I should have thought the force from Egypt would be more likely to get there first. But, as things actually are, for the Baghdad force to try to get across the width of Asiatic Turkey would seem to be distinctly unnecessary, if not unwise; and I am inclined to think that the *Chronicle's* writer must have been misinformed.

Some years ago, in writing of the date trade of Busreh, Mr. H. J. Whigham remarked that it was "apparently a rather speculative business, depending a great deal on the output of figs and other dried fruits in other parts of the world." He added—very truly, as far as I have been able to judge from personal observation: "If there are not enough figs to go round, English and American children, it seems, take kindly to dates, but they do not clamour for them if they can get anything else in the dried fruit line." This attitude of the boys and girls strikes me as a very natural one; a dried date is all very well, if it has been carefully packed and has not become musty; but it has not the attractiveness of the fig, the muscatel, or other dried fruits. And this is especially the case if you happen ever to have been present at date picking or date packing operations in the East. I was not surprised to read the other day that a question had been asked in the House of Commons in regard to the packing of dates at Busreh. If this could be improved—that is to say, if it could be carried out under more sanitary conditions, and under strict supervision by qualified and trustworthy inspectors—it would certainly add to my pleasure in eating dates from Mesopotamia; and I believe it would eventually benefit the date exporters themselves.

My thoughts have run on this subject because a few days ago I found in a package of dates from Busreh that the fruit at the centre tasted strongly of paraffin, while that outside was less strongly impregnated. The cardboard box showed no signs of having been in contact with oil, so the deduction was obvious. Such things will hardly help the Busreh date trade. But perhaps the date exporters are getting such good prices that they are feeling quite independent—like our shopkeepers here, who not only charge you exorbitant prices, but seem to regard it as a favour to serve you at all! At any rate, I observe in the fruiterers that good dates are "up" to 9d. and 10d. the lb., which strikes me as a ridiculous price to ask. I should like to see the face of a Busreh or Baghdad Arab who saw any one pay that price for dates. *Mashallah!* but the fruiterer would hear a flow of Arabic that would cause him to call for the police in a hurry, I fancy.

As a matter of fact, I cannot understand why dates should be so dear now. They ought, surely, to be cheaper than ever before; for many more British ships must have been going into Busreh, and if they have not brought back dates, what have they brought? There cannot be much else to come out of the country just now—at least, not much

that the ordinary cargo steamer could carry. Perhaps the explanation of the scarcity—for scarcity there seems to have been to some extent—is that our Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force is keen on the Busreh dates. But I rather doubt it. Human nature is a contrary thing, and seldom values what lies to its hand, so to say. Yet the freshly-picked date is certainly a far more delicate and tempting thing than the distorted, dried-up, unappetising affair that we generally get in England. Unfortunately, some of the very finest varieties (there are about eighty of these varieties recognised in Baghdad) will not bear packing at all. I remember one kind—long, slender, golden, and small-stoned—which had a flavour almost like new honey; but its delicacy soon passed away, and it would not stand packing in any form at all.

Mr. Somers Clarke has, I see, written to the *Egyptian Gazette* regarding a rumour that is now floating about Cairo—and one that is sufficiently horrible to alarm all lovers of old Egypt. He puts the matter thus:—"It is stated that a private association of Americans has proposed to erect an educational establishment of considerable size and, in order to draw attention to it, desires to establish it cheek by jowl with the great Pyramid! We are not to be able to see the monument without its neighbour the school. The Pyramids are in fact to serve as an advertisement to the school." He adds: "We cannot believe that such an outrage will be permitted," and I should imagine his incredulity to be justified up to the hilt. A proposal of the nature indicated may conceivably have been made by "a private association of Americans," but its fate can hardly have been in doubt for a single instant.

COBSAIR.

KASHGAR AND THE PAMIRS.

"Seven Months in High Asia" was the subject of a lecture by Miss Ella C. Sykes, F.R.G.S., given last Tuesday at the Royal Victoria Hall, South London. It described her experiences in a country rarely, if ever, visited by a woman from Europe. She said that the reason for her going was that her brother took the place of the Consul-General at Kashgar, Sir George Macartney, while that gentleman came home on leave. She said that Kashgar is a most inaccessible place, and more so because of the war. The party left England in the winter of 1915, and made their way through Scandinavia, Finland, and Russia. During this part of the journey the country was robbed in snow. The thaw began at Samara, where the railway crosses the Volga. When Asia was reached, at Orenburg, there was a wonderful feeling of spring in the air, and Tashkend was found embowered in fruit blossom. From the end of the Russian railway a drive of thirty miles brought them to a place where a caravan was collected for a twelve days' ride across the mountain, and they arrived in Kashgar early in April. Miss Sykes said that Kashgar is on the confines of the desert of Gobi, and she found the riding there delightful along sandy roads bordered by irrigation channels planted with poplars and willows. It is a great cotton-producing country, and among other crops are wheat, barley, maize, rice, lucerne for fodder, and, above all, melons. Of lucerne she said six crops can be grown in a year. The sheep and cattle are literally hand-fed, for there is no grazing whatever, except that when a field is cleared of its crop the animals are turned in among the stubble. She found the Kashgar people the most musical she had ever met. The town is surrounded by mud walls. The legend is that these were built by slaves, and that if one of these unfortunates died whilst at his work the body was straightway buried in the wall and the building went on as before. In June Miss Sykes accompanied her brother on an expedition into the Pamirs after the Ovis Poli, a very large mountain sheep named after Marco Polo, who first described it to Europeans. His story of the wonderful size of its horns was disbelieved, until in modern times the Pamirs were again visited. The first part of Miss Sykes's journey was through a defile sixty miles long. The highest mountain of the district is 25,000 ft. high. The party camped at 14,000 ft., and crossed a pass at 17,000 ft. Miss Sykes said she did not care for these great heights; she always had a curious feeling as if a hand were on her throat. Although it was July, the rivers were sometimes frozen over in parts, and snow lay in places where the sun's rays did not penetrate. While the cold was intense at night and in the early morning, at mid-day it was necessary to wear a pith hat to avoid sunstroke. The people of the country are Khirgiz, and live largely on yak's milk. This, said Miss Sykes, is far richer than that of the cow; but she could not enjoy it, for the only fuel of the district is the yak's dung, and this, when burning, gives off a volume of acrid smoke which taints the milk boiled over it. Further, she discovered that the receptacles in which the milk was stored and boiled were never cleaned, that the people made no use of spoons, but used their hands for all such purposes, and that those hands were rarely, if ever, washed; so that, altogether, Miss Sykes said, she did not enjoy either the milk or the wonderful crisp pastry that the women made. Of the position of woman she said it was better among the Khirgiz than at Kashgar, though there, again, it was better than in Persia. In the Pamirs a man would give 100 sheep, or the equivalent, for a wife, and divorce was extremely rare.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A SON OF THE BALKANS.*

If the Serbian spirit is the Slav spirit (and after all it cannot but be so), then Jan Gordon has certainly reproduced it faithfully in his "Balkan Freebooter." There abound throughout the book those little naïf touches which would be crude if they were not naïf—and Slavonic. We know how often Tolstoi says things that would be absurd if they were not childish. For what is really and thoroughly child-like is near the borderline of the sublime and its antithesis—but always on the right side of the borderline. So here in this collection of adventures, which the author tells us are not invented. The names are mostly fictitious, but "Petko Moritz is a living man, and I met him in Serbia," says Gordon. And it is a living man that the reader meets, too; and it is in Serbia. Some of Petko's stories are monstrous lies, but alluring because they are monstrous, inasmuch as monsters always have been part of art: witness the deathless gargoyle.

The book is really a collection of little half-drawn pictures with a wealth of suggestion behind them; and occasionally a big real pulsation of human action at its strongest, if not at its best. The style is loose on the whole, and the book depends on its matter as a *raison d'être*. And yet some of those little semi-crudities are style in themselves. We could wish there were more of them.

The central figure is an attractive one. Petko Moritz is a fine muscular human animal with a refreshing and healthy determination to live; with no particular views on anything—not even on politics, though he dislikes one politician sufficiently to bring himself within the law for bodily assault. He is essentially a splendid animal, though a little too wicked occasionally for an animal. We never see deeper than his strength and his passions. Simply because there is nothing else to see. He is an amiable giant who develops into a rather amiable blackguard by force of circumstances. He lives honestly as long as he can: that is, as long as primitive Serbian justice will let him. And then he turns his hand to theft, with no searchings of conscience. He has none to search. So, in spite of his adventurous life, he is a prosaic person after all, whose tremendous vital powers enable him to survive the most atrocious sufferings and even emerge alive from a Turkish prison.

But he is big at times; in those moments when the caged animal decides to be free. Then there is a superb contempt for danger and an irresistible determination which transform the nondescript animal into a lion, and the book becomes for a while almost epic—until the lion wanders back into a café.

Beyond its value as a story, the book gives a good perspective of the Balkans, fragmentary but clear, a little wearisome but not without purple patches. And the descriptive passages bear the inimitable stamp of truth.

A. R. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Geography and Geology of West-Central Sinai. By John Ball, Ph.D., D.Sc., etc. Published by the Egyptian Survey Department. (Cairo: Government Press. P.T. 30.)

Turkey and War. By Vladimir Jabotinsky. (Fisher Unwin. 6s. net.)

Serbian Folk-Songs, Fairy Tales, and Proverbs. By Maximilian A. Mügge. (Drane's.)

A strong commission has been appointed in Egypt to study the proposed judicial and administrative reforms which will be necessitated by the declaration of the protectorate and the eventual abolition of the Capitulations.

The *Morning Post's* Cairo correspondent reports that an exhibition of trophies captured from the Turks and Senussi was opened on April 2 in the square outside the Abdin Palace, and was visited by many thousands of natives.

The Agent-General for New South Wales, the Right Hon. Sir Timothy Coghlan, has handed over to the Serbian Minister the sum of £10,790 for the purpose of sending a "New South Wales train" of foodstuffs and clothing from Switzerland to the distressed and starving people in Serbia.

Those who have friends or relatives serving in Mesopotamia will read with interest the following extract from a letter written by a gunner with that force:—"Since last writing we have been in action for over a month, continually moving and firing at the enemy, and the work which that entails is rather heavy, digging with pick and shovel, etc., etc. . . . The food, however, is remarkably good, when you reckon that we are fighting and constantly changing our ground, yet we have never been without the good white bread, as good as you can get in London, with jam, fresh meat and vegetables (occasionally), and plenty of butter."

* "A Balkan Freebooter." By Jan Gordon. (London: Smith, Elder and Co.)

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Linking-up in Mesopotamia.

Commenting on the junction near Khanikin of the Russian and British forces, *The Times* (April 7) says:—

The news was expected, but is none the less both gratifying and important. It sets the seal on the complete rout of the Turkish forces in this direction. The Russian advance, since the stubborn resistance of the Turks in the Patak Pass was overcome, has been particularly rapid. Both they and the British troops have had to surmount formidable obstacles—snow and flooded rivers, and the poverty of a land laid waste by the enemy as he retired. The Turks, we are told, are reported to be in retreat in the direction of Kifri, on the road to Mosul. Evidently they have succeeded, for the moment at least, in evading the converging movement of the British and Russian forces. They may still be intercepted by the main Russian body. In any case, they have been taught a lesson the full fruits of which are not yet visible, which cannot fail to wake a sinister echo in the courts of Constantinople, and which has more than re-established the shaken prestige of Great Britain and of Russia in Persia and among the Arab tribes.

The *Westminster Gazette* of the same date considers that the "news, although expected, marks a very important stage in the operations in Mesopotamia and Persia," and adds:—

The forces were not able to link up at a point where they could have trapped the Turks retreating from Persia. Weather and formidable natural obstacles prevented that consummation. But the Turks who have escaped along the road to Mosul are a shattered force, and may arrive at Mosul only to find that place threatened by the Russians who are advancing from Lake Van. The Turks have now suffered a series of reverses which cannot but leave the forces in Asiatic Turkey demoralised, and which will awaken unpleasant thoughts at Constantinople. Russian and British prestige have been re-established in the soundest way, and the road is open for an even more severe lesson to the enemy. We cannot but pay our tribute to the Russian forces, who have made a brilliant forced march through the mountains under conditions which must have stopped any but the hardest troops.

The *Daily Graphic* (April 7) also deals with the same subject, and takes advantage of the occasion to point out the folly of giving way to pessimism.

Equal praise seems to be due to each force, as, if the Russians have had to encounter the enemy in mountainous country, our own force has met with stubborn resistance in fighting its way along the Tigris. . . . Whatever the immediate developments, the feat is a fine one, giving evidence of ceaseless progress by the Allied forces. Germany is evidently helpless to extricate her ally. All that she cares about Turkey just now is to seize as much as possible of her foodstuffs for her own dire needs. Taken in conjunction with developments in Palestine, which we may be certain are proceeding satisfactorily, the situation of the Turks in Mesopotamia is growing steadily worse. The campaign there has taught us at least one valuable lesson—the folly of giving way to pessimism and expecting speedy results in a land of such vast distances and natural obstacles. There has been no setback since Baghdad fell. The cumulative nature of this progressive success must react daily through the Middle East and be recognised in Germany as sealing the doom of Teutonic ambitions.

Russia and Roumania.

Saturday's *Morning Post* contained an article on "The Roumanian Reverses," written by the Jassy correspondent of the *Post*. The sub-title "Russian 'Dark Forces' to Blame," indicates the lines of the article, which is full of interest. The article begins:—

The new situation in Russia must be considered not only in relation to the future, but also in the light it is beginning to throw on the past, more particularly on some of the more poignant features of recent events. It would seem that the drama of Roumania is the first to be brought out into the open by the new Russian régime. The rapidity with which the Dobrudsha, Oltenia, and Wallachia were occupied by the Germans and Bulgarians caused disappointment in the Allied camp. It was felt that the Army of Roumania had not been equal to the task of conducting a national war in the midst of a world-wide catastrophe, and that the country had been guilty of culpable negligence. For months past—during which the terrible sufferings caused by the enemy occupation, followed by sanguinary and devastating sacrifices, have been sustained—the Roumanians have suffered moral torture owing to the obscurity in which were wrapped the real causes of their terrible situation.

The explanation of the mystery is given by the writer as "M. Stürmer, who . . . if he was not the Minister of the Emperor . . . was, at any rate, the Minister of the Empress and the late monarch Rasputin." The writer goes on to say:—

It is well established by proofs which are in the hands of the Roumanian Government that if Germany undertook the Roumanian campaign, it was because she relied, above all, for success on Petrograd intrigues. . . . In fact, if Roumania did not realise her first intention of attacking Bulgaria in order to seize the quadrilateral, and bar the road to the Bulgarians before attacking beyond the Carpathians, it was simply because she received from Russia advice to abandon the Bulgarian attack

and the promise that nothing was to be feared from Bulgaria, because "Bulgaria will not attack Roumania." It is common knowledge now that immediately after the majority of the Roumanian divisions had passed the Carpathians the Bulgarians attacked, with Turtukai as their first objective. Certain Roumanian divisions had to be recalled from Roumania and sent to the Dobrudsha. A representative of King Ferdinand of Roumania visited the Emperor Nicholas, who promised four army corps in the shortest possible time to Roumania.

What happened we know: Russia sent troops to Roumania in greater numbers than promised—but not till M. Stürmer was got rid of. Roumania suffered heavily by the work of the "dark forces."

Greece and the Adriatic.

The *Christian Science Monitor* (Boston, Mass.) March 14 contained an article (headed "Entente Allies Act Jointly in Greek Liberation") from which we quote the concluding paragraph:—

As to the Adriatic question, regarding which M. Venizelos has been persistently misjudged by Italian newspapers, the facts are that the leader of the National Government has always recognised the vital interests of Italy, and in any case has never regarded the Adriatic as coming within the orbit of the ambitions of Greece. At the Consulta there is a written record of a conversation between the Foreign Minister, Marchese Di San Giuliano, and M. Venizelos in December, 1913, when the Greek statesman declared that Greece would welcome an Italian occupation of Valona. During the Balkan wars the Greeks were accused of having designs on Valona, but M. Venizelos had a clear conscience in assuring Italy, as he did, that Greece had no such designs. Italy, of course, maintains that Valona, as the key to the Adriatic, is a vital necessity to Italy, and far from objecting to this, Greece even acquiesced uncomplainingly in the Italian occupation of the island of Sasseno in 1914, although the latter island, which belonged to England from 1815 to 1864, is held by Greeks to be one of the Ionian islands generously ceded to Greece in the latter year. As to recent events, the attitude of M. Venizelos has always been that he welcomed the adhesion to the Entente of any Power such as Italy, likely to assist in securing the victory which he regards as demanded by the cause of liberty and the rights of small nations in particular, in which connection M. Venizelos holds that a Greece established on the basis of nationality could be no menace to an expanding country like Italy, with a rapidly increasing population.

War Comes to Sinaia.

Madame Jonescu, wife of the famous Roumanian statesman, contributes to the *Morning Post* (April 10) a very interesting article entitled "The Ordeal of Roumania." From this we take the following passages, describing how Sinaia was surprised by the crash of the outbreak of war:—

One evening towards the end of last August the occupants of the charming villas and luxurious hotels, while some were gambling at the Casino, others listening to a concert, the rest spending their evening playing bridge in their own villas, were suddenly startled by the roar of cannon echoing and re-echoing in the rocky gorges.

Roumania's declaration of war was presented in Vienna at eight o'clock Sunday evening, August 27, 1916. At nine o'clock all the valleys of the Carpathians resounded with the din of artillery, and in a few hours several passes were in the hands of the Roumanian Army. But to peaceful Sinaia, nestling in the calm of her pine-covered hills, the crash of war came as an alarming surprise. It is true that rumours of imminent invasion or of Roumania's entry in the field had caused various panics during the last two years, but when the final step was decided on the intentions of the Government were kept a profound secret. Even the Royal children were not removed from Sinaia until the day before the attack. When the evidence of war burst on the senses of the frequenters of the Casino, the gamblers, alone unperturbed, were with difficulty dispersed to enable the Red Cross workers to begin transforming the building into a hospital. All through that night the boom of heavy guns broke the stillness of the air, sometimes nearer as it seemed to the terrified listeners, sometimes more distant. Hurried preparations for departure were made. The early morning found the railway station thronged with an impatient and excited crowd, besieging the already half-demented station-master with supplications for places in the overcrowded trains. Many passed continually in the direction of the frontier, crammed with troops, but for some days few were available to carry civilians in the opposite direction. The single line traversing the Parahova Valley was not sufficient for the transport of troops, artillery, etc., and ordinary passengers. Every conceivable vehicle was pressed into service for the exodus from the vicinity of the war zone. The few trains were crowded not only inside, where all stood on and off the seats, but the roofs, the steps, every ledge that could afford a precarious foothold were occupied at imminent risk, while the journey to Bucharest, usually lasting three or four hours, was lengthened to two or three days.

The "W.O." and Mesopotamia.

Under the heading, "The 'Blessed Word,'" the *Observer* (April 8) discusses the operations in Mesopotamia. It considers the junction of the British and Russian forces on the mountain border "by far the most picturesque event of the week," and rejoices over the fruits of General Maude's success in mastering Baghdad. And it is anxious to see credit given where credit is due, believing that it has not yet been sufficiently given:—

Worthy of his command, General Maude's success never could have been achieved without the organising work of the War Office at home. That institution is so thoroughly "crabbed" by custom when the least thing goes wrong that it ought to receive its well-earned praise when a very big thing goes right. The facts are remarkable. When the War Office received control after General Townshend's surrender, the whole work of reorganisation was taken in hand at home by General Collard working under the Quartermaster-General. As a result, between last July and January the traffic up the Tigris increased by no less than a thousand per cent. The river transport passed into the hands not of naval men, as has been too readily assumed, but into that of soldiers, with Colonel Grey at their head, using Basra as his base.

The article then gives some details of what has been achieved in the way of providing all that was lacking in Mesopotamia to make the great advance possible. It concludes:—

In a word, British organisation in the Middle East has been far more than a match for German organisation. Let us not yield to the mania of lauding beyond reason every ordinary German feat of war-direction, and disparaging and minimising—even ignoring or denying—the best achievements which stand to our own national credit. Conjuring out of original vacancy or chaos the military organisation now second to none in the world, the British War Office has made many mistakes, as a matter of course, but it has done colossal things. We doubt whether any part of its work has been better done than the reorganisation on the Tigris, which has changed the whole position and prospect of the war in the Middle East.

Joshua and Tommy Atkins.

The following paragraph is extracted from an article, "At the Gates of Gaza," which appeared in the *East Anglian Daily Times* of April 7:—

The British troops marching over the ground have encountered the same difficulties the hosts of Joshua met before them. For twelve months our men advanced laboriously over the Desert, fighting hard, always digging, making military works, building railways, constructing pipe lines and roads, and for ever marching over inhospitable wastes. Then suddenly a marvellous scene spread itself out—the Promised Land. Not Joshua's men were more grateful than our own. Behind them they had left a hundred miles of monotonous sand. Before them, as far as the eye could reach, was unfolded a picture of transcendent beauty. When the troops breasted the last sandy hillocks, and looked over the billowy downs before them, they broke into rounds of cheers. They could not restrain their joy; they shouted just as loudly, no doubt, as Joshua's men, when they reached the same Promised Land.

Articles to Note

"The End of a Long Pause," by H. R. W., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (April).

"The Serbian Front in Macedonia," by E. P. Stebbing, in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* (April).

"A Point of Prestige," by Harry Ascalon, in *United Empire* (April).

A PREDECESSOR OF SIR A. MURRAY.

By Joseph Offord.

The route by which the British army, with its new railway being constructed in its rear, is advancing into Palestine is almost identical with that selected by Tahutmes III. for his celebrated invasion of Syria. He left the border forts at Zaru, somewhere upon the route of the present Suez Canal, on its western side, and made straight across the desert to Sharhah, or Beersheba, therefore keeping a little further inland than we have done. As he did not rely upon any protection from a fleet this was probably good policy. From Sharhah he moved north-westward to Gerara, upon the Wadi Guzze, and so arrived at precisely the neighbourhood that our troops have passed. From thence he occupied Gaza, whereat, on April 26, he celebrated the fête day of his coronation. The following morning his forces set forth on their northward march along the regular caravan road not far from the shore, and in twelve days reached Yehem, near to Mount Carmel. He therefore avoided the precipitous country towards Jerusalem and Hebron. At Yehem the King's intelligence department reported that the main forces of the Syrian chiefs were concentrated near Megiddo, in the plain of Esdraelon, they having decided to give battle in the low ground because of their much superior force of chariots. Tahutmes pushed through the pass by the route to Aluna and obtained a decisive victory close to Megiddo, although the city did not fall until after a siege of some duration. The remnants of the Syrian and Hittite army fled northward, and having taken Megiddo the Pharaoh proceeded to conquer the hill country as far as the Jordan piece by piece. When he had thus secured his communications, he utilised Palestine, with its fertile valleys and littoral, as a base, from which he advanced in a number of campaigns into northern Syria, finally reaching the banks of the Euphrates.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. April. 13	1917. March. 31	Friday	1335. Jumada II. 20	5677. Nisan. 21
14	April. 1	Saturday	21	22
15	2	Sunday	22	23
16	3	Monday	23	24
17	4	Tuesday	24	25
18	5	Wednesday	25	26
19	6	Thursday	26	27

Tuesday is the birthday of Prince Mirko, of Montenegro, who was born in Cetinje in 1879.

Tuesday is also the birthday of Prince Arsène Kara-Georgevitch, brother of King Peter of Serbia, who was born at Temesvar in 1859. Prince Arsène, who is a general in the Serbian Army, is also a colonel in the Russian Army.

Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Marguerite of Greece, eldest daughter of Prince Andrew, who was born in Athens in 1905.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of a Knight Commandership of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George to Major-General George Vero Kemball, C.B., D.S.O., in recognition of his distinguished service in the field in Mesopotamia, with effect from June 3, 1916, inclusive. General Kemball, who was awarded the D.S.O. in 1902 and the C.B. in the following year, while he was holding the appointment of Inspector-General of the West African Frontier Force, has already been twice mentioned in despatches from Mesopotamia.

The Earl of Bessborough left London for Wolverhampton last week.

General Sir Ian Hamilton has left London for Scotland.

Lord Derby has telegraphed as follows to General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, says a Reuter's message from Cairo:—"The Imperial War Cabinet, at which representatives of the United Kingdom, the Dominions, and India are assembled, charge me to convey to you and all ranks concerned cordial congratulations on the striking and important success achieved near Gaza. They have heard with special gratification your commendation of the gallantry of the troops." General Sir Archibald Murray replied to the effect that it was the earnest determination of all ranks in the Egyptian field force to "pull their full weight."

Madame Take Jonescu has left London for Hartpury, Gloucester, for a few days.

Major Arion, of the Roumanian Military Mission, left London last Friday for Paris for a few days.

Captain P. W. Hope, C.B., who has just been promoted to be Rear-Admiral, was in command of H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth during the Gallipoli operations.

Mr. Percy Bennett, Commercial Attaché to the British Legation at Jassy, has arrived in London.

General Lyantey, ex-French Minister for War, who has been reappointed Resident-General in Morocco, is expected shortly to visit Madrid.

M. Charles Jean Vidic, the Chief Technical Director of the Roumanian Post Office in Jassy, has left London for Roumania.

The *Times'* correspondent in Salonika reports that Austro-Bulgarian attempts to persuade the Serbs that they have been abandoned by their King have entirely failed. The Serbs revere King Peter as a saint fore-ordained by Heaven for the salvation of the Serbian nation.

Baroness d'Erlanger has returned to London from Bath.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes under date of March 17: Major Fielden is on his way from Wau to take up the duties of Civil Secretary. Viscount Hawarden will act as Governor of the Bahr el Ghazal in his absence.

Mr. Robinson, of the Customs, has arrived from Halfa, where he has been on a protracted spell of duty as a Censor, to take up work in connection with the Resources Board.

A theatrical entertainment was given by Judge and Mrs. Peacock at their house at Gereif on the 10th inst., and the company repeated the piece at the Gordon College on the 17th for the benefit of the battalion quartered at Khartoum. In both cases great success attended the acting, that of Mrs. Peacock being specially appreciated.

Next Tuesday (April 17) the Workrooms and Depot of the Serbian Red Cross Society, at 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W., will be formally opened. At eleven o'clock there will be a religious ceremony, conducted by Father Nikolai Velimirovitch, D.D., ex-Chaplain to King Peter; and at three o'clock there will be a reception and entertainment.

We understand that Serbian and English ladies are already busily engaged at Ennismore Gardens in making many useful articles for Serbia and the Serbs. Madame Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister's wife, to whom the premises have been kindly lent by Sir John Brunner, is asking friends of the Serbians to help with her work, which will be in close co-operation with the British institutions already doing so much for Serbia. The loan or gift of furniture and household requisites still needed for the house will be much appreciated, and things lent will be taken care of, so that they may be returned in the condition in which they arrived. All suitable gifts will be transported to Serbia as an English souvenir when the country is once more free. Those desiring to help or to send contributions can obtain all necessary information from Miss A. J. Dickinson or Mrs. Robert Frank, who are acting as hon secretaries to Madame Yovanovitch. The depot and the workrooms are opened as a part of the "Serbian Red Cross Fund" administered by the Serbian Legation in London (195, Queen's Gate, S.W.) and registered under the War Charities Act as the sole representative of the "Serbian Red Cross Society" in Great Britain and the Dominions.

In the course of an appreciation of Lord Milner, the *National News* (April 8) says:—"Lord Milner's remarkable tact, his knowledge of human nature, his extraordinary faculty for handling men, and his exceptionally adroit control of a thousand and one affairs, besides those of mere finance in Egypt, would have established for him a reputation as a brilliant statesman had he never gone to South Africa at all. But, as a matter of fact, Egypt owes him a debt it can never repay. With the utmost generosity, and indeed with a keen sense of justice and fair play, Lord Milner attributes all modern Egypt's happy state to the wonderful and undying work and influence of the late Lord Cromer, one of the greatest men that England ever sent forth to build up and reinvigorate an ancient and historic land. It is perfectly true. Lord Cromer's work was glorious. But he himself would be the first to acknowledge, and to insist upon the fact, as indeed he frequently did, that without Lord Milner at his side in those strenuous days in the late 'eighties and the early 'nineties he himself could never have carried out the work he did so magnificently accomplish ere he left the land of the Pharaohs."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

EGYPTIAN ARMY HONOURS.

The Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to approve of the award of honours, as set out below, for services rendered in connection with the military operations in Darfur and the situation in the Sudan created by the war:—

THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

2nd Class.—Lewa P. J. V. Kelly Pasha, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Western Frontier Force and Governor, Darfur Province.

3rd Class.—Miralai L. K. Smith Bey, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Khartoum District; Miralai H. J. Huddleston Bey, D.S.O., M.C., late Officer Commanding Camel Corps; Miralai M. J. Wheatley Bey, Mr. G. E. Iles, Mr. C. E. Lyall, Mr. R. E. More, Sudan Government; Shahin Bey George, Arabic Secretary to the Sirdar.

4th Class.—Miralai W. A. Davenport Bey, Equatorial Battalion and Kaimakamat; C. Graham Bey, Officer Commanding 11th Sudanese; E. D. F. Gee Bey, Second in Command Artillery; W. Middleton Bey, Officer Commanding 9th Sudanese; G. G. Cobden Bey, Cavalry and M.I.; Mohammed Bey Emin, Officer Commanding 6th Battalion.

Bimbashis.—T. A. Nicholas, Sudan Government; W. F. M. Bagshawe, Dept. of Ordnance; Hon. T. P. P. Butler, Artillery; L. Daniels, Sudan Government; R. W. Hutton, Sudan Government; H. C. Maydon, late Cavalry and M.I.; D. S. Buist, M.B., Medical Corps; E. M. Parsons-Smith, Medical Corps; H. T. C. Jones-Vaughan, Sudan Government; A. J. Pott, 13th Sudanese; G. C. Gowland, Military Works Department; W. L. Clinton, late 11th Sudanese; R. K. B. Walker, M.C., 13th Sudanese; F. G. Peake, Camel Corps; A. C. Marsh, 2nd Battalion; W. St. J. F. McCartney, Veterinary Dept.; Mohammed Effendi Wifki, Camel Corps; Haidar Effendi Rustum, Sudan Government; Mohammed Effendi El Subki, Artillery (now *en pension*).

Saghkolaghassis.—Mr. R. A. Benze-Pembroke, Mr. E. N. Corbyn, Mr. S. Dennett, Lieut.-Commander P. N. Draper, Mr. J. A. Gillan, Mr. A. W. Keown-Boyd, Hon. H. G. G. Pelham,

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

Mr. F. G. A. Pinckney, Mr. G. R. Storrar, Ibrahim Bey Dimitri, all of Sudan Government.

5th Class.—Bimbashi H. Garland, Dept. of Ordnance; Mr. W. B. Patterson, Sudan Government.

The Sultan has also been pleased to approve of the under-mentioned honours for services rendered in connection with the Jebel Miri Patrol:—

THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

3rd Class.—Miralai R. S. Wilson Bey, Sudan Government.

4th Class.—Kaimakam G. P. Knott Bey, late Sudan Government; Kaimakam D. C. Percy-Smith Bey, D.S.O., Officer Commanding 1st Battalion; Bimbashi Hassan Effendi Zeki, Artillery.

M. Argyropoulos, Greek Minister of Communications, has resigned.

Kaimakam J.P.L. Mostyn Bey, Sudan Government, has been granted the Fourth Class Order of the Nile.

Miralai C. H. Townsend Bey, Governor of Kassala Province, and Miralai R.V. Savile Bey, Governor of Darfur Province, have been granted the temporary rank of Lewa (major-general). These promotions entitle them to the rank of Pasha.

Kaimakam (temporary Lewa) P.J.V. Kelly Pasha, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, has been granted the substantive rank of Miralai.

A temporary Miralaiat has been granted to M. H. Logan Bey, Acting Chief Staff Officer and Acting Adjutant-General; L. K. Smith Bey, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Khartoum District, C. W. Spinks Bey, Commandant of Artillery and Director of Ordnance, W. E. Longfield Bey, M. E. Sowerby Bey, and E. O. A. Newcombe Bey, of the Sudan Government Railways, and R. P. S. Elderton Bey, Assistant Financial Secretary Sudan Government, have been granted the substantive rank of Miralai.

Temporary Kaimakam W. MacConaghy, Special Service, has been granted the rank of Kaimakam.

Captain Robert C. Carlyle, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, having reported his arrival in Egypt, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as a Special Service officer, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Medical Corps.

Bimbashi R. Chevenix-Trench, M.C., Assistant Director of Posts and Telegraphs, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Major W. S. Lennon, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and Captain H. B. Sayer, Royal Engineers, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as special service officers, with the rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Sudan Government.

OBITUARY.

Major-General Stuart James Nicholson, C.B., Colonel-Commandant, Royal Artillery, died at St. Andrews on Tuesday. A son of the late Mr. W. H. Nicholson, of St. Margaret's, Kent, he was born in 1836, and was educated at Charterhouse and the Royal Military Academy. He received his commission in 1855, and thirty years later he served in the Sudan Expedition, in command of the artillery. He took part in the advance on Hasheen, the fighting there and the destruction of Hasheen village, and the advance on Tamai. For his services in these operations he was mentioned in despatches, received the medal with clasp and the bronze star, and was promoted to the rank of colonel. Later he was in command of a Royal Artillery Brigade at Malta, and, in 1895-97, of the Royal Artillery, Southern District. During his service in the Army he held many different appointments. From 1881 to 1884 he was Assistant Director of Artillery at the War Office; was a member of the Ordnance Committee for a year, and later Commandant and Superintendent of the School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness. He was appointed Colonel-Commandant Royal Artillery in 1906, and was created a C.B. in 1897. He married, in 1870, a daughter of Mr. David Laing Burn, of St. Andrews.

It is announced that the Rev. James Hope Moulton, Greenwood Professor of Hellenistic Greek and Indo-European Philology in Victoria University, Manchester, has died as the result of exposure. He was travelling from India, where he had been on a missionary tour, when his ship was sunk. He was fifty-four years old.

MESOPOTAMIA DAY.

The Flag Day in connection with the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund is to-day (Friday), and we all join in hoping that it will be an unqualified success. This, no doubt, it will be, providing the weather is favourable. It is hoped, however, that even should the weather be bad, that will not prevent those ladies who have kindly offered to help from fulfilling their promise.

The arrangements for the Flag Day are being carried out by a committee, of which the following are the members:—President, Field-Marshal the Lord Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.; Chairman, Mr. Percy C. Simmons, L.C.C.; Committee, The Countess Dowager of Carnarvon, the Countess of Minto, Lady Mildred Allsopp, the Hon. Lady Lawley, Lady Robertson,

Lady Alexander; Hon. Organiser, Miss Stella Maude; Hon. Treasurer, Captain Feilden; Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. Reginald Walter, Miss Meiggs.

A number of ladies have very kindly given their services.

Colonel the Viscount Goschen, President of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, in company with Miss Stella Maude, daughter of the gallant officer who has so successfully led the troops to Baghdad and beyond, will be at Smithfield Market as early as 5.30 a.m., and they will afterwards proceed to Covent Garden. Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, with Miss Beryl Maude, will visit the Stock Exchange, Lloyd's, and the Mansion House. Several actresses are also kindly giving their services—Miss Gertie Millar at the Savoy, Lady Alexander and Madam Clara Butt at the Carlton. Lady Blackwood and Lady Milson Rees will be in the Regent Palace Hotel, Miss Mabel Seally in the Piccadilly Hotel, Countess Carter at the Ritz, Miss Minnie Lake at the Berkeley, Miss Julia James at the Princess, Mrs. Tod at the Trocadero, and Miss Mabel Russell at the Criterion.

That the troops who are now fighting in this far-away land will appreciate the services of the many ladies who are taking part we can well imagine; and the following telegram has been received from Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, having been sent off from Baghdad on March 30:—"My best wishes that every success may attend Mesopotamia Day. Gifts so kindly provided by the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund are most gratefully appreciated by the gallant soldiers who have fought, and are still fighting, so splendidly."

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,

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

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.

Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOUY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

FOR SUMMER SEASON—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel. TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.

4,000 feet above sea level. 6,000 feet above sea level.

Open from May till October. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOUY & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS YAGHOURT

may be obtained at

SELFRIDGE'S, Ltd., Oxford St., W.,

W. WHITELEY, Ltd., Queen's Rd., W.,

or direct from the makers,

MANOLI-CORBETTI,

22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No. 618 London Wat

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917.

THE NEW RUSSIA AND THE BALKANS.

Domestic concerns and provision for the more effective conduct of the war necessarily engross the attention of the new Russian Government; but there is one aspect of Russia's foreign policy which has had so important a bearing on the grouping of the belligerent nations that no time ought to be lost in seeing whether an opportunity does not now present itself for a fresh orientation. Although the fact was hidden from the collective wisdom of the Allied Governments at the outbreak of the war, it was well known in less responsible circles that, whatever ties might link the Bulgarian and Russian peoples, a feeling of mistrust had grown up in Bulgaria with regard to the Imperialist designs of the Russian Court or Government in the Balkans. In this connection we have to distinguish between the politicians and their immediate entourage on the one hand and the great mass of the Bulgarian peasantry on the other. Among the latter the tradition of the Tsar Liberator would be retained, except in so far as it had been purposely undermined by the intrigues of politicians. In certain circles, however, and particularly among those who had not wholly surrendered themselves to partisan politics, it was noted that Russia was no longer content to rely upon the instinctive gratitude of the Bulgarian people, but indulged in active propaganda through the paid agency of some members at least of the Russophil party. It may not be possible to determine how far Russian activities were directly provoked by German and Austrian intrigue; but, however the responsibility may be apportioned, the result in the country was a general misgiving of all the rivals. In these circumstances what was required to decide Bulgaria's part in the war between the Central Powers and Russia was a definite lead in one direction or the other by the Sofia Government. With King Ferdinand's personal estate wholly in the hands of Austria-Hungary, it was obvious where his sympathies would be placed, while German gold and the presence of Serbia on the side of the Entente tended to throw both the Government and the people as well into the arms of the Central Powers. Such a critical situation called for careful diplomatic handling, if it were desired to keep Bulgaria neutral; but the first step of the Entente Governments was to entrust the negotiations to Russia, than whom no more suspect agent could be found. In the light of all that is now known of the old regime in Russia it is not a matter for surprise that the overtures of the Entente failed to achieve their purpose. Bulgaria may have been too far committed when the negotiations were opened for any other result to have been possible, and no fault may attach to Russia's diplomacy. But at this juncture the point to bear in mind is that, in whatever frame of mind the Bulgarians entered the war, they were not long in it before they had satisfied themselves that Russia was their natural enemy, and had all along entertained designs upon Bulgaria's integrity in furtherance of a sinister policy in the Near East. Consequently, the nation was able to devote itself with a considerable degree of unanimity to the prosecution of the war.

Bulgarian opinion may have been entirely misinformed, but so long as the Emperor Nicholas II. remained on the Russian throne and Bulgaria was in the power of Germany there could be little opportunity of

undeceiving it. Events in Russia, unless we are mistaken, will have seriously exercised the minds of the Bulgarians. While their first thought will be that their suspicions of the former administration in Petrograd have received striking confirmation, their present troubles and war-weariness will revive, especially among the peasant soldiery, the old feelings towards the Russian people, to whose generous instincts they really owed their deliverance from the Turkish yoke. As far as Bulgaria's heart is in the war to-day, it is because it labours under the impression that the Russian autocracy, if the Allies were victorious in the war, would lay hands by one device or another upon a portion of Bulgaria's Black Sea littoral to serve as a "corridor" to the new "Tsargrad" on the Bosphorus. These fears, the Bulgarians will be quick to realize, are now out of place. At no time could there have been any real foundation for them, inasmuch as the Allied Powers stood committed to the principle of nationality. But the knowledge that they had incurred the just anger of the Tsar led the Bulgarians to associate with their conception of Russian autocracy even violation of the Allies' declared principles. The new Government in Russia, which has dared greatly for the liberty of its own people, is not going to lend itself to vindictive treatment of a kindred nation, although the latter has done so much to forfeit all consideration. Bulgaria, therefore, on whom the signs of the times cannot be wholly lost, will at this point be readjusting some of her theories regarding the war, and it may be worth while for the Allies to inquire whether they cannot turn to account her new frame of mind.

So far we have dealt with the Bulgarian side of the problem in seeking to discover whether one of the four enemy nations may not have reached a stage at which it finds it prudent to take stock of its position in the war and of the objects for which it is prolonging the struggle. From the Allies' point of view, there can be no objection to allowing diplomacy to lend its aid to military efforts. Their object is to bring about the defeat and extirpation of German militarism, in order that liberty and justice, based upon the principle of nationality, may become a settled tradition among the peoples of Europe. Bulgaria enters the picture, because she has thrown in her lot with the Central Powers, and under the direction of a corrupt Government has endeavoured to profit by militarism in the minor sphere of the Balkans. The bulk of her people, however, are actuated by purely elementary considerations. They bore a grudge against the Serbians, and were told to entertain another against the Russians. The appeal to war has gone against them in a manner even more instructive to their peasant minds than a straightforward defeat. They have beaten the Serbians; but, owing to their political entanglements, they can derive no benefit from the circumstance, and have to struggle on in ever-increasing distress, until their victory is followed by complete national collapse. After two years of war the country as a whole must be ready to acknowledge defeat, while recognizing that the crime of those who embarked it upon a senseless adventure will have justified the imposition of penalties that are of a military character and fall short of actual dismemberment. As they have taken their stand on the principle of nationality, the terms which the Allies will have to impose upon Bulgaria in the general interests of Europe and as a fitting punishment for Bulgarian treachery must be practically the same, whether the Bulgarians surrender unconditionally now or when the Central Powers have been beaten. On the other hand, it would be of the utmost military advantage to dislodge at this stage Bulgaria, and consequently Turkey, from their alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary. Such a *coup* as this would be is worth a specific effort, and for this reason we should like to see definite steps taken—first, to reassure the Bulgarian people in regard to Russian intentions in the Balkans: and, secondly, to bring to their knowledge what their fate is likely to be, whether they yield now or prolong the struggle, to their own increasing hurt, until the war as a whole is over. It should be made plain that there can be no question of bargaining. The lofty principles to which the Allies have subscribed are not susceptible of trimming after the manner dear to the

Oriental. Some margin is perhaps provided for an early surrender on Bulgaria's part by modifications of Russia's former policy, and by the hostile attitude of the Greek Government, which has freed the Allies from the necessity of consulting it in regard to the Balkan settlement; but the Bulgarian people should be notified that the better terms can only be secured by immediate acceptance. Action should be taken at once by the Allies, in order that the Provisional Government should make the necessary move before the opinion of New Russia is crystallized in irrevocable hostility towards the Bulgarians, through omission to find some explanation of their treachery in the attitude of Imperialist Russia towards the Balkans.

"THE MOUNTAIN OF INHERITANCE."

The news of the British advance into Palestine came as a welcome certainty after a long spell of whispers, conjectures and guesses. There can be no English heart which does not beat quicker over the expedition into Palestine, the latest great Crusade; for through long centuries England and Palestine have been linked together by a magic sympathy, which neither time nor circumstance has availed to weaken, as well as by many events in the history of each country. Tradition more or less well founded attests the link as one of very early forging, but if we look merely at days somewhat nearer our own, we find Alfred the Great sending embassies of friendship to the Patriarch of Jerusalem; Robert of Normandy and Edgar Atheling (representing the rival Royal Houses of England) fighting side by side in the First Crusade; Richard Cœur de Lion straining soul and body to free Jerusalem, swearing that he would sell London herself to that end could he but find a bidder; Edward I. winning a notable victory at Nazareth; and Sir Sidney Smith holding the crumbling walls of Acre by sheer force and prestige of English valour, thereby saving India, and causing Napoleon to "miss his destiny." How can we English, to the very farthest limit of the Empire, forget that through many centuries England has poured out her blood and treasure and devotion upon Palestine, for love of the Beloved City and belief in her destiny? All over Palestine our English dead lie buried—pilgrims, crusaders, soldiers, high and low—all one in sacrifice. There are lonely neglected graves of 1799 at Acre, and Crusaders' tombs in the Mosque El Akhsa, and a pilgrim-knight—one of those who won and signed the Great Charter of our Liberty—rests in peace in the courtyard of the Holy Sepulchre. Thus, England has taken seizin of Palestine through successive ages. There will be other British graves, too, in Palestine before Jerusalem is freed, and each one of these, like those older and forgotten resting-places, shall be to Jerusalem an earnest of England's will and purpose to help her.

It may well be that to Jerusalem herself, wrapped in the gloom and frost of bondage, no word has yet come of approaching help; she sits in darkness and sees no light anywhere. But it was to those who kept watch by night that good tidings of great joy were brought the first Christmas; and her night will be broken soon. That will be a great day indeed to her when she realizes that freedom is at hand, and that it comes by the nation to whom above all others she would fain owe her deliverance—England.

We who lived in Palestine before the war and knew the country well had thought for some time that great changes were bound to come, simply because things were so bad that they could not continue so much longer. I suppose we did not go farther than that,

even in thought; it would have been too wild a dream to hope that help and deliverance should come by England's hand; for there was nothing then to compel her intervention. We saw Scripture literally fulfilled day by day in the ordinary course of things: we lived in a land that was "utterly emptied and utterly spoiled," a land where men fasted for "strife and debate" rather than to "deal bread to the hungry"; a land where the "sons of strangers built up the walls," because there was truly "none to guide Jerusalem amongst all the sons whom she had brought forth, nor any left that took her by the hand, of all the sons that she had brought up"; a land where their unfaithfulness and injustice made the names of priest and judge a byword to the people. When we saw Jerusalem in the dust, her sacredness and beauty debased, how could we doubt that there must be a term to such suffering?

Jerusalem is in the centre of the world, says the Russian pilgrim, and utters a profound truth; for she is the centre of the religious world. Rome may be the centre of the Faith to the West, as Constantinople is to the East, but Jerusalem is the centre of the religious world to both East and West, to Christian and to Jew, while to the Moslem she comes second in sanctity only to Mecca and Medina. To Jerusalem, in actual fact, do all the tribes of the Lord go up.

What is the secret of the spell she lays upon us? No one can say what it is, nor wherein its power lies. No one has yet been able to define it; others abide our question, she is free; you cannot classify her nor explain her; student, artist, historian, archæologist, theologian, mystic, antiquarian, collector—even, alas! the globe-trotter and the crank as well—she allures them all and nourishes them all; and yet her store is never empty, her well never dry. There are, of course, many who see in Jerusalem only a forlorn, oppressed, insanitary Eastern city, a melancholy heap of ruins, the graveyard of a greater past. To such the Beloved City has never revealed herself; seeing her, they see and do not perceive; hearing her spoken of, they listen and can never understand. To such she remains a dead letter, a mutilated memory. But those who will see and hear and seek to understand something of her matchless charm and beauty know Jerusalem for what she is—the Mother of the Nations, the Centre of the Faith, mysterious, beautiful, most wonderful indeed.

Knowledge does not stop at revelation. With that comes a terrible and growing perception of the curse that shadows both the City and the Land, the curse so wantonly invoked when a whole people cried out: "His blood be on us and on our children!" Read the story of the Land these nineteen hundred years, and see how that curse has shadowed it from generation to generation; no one who loves it, and works for it with any sincerity of purpose, can escape his share of the shadow. "On us and on our children"—Jerusalem has children of the spirit as well as of the flesh. There is no escape. Jerusalem leads you by steep and painful paths until you are down in the dust of her abasement, and there she teaches you things hard and terrible to learn, impossible to forget. Your illusions are stripped from you one by one, and they are hard to part with, especially when you are young; there are many things we can spare better than our illusions. In this school of naked truth your illusions are the first sacrifice you must make. When you look around and see how unlovely a thing Christianity can be when inflamed and scarred by strife, and the lust of place and money, and by jealousies, racial and political—when you see Church arrayed against Church, Jew against Gentile, Moslem against Christian and Jew, then, indeed, you doubt the truth of any creed which can show itself in such hateful guise. You may go even further, and hope that there is nothing in creeds that seem to live like vampires by blood and selfishness. To your



**WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.**

**GREAT AGE
AND
BOUQUET.**



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN

sick imagination the whole place seems full of rottenness and dead men's bones—and of nothing else. Nor is it only the religious illusions that suffer. Politics underlie everything; intrigue and jealousy abound; nothing is what it seems or professes to be; all is hollowness and insincerity. Your own little corner, too, is not free from petty miseries and misunderstandings and hurt feelings, as is inevitable amongst a number of very earnest people who are all engaged in good works, and all trying most strenuously to live the higher life, and often so remarkably lacking in the saving grace of humour. And this is the daily life of Jerusalem, the city of peace—these petty bickerings, these shameful religious fights and political enmities! Sick to the very heart, you drop your cherished illusions one by one to the last, and realize that sorrow ever lingers in the house of learning.

Then comes understanding. Hope gilds the dark hills that hem you in, rays of promise strike upwards through the gloom. Little by little, with many a faltering and backward step, you come at some perception of eternal verities that you have missed before. You realize that only a very real and vital Faith could survive the amazing network of party strife, meanness, envy, spite, and trickery that have sought so long to choke its growth. If it is terribly bewildering to find in a small city like Jerusalem every Church and most creeds represented, you grasp the more eagerly the noble explanation given by the Eastern Church, who says that here, in the city where Christ declared His will for the unity of His Church, that will must one day be fulfilled. Here, then, are gathered together the Churches awaiting their Day of Pentecost. Here, as in a field, are lying the stones, ready for the hand of the Master-BUILDER. When we have known her in the days of her darkness and mourning, we are but the more passionately convinced of her coming glorious restoration.

That was Jerusalem as we knew her, living in her before the war. Throughout these two years of warfare, thick mists of uncertainty and silence have baffled all our anxious questionings. How shall we find her when the mist is lifted and the silence broken? There will be heart-breaking tales of suffering to hear, many that we knew gone out into the great silence, many a home we cared for left desolate. But the Beloved City herself? Will she be safe? Will her grey walls still rest like a crown on the little hills? Will her wonderful shrines, so dearly hallowed by tradition and the devotion of centuries, be found unharmed? If we had to reckon only with the Turk, we should say "Yes," with some confidence; but when we remember Louvain and Malines, Ypres and Rheims, the young fruit-trees, the defiled graveyards, and the little helpless villages of France, can our hopes for Jerusalem be stronger than our fears? Germany sits astride the Holy Land; a German governor—oh, crowning degradation!—rules at Jerusalem. Will the German mark of blood and ruin and desecration be found stamped upon the East as well as on the West? This does not bear thinking on; but Jerusalem is the heritage of the ages to both East and West, and if Germany has hurt her, surely both East and West will rise and call her to account.

Jerusalem keeps her vigil, as yet unbroken by any gleam of hope; and we, her lovers, scattered all through the lands, from East to West—we also keep watch with her, from without the walls.

"Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?"

The watchman said, "The day cometh!"

ESTELLE BLYTH.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva has received from Constantinople, under date March 15, a list of British prisoners in Asia Minor. Most of the names in this list are those of Indian soldiers interned in the Amanus and at Ras-el-Ain, Afion-Kara-Hissar, and Budjak. It is also stated that thirteen English are interned at Budjak and Afion-Kara-Hissar. Nine pages of the list are devoted to the names of 172 British who died, mostly in July, August, and September, at Bagtche, Tarsus, and Adana.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I trespass on your space again to reply to Miss Blyth's criticism of my forecast for the future of the Holy Land, though it is hardly correct to call it my forecast, as it is written in the Book for all to read? I will endeavour to quote my authority for the happenings which I outlined: and, as I said in my previous letter, Biblical prophecy having been proved accurate in the past, it is unreasonable not to rely on it for the future, until it is proved in error.

In Isa. xi. 15 we read: "And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian Sea." Now, the most obvious thing that is referred to is the Gulf of Suez, especially as in the latter part of the verse the judgments are carried on to the Nile Delta. The destruction of the Gulf of Suez involves also, if not the destruction, at least the uselessness of the Suez Canal.

In Zech. xiv. 4-5 (R.V.) we have: "... The Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west and there shall be a very great valley, half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south... ye shall flee, like as ye fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah." Here we have the mighty convulsion of nature which is to cause this deep valley, and which probably would mean a good deal of destruction in Jerusalem, including the Mosque of Omar, which, being levelled, would probably go a long way towards solving the politico-religious question of the Jews being allowed to rebuild their Temple on its old site. In verse 8 of the same chapter we get: "And it shall come to pass in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea, and half of them toward the western sea"; in other words, the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean. In Ezek. xlviii. 8 and 10 (R.V.) we have: "... these waters issue out toward the eastern region, and go down into the Arabah, and they shall go toward the sea... and the waters shall be healed... And it shall come to pass that every living creature which swarmeth in every place whither the rivers (Heb. two rivers) come, shall live... Their fish shall be after their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many." Now, if words mean anything this tells us that there will be a waterway from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, and consequently on to the Gulf of Akaba, passing by Jerusalem, and with quantities of fish of the same species as those found in the Mediterranean. What more could one wish for?—the only waterway between East and West and Jerusalem at its centre. In the 60th chapter of Isaiah one sees how the prophet is almost at a loss for words to describe the wealth which will be poured into Zion by the nations, who will then acknowledge Jerusalem as the political, religious and distributing centre of the world.

One thing more and I have done. Miss Blyth says, "Would not that mighty overflowing equally submerge the whole of the Jordan valley and a good part of Galilee?" This is perfectly true, but even allowing that the rest of the country would not alter its level, the submerged part would only be a comparatively small portion of the land. If one looks at a good contour map of Palestine we see that the Dead Sea would be increased in width from 8 to 10 or 11 miles, and would extend about 30 miles north of its present limit; northward of that the inundation would be from 5 to 8 miles in width, with an arm about 10 miles long going up the Valley of Jezreel. The Sea of Galilee at its widest part is seven miles across, and this width would be augmented by barely two miles, with a narrow arm stretching nine miles north of that. It may be thought that the destruction of its principal river would impair the fertility of the land, but it must be remembered that Palestine is not watered by its rivers, but by rains and springs, and at any rate the former would be likely to be increased by the creation of these fiords, which would give water communication with the rest of the world, such as few other countries possess.—I am, etc.,

VICTOR L. TRUMPER,

Lieut.-Com., R.N.R.

Port Said, March 20, 1917.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Future of Constantinople.

April 4.

MAJOR CHAPPLE asked the Foreign Secretary whether his attention had been called to the statement of the Russian Minister for Justice to the effect that Russia would be content with the internationalisation of Constantinople; whether this indicated that the demand made upon Turkey in the terms of peace suggested to the United States would be modified; and, if so, whether, in conjunction with our Allies, he would state what these modifications were.

Mr. BALFOUR: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Nothing has been said to us by the Russian Government on the subject.

SUFFERINGS IN SYRIA.

The following passages are translated from an article published in *El Kowkab* of February 20, and signed Izz-ed-Din Ilm-ed-Din. The writer states that he had recently arrived in Egypt—of course, from Syria:—

In Syria, at present, each individual is bound to give returns of all provisions in his house, he who fails to do so being subjected to various cruel punishments, including death. For nine months past the Government has ceased to pay the allowances to the destitute families of the troops, which previously were paid in paper money of half its declared value. The rise in prices, consequent on the seizure by the authorities of all comestibles in the possession of the people, caused the allowances paid to the families of the Arab troops to suffice for ten days only instead of for a month, and now girls, women, and children of the poor and middle classes are to be seen camping in the streets, mosques, and churches, starving and naked. In the Lebanon, in Syria, and in Palestine deaths from starvation are numerous, and the doctors state that many of these have been sacrificed to the consumption of green almonds and orange-peelings, green almonds, as is well known, possessing poisonous qualities. A great number have died of infectious diseases, as their system was too feeble to endure the want of food, clothing and shelter. These are perishing every day in the presence of their people, of whom the Government of Ghenghiz will soon leave no remnant in existence. They are perishing in presence of a Government which calls itself Moslem (be it said to their shame), and the men of that Government—be it Jemal Pasha or the least of his servants—are wholly indifferent to these calamities of the hapless Arab race.

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND.

(For British Troops.)

75, ALDFORD STREET, MAYFAIR, W.1.

PATRON.

MAJOR H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

PRESIDENT.

COLONEL the VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.

CHAIRMAN.

COLONEL the LORD LAMINGTON, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The COUNTESS DOWAGER of CARNARVON.

COMMITTEE.

The COUNTESS of DONOUGHMORE.

The VISCOUNTESSE MIDLETON.

The LADY EVELYN FARQUHAR.

The LADY MAUDE.

The Hon. Mrs. FREDERICK GUEST.

Mrs. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

Mrs. HOLDSWORTH.

The MARQUESS of SLIGO.

The EARL of DESART, P.C., K.C.B.

SIR HUGH BARNES, K.C.S.I.

SIR EDWARD HOPE, K.C.B. (Hon. Treas.).

SIR LESLIE PORTER, K.C.S.I.

Mr. M. P. GRACE.

Mr. C. GREENWAY.

Mr. PERCY C. SIMMONS, L.C.C.

Mr. C. C. McLEOD.

HON. SECRETARIES.

Mrs. HAMILTON GRACE.

Miss MEIGGS.

BANKERS.

Messrs. COUTTS and Co.

HON. AUDITORS.

Messrs. PRICE, WATERHOUSE and Co.

THE COMMITTEE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT FURTHER LIBERAL DONATIONS WILL AT ONCE BE FORTHCOMING TO ENABLE THEM CONTINUOUSLY TO DESPATCH THE "COMFORTS" WHICH ARE SO URGENTLY NEEDED BY THE BRITISH TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Fourth List up to March 24, 1917.

Burma Funds raised in, per the India Office	...	...	£6,000	0	0
M. P. Grace, Esq., Collected by, in U.S.A.	...	...	1,631	9	2
Lord Provost of Glasgow, further collection by (£2,225 already acknowledged)	...	...	775	0	0
Mobberley Hall, Cheshire, proceeds of Bazaar held by Lady Crossley and Mrs. F. Zeigler	...	...	350	0	0
Royal Artillery Comforts Fund	...	...	420	0	0

The British Tanker Co., Freight and Charges cancelled by	...	...	261	5	6
Imperial Tobacco Co.	...	...	250	0	0
Lady Strathcona (further donation)	...	...	200	0	0
Chester, Residents of City and County of	...	...	147	12	2
Lady Marling's Fund (further donation)	...	...	130	10	0
£100 each.—Messrs. Bethell Gwyn and Co., Edinburgh Municipal War Comforts Committee, Messrs. William Graham and Co., per J. T. Cargill, Esq., Madras Southern Mahratta Railway Co.	...	...	...	...	...
£52 10s. each.—Clan Line Steamers, Messrs. Lewis and Peat, Merchant Taylors' Company.	...	...	...	...	...
£50 each.—Frederick Becker, Esq., Sir A. H. Brown, Bart., Lord Glenconner, James N. Graham, Esq., per J. T. Cargill, Esq., Messrs. Gellatly, Hankey and Co., W. D. Graham Menzies, Esq., Robert T. Morris, Esq., Ottawa Women's Canadian Club.	...	...	...	...	...
£30 4s. 8d.—Meath Branch of British Red Cross Society.	...	...	...	...	...
£26 5s. each.—Messrs. Bullard, King and Co., Messrs. Naylor, Benzon and Co., Messrs. W. Whiteley, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...
£26.—Mrs. Smethurst, Mrs. Turnbull, and Miss Johnson.	...	...	...	...	...
£25 each.—Messrs. Bevington, Vaizey, and Foster, per C. E. Heath, Esq., Frank Bibby, Esq., Bidor Rubber Estate, Ltd., Birmingham Metal and Munitions Co., Century Shipping Co., Delta Metal Co., Messrs. Forbes, Forbes, Campbell and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Harris and Dixon, Ltd., Hong-kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Canton, Sir R. Buchanan Jardine, Bart., Langen (Java) Rubber Estates Co., Ltd., "Lloyds," further collection at, Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Milk Co., S. Arthur Peto, Esq., J. M. Ryrie, Esq., Marquess of Sligo, Messrs. Sloper Bros., Straits Rubber Co., Ltd., and Allied Companies.	...	...	...	...	...
£21 each.—Sir Hugh Bell, Bart., Messrs. Robert Dencher, Ltd., Sir Arthur du Cros, Bart., Messrs. Horrockses, Crewdson and Co., Ltd., W. Turner MacLellan, Esq., Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co.	...	...	...	...	...
£20 19s. 3d.—Laurentian Chapter I.O.D.E.	...	...	...	...	...
£20 each.—Lord Aberconway, P.C., K.C., Messrs. Burgoyne, Burdidge and Co., Ltd., Robert Fleming, Esq., Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber Co., Morse Twist Drill Machine Co., Sir Charles Bine Renshaw, Bart.	...	...	...	...	...
£17.—Mrs. Messel, proceeds of theatrical performance.	...	...	...	...	...
£15 8s. 8d.—Miss E. A. Bailey, collected by.	...	...	...	...	...
£15.—Mrs. Harvey.	...	...	...	...	...
£12 10s. each.—Messrs. Moxey, Savon and Co., River Plate Coal Co.	...	...	...	...	...
£10 10s. each.—Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co. (Crystal Palace Fireworks, Ltd.), Companhia Samsinena de Carnes Congeladas, Czarinkow, Ltd., Messrs. Henckell du Buisson and Co., Messrs. King and Foa, W. Koch de Covreyn, Messrs. Mann, Bishop and Co., Messrs. Mayor and Field, Messrs. T. Miller and Son, E. C. Penny, Esq., Messrs. Prashkauer and Co., Messrs. Price and Pierce, Ltd., Messrs. Sota and Aznar, Ratan Tata, Esq., Messrs. Joseph Travers and Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Volkart Bros., Messrs. Thomas W. Ward, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...
£10 each.—"A. R.," J. F. Campbell, Esq. (further donation), Mrs. Reginald Caulfield, Messrs. Clarke, Nicholls and Coombs, Mrs. Clonworthy, Mrs. Hugh Davis, Messrs. E. T. Delmage, Sir John Dewar, Bart., E. D. Douglas, Esq., Messrs. M. Isaacs and Sons, Ltd., Messrs. John Knight, Ltd., E. Vaughan Morgan, Esq., J. M. Mowbray, Esq., Messrs. Nicholson's, Ltd. (Plymouth), Fritz Reiss, Esq., Road Woolverton and Road Hill Patriotic Association, Saddlers' Company, Messrs. T. and H. Smith, Ltd., Austin Taylor, Esq., Adolph Weil, Esq., W. H. A. Wharton, Esq.	...	...	...	...	...
£9 2s. 11d.—Pinner Baptist Chapel, per Mrs. Chambers.	...	...	...	...	...
£8 2s. 6d.—Miss E. Stout, in Germiston, S. Africa, collected by.	...	...	...	...	...
£7.—Mrs. Harrison, collected by.	...	...	...	...	...
£5 5s. each.—Messrs. Bourn and Tant, Messrs. Bourn and Tant, per Lady Donoughmore, Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartleet, Ceylon Tea Plant Co., Ltd., Geoffrey H. Daughish, Esq., Messrs. Ferguson and Timpson, Ltd., Henry J. Gardiner, Esq., Hay's Wharf, Ltd., Southwark, Messrs. Housden Bros., Esq., Messrs. Letricheux and David, Ltd., 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers, per O.C., J. Boyd Miller, Esq., Messrs. Sheed, Thompson and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Stephens, Paul and Co., Lady Sumner, Venesta, Ltd., Messrs. Windeler and Co., Major and Mrs. Youngusband.	...	...	...	...	...
£5 each.—"Anon." "Anon." Miss R. Allen, Olney, J. G. Allott, Esq., Mrs. L. H. Bennett, Alfred Brauen, Esq., Lady Burnham, Colonel and Mrs. Curran, Henry S. Davy, Esq., Muriel Countess De La Warr, J. Douglas Fletcher, Esq., the Misses Grog, Lord Hythe, Hon. G. Johnstone, Mrs. Peter McKechnie, Peter Mackie, Esq., Mrs. MacLellan, Arthur Meyer, Esq., Ernest G. Pretzman, Esq., Miss Rait, Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., James A. Watts, Esq.	...	...	...	...	...
£3 5s. each.—Miss Buchanan, Messrs. Matthew Clark and Sons, Rev. J. de la Bere, Mrs. Harrison Gray, Messrs. John Howell and Co., R. G. MacMillan, Esq., Rev. L. Purcell, J. P. Werner, Esq.	...	...	...	...	...
£3 each.—Mrs. Blair, Mrs. G. C. Brown, Mrs. Comyn, Miss K. L. Conner, Lord Walter Kerr, G.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, Miss Nichols, Miss A. Pleydell-Bouverie.	...	...	...	...	...
£2 10s.—Dr. Whigham.	...	...	...	...	...
£2 2s. each.—J. W. Adcock, Esq., Lady Brooke, Mrs. Crossley, Messrs. Claudius Chattaway, Messrs. Delbanco and Co., P. M. Dewar, Esq., Messrs. A. A. Embiricos and Co., Henry Foster, Esq., Messrs. James Gilbertson and Co., Mrs. Edgar Graham, Mrs. S. A. Gregory, Mrs. L. A. Guthrie, Mrs. Kleinwort, Mrs. Money, L. H. Neame, Esq., Mrs. Parlange, Pioneer Life Association, Ltd. (Head Office Staff), Messrs. P. Samuelson and Co., Lady Slade, Mrs. Stafford, Miss Watson.	...	...	...	...	...
£2 each.—"Anon." M. A. Bell, Esq., per J. T. Cargill, Esq., Captain Francis, R.E., collected by, Mrs. George May, G. Arthur Newson, Esq., Miss Edith Ranson, the Misses Russell, Miss Ida M. Silver, Miss Urmsen.	...	...	...	...	...
£1 10s. each.—Miss Lilla Bagwell, W. W. Evershed, Esq., Hon. Beatrice M. Goschen, Hon. Fanny E. Goschen, Venesta, Ltd., Staff of.	...	...	...	...	...
£1 5s.—W. H. Derriock, Esq.	...	...	...	...	...
£1 4s.—"M.T.B."	...	...	...	...	...
£1 1s. 6d.—T. W. Lyster, Esq.	...	...	...	...	...
£1 1s. each.—Philip Allison, Esq., Mrs. Beddome, Miss Doyle, Miss D. E. Dyson, Mrs. Archibald Higgin, W. P. Jobson, Esq., W. Kaye, Esq., K. O. H. Lane, Esq., Lady Mary Lloyd, Messrs. Loders and Nucoline, Frank J. Naylor, Esq., Miss	...	...	...	...	...

- Nesbitt, Mrs. Noakes, Dr. F. M. Pierce, Edmond Quayle, Esq., Mrs. Ramsay, Messrs. Ridley, Houlding and Co., Colonel H. Rowan, A.M.S., Mrs. Triebler, Welsbach Light Co., Colonel J. R. Wilmer, F.A., Percival Wolton, Esq.
- £1 each.—Lady Allenby, "Anon.," Mrs. C. H. Atkinson, Lady Battersea, Mrs. Cox, Colonel L. Carleton, Horace Hickling, Esq., Henry Jacob, Esq., Miss M. Jarvis, Miss J. Johnston, Mrs. Keen, Miss Gladys Lang, Miss Low, Miss Louisa Low, Mrs. MacGeorge, Mrs. Magnay, Major E. D. Matthews, R.G.A., Miss E. Merrick, Mrs. Charles Parbury, Miss C. M. Parkin, Miss E. Pickard (Cambridge), further donation, Miss Scott, E. R. Van Lennep, Esq., W. C. Walter, Esq., Mrs. Williams.
- 17s.—Boxinger Church Offertory.
- 10s. 6d. each.—Miss McDiarmid, Miss D. H. McDiarmid.
- 10s. each.—Mrs. Bennett, Miss Dewing (two subscriptions), Miss Gladys Wood, Mrs. Woodward.
- 7s. each.—Miss Clay, the Misses Robinson.
- 5s. each.—"Anon.," Mrs. Cordell, Miss Lay, Mrs. Moore (two subscriptions), Miss M. J. Pember, Miss A. M. Shephard.
- 4s. each.—Mrs. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. Reiche (two subscriptions).
- 1s. 6d.—"Surrey."
- IRISH APPEAL.—Per the Countess of Donoughmore.
- £33 10s.—Londonderry, Collected by Mrs. Watt.
- £20.—Messrs. E. M. Denny and Co.
- £10 10s. each.—Colonel Richard Charteris, Right Hon. Chief Baron Palles, Andrew Jameson, Esq.
- £10 each.—Mrs. Clarke, Lady Decies, H. E. the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Messrs. W. and R. Jacob and Co., Mrs. Morel.
- £5 5s. each.—John B. Powell, Esq., B. Gainsford St. Lawrence, Esq.
- £5 each.—Lady Arnott, Richard Bagwell, Esq., A. E. Graves, Esq., Lady Inchiquin, Hugh Moore and Alexanders, Ltd., E. J. Beaumont Nesbitt, Esq., Lady Poe, Mrs. Thomas Ponsonby, Arthur Rogers, Esq., Shelbourne Hotel, Ltd., F. H. Thompson and Sons.
- £4.—Edmund Bourke, Esq.

- £3 3s. each.—Mrs. Wilfred Bailey, Mayor of Derry.
- £3.—Messrs. George F. Brooke and Son.
- £2 2s. each.—Lieut.-Colonel M. W. Biddulph, D.L., Messrs Maguire and Gatchett, Ltd., Countess of Rosse, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Vandeleur.
- £2 each.—Edmund B. Charteris, Esq., Miss Jane Dixon, Messrs. George F. Healy and Co., Major-General Sir Hugh McCalmont, K.C.B., George P. Moore, Esq., Phoenix Laundry Workers' Fund for War Relief, William Rochfort, Esq., John Vogan, Esq.
- £1 10s. each.—Mrs. Henry, W. W. Purcell, Esq.
- £1 1s. each.—Cyril Browne, Esq., John Garvey, Esq., T. Healy, Esq., Lady HolmPatrick, Sir James D. La Touche, K.C.S.I., Josiah R. Middleton, Esq., Messrs. Moore, Keily and Lloyd, Major S. Philips, Lady Rathdonnell, Frederick Turner, Esq.
- £1 each.—Mrs. Adam, Messrs. Brooks, Thomas and Co., Messrs. Thomas Dockrell, Sons and Co., Mrs. Carr Ellison, Mrs. Falkner, Mrs. C. Littar Falkner, Frank M. Greer, Esq., P. J. Lynch, Esq., M.R.I.A., L.D.M., Right Rev. Bishop of Meath, Mrs. Ogle, Messrs. George Perry and Co., Ltd., Mrs. Pratt, Sir James Stronge, Bart., Captain E. R. B. Tighe, Mrs. Wallis, Thomas Westropp, Esq.
- 10s. each.—Mrs. Beattie, Mrs. J. Bennett Keane, Miss Lefroy, W. A. Morton, Esq.
- 5s. each.—Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Stoyale.
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Amount hereby acknowledged | £13,013 12 10 |
| Previously acknowledged | 18,695 15 9 |
| | £31,709 8 7 |

The Committee are authorised to state that they are working in conjunction with Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, and with the approval of the War Office.

Cheques should be made payable to
and sent to the Hon. Secretaries,
15, Aldford Street, Mayfair, W.1.
crossed "COUTTS AND CO."



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dharawal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Owing to extreme pressure on space this week, it has been found necessary to hold over publication of the Egyptian trade returns for February. The Cairo Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST writes that trade fell off somewhat during February: imports were £E1,838,246 and exports £E3,715,624, as compared with £E2,254,769 and £E4,763,071 in the corresponding month in the previous year. The figures are in excess of those for February, 1915, however. Cotton exports decreased by £E1,131,940, but India trebled her purchases—almost entirely a matter of sugar transactions—while trade with the Sudan also showed a brisk expansion. The summary of the accounts will be published next week.

I gather from advices which I received from India by the last mail that the once considerable trade between Calcutta and the Eastern Mediterranean in jute products has fizzled out. Many causes contribute to this fact, of course, but there has been some conjecture regarding the substitute which Near Eastern countries have found for the gunny bag. That fewer of these are required in these days of restricted trade and closed exports—there are the Balkan States and the ruined industries of Asia Minor, for example—may easily be understood, but some are still necessary for the attenuated exports that are left. The most recent Calcutta quotations for Egypt, I see, are: Sugar bags, 48 by 28, 2½ lbs., 6 by 8, are Rs.38 to Rs.39, and grain sacks, 60 by 30, 5 lbs., 6 by 8, at Rs.79—a pretty expensive line when compared with the old days of unlimited trade and ample ships.

Nevertheless, Egypt has not much to complain of in the matter of prosperity. Reference to the interesting letter from the Cairo Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST—published this week—will show that the country is in a more prosperous condition than has been the case for many years. Taxes have never been collected so easily, and the banks have had an agreeably easy task in collecting their loan instalments and interest. It is satisfactory to observe, too, that the Government have "kept their heads," and have adopted a cautious policy, preferring not to "gamble" on the chances which the future may or may not present. It is as well to realise that Egyptian prosperity is largely a war condition, and that, while prior to August, 1914, the outlook had improved, the return of the Angel of Peace to this discordant world will inevitably bring dislocations to what, after nearly three years of the struggle, has become almost normality.

I have been asked to draw attention to a scheme for textile research which has been inaugurated to consider the possibility of conducting an investigation of the various problems presented by the cotton-using industries. A provisional committee (108, Deansgate, Manchester) has been appointed and constituted a committee of the Advisory Council of the Government Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It has already been decided that there is need for investiga-

tion of questions bearing on the cultivation and the manufacture of cotton, and of the dyeing, printing, bleaching, and other finishing processes. It is also considered that efforts should be made to increase and to improve the system of textile education.

The committee, I may say, is thoroughly representative of the various interests concerned. Its function is to formulate a preliminary scheme of a comprehensive character, to report to the Advisory Council, and then to lay before the trade for its consideration definite proposals for the establishment of a Research Association, eligible for recognition by the Government department, and consequently for monetary grants from the national exchequer. The place for research in each branch of the cotton industry will be thought out, whether in the cultivation of cotton, in spinning, doubling, manufacturing, knitting, lace-making, bleaching, dyeing, printing, finishing, or in the technology of cellulose. I am glad to see that the education of boys entering any of these branches is not to be neglected, and that steps will be taken to ascertain what opportunities are likely to be offered by the trade for the employment of highly trained men. The establishment of a research institution is also included in the programme.

It must not be assumed that the fact that the interim dividend—12 per cent.—declared by the directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., is the same as that of last year—when it was increased from the usual 10 to 12—is an indication that the profitable operations of this famous concern have not expanded. That by no means follows. Interested readers will recall that the increase in the interim dividend on the deferred stock for the half-year which ended on March 31, 1916, was followed by an increase at the end of the year in the bonus, which was raised from 5 to 6 per cent., the total return for 1916 being 18 per cent., against 15 in 1915. Stock-holders may reasonably assume that they will receive a similar payment this year. When he spoke at the last annual meeting, Lord Inchcape, the chairman of the company, declared that the directors were able to recommend the increase "in a great measure owing to the fact that the company's resources in the past have been conserved under the prudent guidance of our late chairman, Sir Thomas Sutherland." In other words, it was not a special war dividend.

Shareholders in the United Egyptian Lands, Limited, cannot yet regard themselves as being "out of the wood," but according to Mr. James Davenport's speech at the extra-ordinary general meeting of shareholders held in London on April 3, their position, so far as the threatened action by the Mortgage Company of Egypt is concerned, is somewhat clearer. It will be recalled that the debt due to the Mortgage Company is, approximately, £95,000, that the United Lands, Ltd., is in arrears with its payments, and that an action was threatened. Mr. Davenport was able to tell the shareholders that although they had not actually been able to come to terms with the Mortgage Company, the latter had met them in the most friendly spirit, and had

promised to give every assistance they could to help the United Egyptian Lands to retrieve its misfortunes. "I am able to say," added Mr. Davenport, "that we have made very considerable progress towards this end, and I am hopeful we shall be able to complete a bargain which we can recommend you to adopt." I hope to learn that the United Lands has found a happy issue out of its afflictions. Mr. S. S. Lamert, of Lindsey House, Lloyd's Place, Blackheath, S.E., and Mr. Reginald Tayler, of 16, Russell Chambers, Bury Street, W.C., were elected directors of the company.

America, our new ally, is sending an expert representative, in the person of Mr. Charles S. Williams, of Mansfield, Ohio, to study the markets in the Near East in which American hardware is most likely to find buyers. I gather that Mr. Williams' investigation is part of the world-wide inquiry which the Washington Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has undertaken. The representative, it is said, will give special attention to markets for tools, agricultural implements, builders' hardware, household utensils, and a number of less important lines. Before he leaves the United States he will equip himself with special knowledge by visits to the principal manufacturing and exporting centres, where he will make a point of ascertaining the obstacles which firms have hitherto encountered in their attempts to sell in such countries as the Balkan States, Turkey, Egypt, and Persia.

It is possible that I may be charged with giving an unnecessary advertisement to this enterprising trade mission: if to impress on British manufacturers and the British Board of Trade the all-out character of the American trade campaign is to give it an advertisement, then I plead guilty to the charge. Time and again I have emphasised in these columns the great need of propaganda work of this character, and I propose to continue to do so until somebody in authority takes the matter out of my incompetent hands. When it comes to the exploitation of new markets, or to the improvement of conditions in existing markets, I fear we are not altogether a live people. We have succeeded in gaining a certain trade position, and appear to be satisfied with it. In the meantime the people whose undevelopment enabled us to win our place have been steadily advancing, and we are in danger of losing it. Who said "Wake up, England"?

COMMENTATOR

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

The Egyptian Budget for 1916-17.

Highest Revenue in the Modern History of the Country.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 20.

The Council of Ministers have just passed the Budget for the coming financial year (1917-1918)—the highest on record in the modern history of Egypt. Revenue has been fixed at £E19,525,000 and expenditure at a like amount, the financial authorities having been able to balance both sides of the account, contrary to what was found possible the year before the war and in the case of the two subsequent Budgets, on each of which occasions a draft on the Reserve Fund had to be provided for.

The table given below provides an interesting comparison of the Budgets before and since the war with the actual results obtained.

Revenue.

As will be seen, the last three Budgets have fixed revenue at figures which in each case were below the actual amount collected during the preceding financial year. There is every reason to expect that the total for the year, which ends on March 31, will be higher than the estimate for the ensuing financial year.

The estimated increase of £E2,995,000 in revenue in 1917-18 over the estimate for 1916-17 is arrived at in the following manner:—Increases, Land Tax £E74,000, Customs £E600,000, Judicial Fees £E112,000, Railways £E657,000, Domains £E107,000, Investment of Funds £E492,000, Profit on Mining £E150,000, Extraordinary Receipts £E342,000, Other Heads £E768,000; Decreases, Tobacco Dues £E250,000, and Port Dues £E57,000.

The excellent flood last year has permitted the watering of all the cultivable land; there has been no "Sharaki" and consequently no need for exemptions, and it is expected that an increase in land tax collections to the extent provided for will result during the coming year. The high price of cotton has increased the purchasing power of the people and it has been considered permissible to allow for an increase in Customs receipts; for similar reasons an addition to the Railway receipts is expected. The Domains, likewise, will benefit from the high cotton prices, as that administration produces a large crop every year in addition to renting its land to tenants for the cultivation of cotton. The extra profit derived from the investment of funds comes partly from the larger dossier of securities held by the Government and partly from its share in the profit on the issue of bank notes. It has been thought advisable to increase the estimate of Judicial Fees, for although there are fewer suits for collection of debts in the Native Courts, there is a noticeable increase in land deals and consequently in registration of deeds of sale, etc., in the Mixed Courts.

The Extraordinary Receipts include the sum of £E62,000 for sale of land and the balance represents two items of non-recurring nature, the reserve fund of the Ghaffir service, which was kept separately from the Budget, and the credit balance of the Land Expropriation Suspense Accounts. A decrease of £E250,000 is provided for in the Tobacco Dues, because, although the receipts at present are very high, there is every reason to anticipate a drop owing to the small stock held in the Bonded Stores and the difficulty of getting

further consignments from Greece under present circumstances.

Expenditure.

Practically every head shows an increase in expenditure. This is due, in the first place, to the high price of material; secondly, to the promotions, which it was felt must be given to the smaller officials, who are harder hit by present prices than anyone else in the land, and to those who have had no increases of pay since the outbreak of war; thirdly, to the necessity of taking steps to repair buildings, roads, river banks, etc., which had been neglected on account of the enforced economies during the past two years, and which threatened to deteriorate very much if this work was not done now.

The most important increases in administration budgets are:—Public Instruction, £E45,000, of which £E20,000 for raising of salaries and the balance for materials, clothing, and food, which is in part reimbursed to the Government in the form of fees; Ministry of the Interior £E172,204, of which £E54,204 for the prisons, partly for the expenses of the convicts working in the Sudan and partly to meet the extra cost of fuel, food, and clothing; £E74,585 for the Department of Public Health, to defray the extra cost of materials, etc., and to enable it to meet the growing needs of the country, and the balance for the central administration which has to provide for new local commissions, new work in connection with the existing ones, and the reopening of Tor quarantine station owing to the resumption of the pilgrimage; Ministry of Public Works, £E519,000, of which the Irrigation service absorbs £E385,000 (£E342,000 for new works, £E32,000 for maintenance works, and the balance for increase in salaries)—the Drainage Service takes £E39,700, the Tanzim £E45,000, the Buildings Service £E15,000, and the Main Roads £E13,000; Ministry of Agriculture, £E46,000, of which £E24,700 for supplementary work in connection with the boll-worm campaign, £E16,000 for experiments with the manufacture of charcoal and other products out of cotton sticks, and the balance for the expansion of this comparatively new administration; State Railways £E902,207, of which no less than £E650,000 is for increased cost of coal, the balance being for the major part for the purchase of new trucks; War Office, £E395,730, partly to meet the cost of the military administration of the newly conquered province of Darfur and partly for the rearming of the Egyptian Army, which has been decided upon, and the increase of the Camel Corps; Ministry of Finance, £E68,965, of which £E18,000 represents extra cost of materials required by the National Printing Office.

For the first time there appears on both sides of the accounts a heading "Ghaffir Service," for which £E722,000 is provided as expenditure, and an amount of £E664,000 is included above under "Other Heads" as receipts from the Ghaffir Tax. Neither of these items have figured in the Budget before, as they were kept in an entirely separate account. Prior to the war there was extreme difficulty in collecting the tax, as the Powers had not all agreed to its imposition, and so foreigners could refuse payment. But last year the General issued

a proclamation ordering all who were called upon to pay to settle the claim under penalty of their refusal or delay being considered a military offence. Thus the collection of the tax has been put on a legal basis—although there still exists doubt as to whether the tenant or the landlord is liable—and consequently the wish expressed by the Legislative Assembly that this service should be included in the General Budget has now been acceded to.

Egypt's Fortunate Position.

The framing of a Budget of over £E19,000,000 is, indeed, an event in the annals of Egypt. It would, however, be unwise to reckon on this repeating itself in the future. Compared with other countries Egypt has been exceptionally fortunate. She has not been called upon to bear any great part in the expense in men, money, or material of the present war, and has dwelt under the protection of Great Britain's armies, which have enabled her to continue uninterruptedly the development of her commerce and her agricultural resources. Producing one of the most important commodities required for war purposes, she has been able to derive enormous profit from the very high price that product has necessarily commanded, and from the great demand in Europe for cereals and other agricultural products which she has been able to supply to a very large extent. As the Finance Committee rightly says, the purchasing power of the people has been considerably increased, and there is every reason for the present to expect the upward tendency of the Customs receipts to persevere. But we can none of us tell what condition of things will set in after peace is declared, or how long the present abnormal state of affairs will last; therefore it were prudent not to count on any continuation of the present very high revenue collections.

Very special factors have contributed to bring about this record Budget, factors such as the abnormally high freights and cost of production of imported articles, and the equally abnormal market prices abroad of such commodities as cotton, cereals, and their subsidiary products, all of which naturally have their influence on the Customs returns, railway receipts, and other heads of revenue. These factors may not exist after the conclusion of peace, or, if some of them do, they may be counteracted by a restriction in demand or an increase in output, bringing in their train a reduction in prices. Again, water conditions may not be so favourable as they have been during the past year or so, whilst many of the works which have now had to be postponed, not so much because there is no money as because it is not possible to obtain the material necessary, will have to be resumed as soon as hostilities cease, and for the very reason of the delay which has been incurred, the cost may turn out to be heavier than would otherwise have been the case.

All these are weighty considerations which must be taken into account. The Egyptian Government is, therefore, quite right to follow a cautious policy and to husband its financial resources against the day when the present state of affairs will give way before new conditions which are bound to follow in the wake of peace.

Unparalleled Prosperity.

Whilst, however, it is necessary to utter this word of warning lest the too sanguine jump at the conclusion that the day of twenty million budgets, with bumper surpluses, has dawned, nevertheless there is no doubt that the present forecast of the Egyptian Government is fully justified by the situation in Egypt, which is in a more prosperous condition than it has been for many years past. Indeed, there are many who aver—and the writer is inclined to agree with them—that the country has never known such prosperity as has come to it since war started. Certainly the taxes and other imposts have never been collected with such ease, nor have the banks had their loan instalments repaid with such promptitude. All this speaks well for the economic and financial condition of the people, and with level-headed and cautious men at the head of affairs, as we have at present, we should have no fear that the country will be committed to a policy which may cause it to suffer a set-back just at the moment when it will require to go forward.

	ESTIMATES.				
	1917-18.	1916-17†.	1915-16.	1914-15.	1913-14.
	£E	£E	£E	£E	£E
Revenue	19,525,000	16,530,000	14,756,000	17,588,000	16,130,000
Expenditure	19,525,000	16,680,000	15,900,000	18,162,000	18,614,000
Deficit	—	—£E100,000	—£E1,144,000	—£E574,000	—£E2,484,000
	ACTUAL RESULTS.				
	£E	£E	£E	£E	£E
Revenue	15,266,867	17,759,418	15,389,194	17,708,899	
Expenditure	12,975,919	16,694,666	16,857,783	17,659,961	
Surplus	+£E2,290,448	+£E1,164,752*	—£E1,468,659	+£E43,987	

† For nine months ending December. * Apart from this surplus an amount of £E1,970,407 was written off for depreciation of reserve securities.

Trade of the Sudan.

Heavy Increases in Imports and Exports Last Year.⁹

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 16.

Almost simultaneously with the publication of the Budget for the current year, and as if to substantiate the optimistic impression the latter conveys as to the economic situation in the Sudan, we have the Customs returns for the last quarter of 1916 making their appearance. The state of affairs revealed by these returns is, to say the least of it, satisfactory. Imports during the year came to £2,661,468, and exports to £2,288,403, against £1,704,250 and £1,577,991 respectively during the preceding year. In other words, the total turnover has increased by over 50 per cent., imports improving by £957,218, or 55 per cent., and exports by £710,412, or 45 per cent. It is to be noted that, whilst in 1915, taking into account the re-exports, the balance of trade was just slightly in favour of the Sudan, last year it was the other way, only the difference is so small that it is of no significance, and for all practical purposes one can say that the trade balanced.

The following table shows how the past year compares with previous periods, and, incidentally, illustrates the extraordinary progress made by the Sudan in so far as concerns its foreign trade:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports (including re-exports).
	£E.	£E.
1907	1,604,187	498,344
1908	1,832,798	553,017
1909	1,775,957	734,843
1910	1,981,466	1,035,579
1911	2,273,949	1,461,852
1912	1,967,429	1,465,776
1913	2,075,298	1,274,677
1914	1,870,532	1,104,147
1915	1,704,250	1,708,306
1916	2,661,468	2,515,515

From this table we see that in the last ten years, whereas the imports have increased by about 66 per cent., the exports have quintupled, and that the balance of trade, although this year it is slightly against the Sudan, has in reality been steadily improving. Even allowing for inflated prices due to the war, which, however, affect both sides of the account, it must be admitted that the position is highly satisfactory. Considering that at present the Sudan is in a comparatively undeveloped state, this answers well for the time when its proper development will have been definitely embarked on.

Imports.

Compared with 1915, the chief increases in imports were:—Horses and other beasts of burden, by £10,505 to £14,302; hides, skins and leather goods, by £28,394 to £53,559; candles, by £5,101 to £10,254; rice, by £8,359 to £20,749; flour, by £15,327 to £90,499; refined sugar, by £103,894 to £330,150; coffee, by £36,737 to £115,938; tea, by £16,802 to £51,375; beer, by £9,865 to £16,873; petroleum, £10,517 to £22,240; stationery, by £9,206 to £24,442; coal, by £210,823 to £291,853; cotton fabrics, by £173,798 to £655,571; motor-cars and accessories, by £42,243 to £43,301; tobacco, by £32,003 to £74,844. The cost of production, the demand on the foreign markets, and the rise in freights have, of course, played an important part in the increase in the value of the imports, and many of the items have not unnaturally not increased in volume in proportion to the extra value recorded against them. The most striking instances of this are:—Coal, of which about 60 per cent. more came in, and the value of which more than trebled; petroleum, of which the quantity was, roughly, the same, and the value just about doubled; cotton fabrics, which slightly increased in volume, and the value of which rose by 30 per cent.; and rice, of which the quantity rose by about 35 per cent., and the value by nigh on 70 per cent.

Exports.

Turning to exports, we find that the most important increases were:—Horses and

camels, by £144,463 to £145,643 (due to the demands made by the Army); untanned sheep and goat skins, by £19,702 to £50,102; ivory, by £22,102 to £70,234; millet, by £142,898 to £350,054; sesame, by £88,198 to £173,340; dates, by £19,526 to £43,693; gum, by £273,021 to £586,102; charcoal, by £16,233 to £29,847; senna, by £18,587 to £41,986; cotton, by £32,300 to £269,593. The most important decreases were:—Cattle, by £66,214 to £104,186; sheep, by £15,171 to £74,355; untanned hides, by £31,572 to £60,743.

It is ever an ill wind that blows no one any good, and the demand on the world's markets, with its resultant increase in prices, whilst it has affected the import statistics, has stood the Sudan in good stead, for it has been able to benefit thereby in the sale of its products. In nearly every case the proportionate values have gone up in some instances, such as millet, sesame, gum and cotton, very considerably. Indeed, had it not been for the difficulty in finding bottoms, the volume exported would certainly have been very much more, and the returns correspondingly higher. As it is, the authorities have done exceedingly well, for 64 per cent. of the total trade has gone out via the Red Sea and 33 per cent. via the Nile, as against 71 and 24 per cent. in 1913, when shipping was normal. This shows that the efforts made by the Sudan Government in the early days of the war to get shipowners to send steamers to Suakin and Port Sudan have borne fruit, and that those who have ships available are finding it pays to send them to the Red Sea. It is no exaggeration to say that if the Khartoum authorities had not shown such foresight and enterprise, the Sudan would have had very great difficulty in getting its products to the markets of the world.

I give below the usual table of the principal exports in 1916 and 1913—the last normal year before the war.

The Sudan's Customers.

Egypt, as usual, has been the Sudan's best customer, her exports amounting to £1,339,286, and her purchases to £1,945,250, as against £925,611 and £653,106 respectively the preceding year—a slight increase in proportion in each case. As in the previous year, Egypt drew on the Sudan very extensively for live stock and cereals to make up her own deficiencies, whilst half the Sudan cotton crop went to her. She likewise supplied half the textiles, all the sugar, and a considerable portion of the Colonial products. Next to Egypt comes Great Britain, with £566,708 in imports and £649,827 in purchases, against £364,926 and £387,422 respectively in 1915—a slight increase in proportion in the case

of purchases. Half the gum went to Great Britain, as well as the other half of the cotton crop, whilst about 15 per cent. of the textiles imported came from her. However, as the Sudan has used the Nile route in order to overcome the shipping difficulty and get her produce away to Europe, it is highly probable—nay, almost certain—that the textiles entered against Egypt came from England, and that a good portion of the exports to Egypt were in transit there. Indeed, except for livestock and cereals, it would be permissible to say that all the exports to Egypt were in transit to abroad. After Great Britain come India and Aden, linked together in the statistics. Their imports into and exports from the Sudan both doubled, the amount in the former case being £427,782, of which over 60 per cent. represented textiles. Imports of coffee from Abyssinia increased considerably, and trade with Arabia showed developments, mostly in cereals and coffee. On the other hand, trade with Malta fell off considerably; this was foreshadowed in the review of the previous year's trade statistics.

AID FOR CULTIVATORS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, March 17.

A scheme is now being set to work to provide a number of pumping stations at various points along the Nile north of Khartoum. The object is to increase the output of wheat and barley and to develop the resources of the country in a way which the lack of capital amongst the natives makes impossible without the intervention of the Government. The scheme is extremely popular with the natives, and very great hopes are entertained of the results to be obtained. Owing to the present prosperous condition of the people, there should be little difficulty in getting the land opened up; the only trouble is likely to lie in the large demand for labour. Various influential natives are taking great interest in the matter, and will be of much assistance in seeing that the labour is forthcoming.

Cattle disease is reported from Dongola Province and in Kassala, but all steps have been taken to localise the outbreaks, and it is to be hoped that no serious dislocation of the trade will be caused.

Tokar Cotton Crop.

Owing to the unusual cold, the cotton at Tokar is late in ripening, and there will probably be considerable difficulty in finding the necessary labour to pick the cotton, as it will all ripen at the same moment, and Tokar is remote, and it is difficult for labourers to go there for only a short time, owing to the cost of the journey, which not only involves a considerable distance in the train, but also two days across the desert from Suakin to Tokar.

The extension of the railway to Tokar will be a great boon, but it is unlikely that this work can be completed during the war owing to the difficulty of getting the necessary rails. Indeed, those portions of the railway that are in running order now may cause considerable anxiety in the near future, as it seems likely that some sections will require relaying.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS OF THE SUDAN DURING 1918 AND 1916.

Article.	Unit or Weight.	1913.		1916.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£E.		£E.
1 Cattle.....	Units	10,582	74,664	15,904	104,186
2 Sheep and goats.....	"	99,174	97,059	74,051	74,355
3 Butter.....	Kilos	142,615	10,896	129,560	12,630
4 Untanned hides.....	"	408,247	22,821	748,932	60,743
5 Untanned skins.....	Units	371,458	81,906	362,038	50,102
6 Ivory.....	Kilos	125,484	118,236	78,371	70,234
7 Durra.....	"	2,080,071	21,716	56,868,408	350,054
8 Sesame.....	"	6,841,260	104,989	12,420,564	173,340
9 Dates.....	"	2,784,945	31,872	3,697,448	43,693
10 Gum.....	"	15,129,200	371,528	13,480,452	586,102
11 Senna Leaves.....	"	809,748	9,847	434,116	42,086
12 Cotton ginned.....	Kantars	51,527	152,110	65,461	269,093
13 Gold "Bullion".....	Grams	461,467	43,802	570,795	63,889
14 Other Articles.....			93,990		387,896
Total Exports.....			1,185,166		2,288,403

ENGINEERING NOTES.**Machinery for Mesopotamia.**

The bulk of the machinery imported in the Baghdad district consists of oil engines with centrifugal pumps for irrigation, and about 400 plants of this kind were in regular operation on the Tigris and Euphrates before the outbreak of the war. The larger sizes of plant, being more economical, were becoming popular, and nearly all in use were of British manufacture. It is possible, according to an official report, that with the construction of canals and distributories and the development of a large system of State irrigation which should follow, if it does not accompany, the construction of State barrages, irrigation by gravitation will in parts of the country supersede the oil engine, as the latter is now superseding the horse lift. This, however, is still a somewhat remote contingency, and in any case many tracts will probably remain in which mechanical pumps can be employed with advantage.

The Jordan Valley.

The attention paid before the war to the growing of cotton in the districts around Haifa and the Jordan valley has created possibilities for the use of machinery, especially steam ploughs, for opening up large tracts of land needed for this special kind of cultivation. Inquiries for ploughs and machinery have been numerous, and specifications from British and foreign firms have been obtained; but the war has prevented any further progress. According to reports, however, a German firm had taken the matter in hand in a practical way and sent a complete ploughing outfit to Haifa. This consisted of an oil tractor and six share plough. Two competent mechanics were sent in charge of the machinery, and were to conduct a series of trials. This step was taken by the firm as an advertisement, and had also in view the testing of machinery in order to ascertain how far it will satisfy local requirements.

Prospects in Palestine.

There are people who think that Palestine is a semi-desert, and, of course, not a market for machinery. To these an abstract from a recent letter of Mr. W. T. Massey, the British Press correspondent with the Desert Column, written on March 20 from near Gaza, will be interesting. Before and around us, says Mr. Massey, everything is green and fresh. Large patches of barley, for which the plain south of Gaza is famous, shine like emeralds, and immense tracts of pasture are to-day as bright and beautiful as the rolling downs at home. You can truthfully compare the country to the Berkshire Downs. Elsewhere in his letter Mr. Massey says that one of the prettiest pictures he has seen for many a long day was the horses of an Australian regiment out grazing. This land does not seem to be a desert! It will provide scope, perhaps within this year, for agricultural machinery and implements for improved and more extensive cultivation.

Electrical Appliances.

With the extension of the use of electricity for lighting purposes, and the growth of industrial activity in the towns of Beirut and Damascus, a growing demand for electrical materials had sprung up before the war. According to a German official report, transmission wire was supplied before the war from Germany and France. Incandescent lamps, of from 16 to 200 c.p. for 105 or 110 volts, were imported from Germany, Great Britain, and France. Electric fans, which find an increasing demand owing to the heat of the summer, were sent chiefly from Italy, which supplies a cheap article. In Beirut, ventilators for 110 volts, with a wing diameter of from 25 to 40 cm., are used; whilst table ventilators cost from 25 to 70 marks at the works, and ceiling ventilators from 100 to 150 marks.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.**Marked Advance in Price of Egyptians.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The market has displayed little activity during the week and, naturally, it has taken a few days for buyers and sellers to recover from the effects of the recent holidays.

Although a fair amount of inquiry has been dealt with in some quarters difficulties of one kind and another have been very pronounced, and the problem for solution at the moment is how to get goods to customers abroad in view of the transference of tonnage from the Eastern routes to other services.

A marked advance has occurred in Egyptian cotton rates. Supplies are limited, and it is said there is a considerably short interest in the trade at the present time. Yarns have been put up in sympathy with the rise in the raw material, but users have not been stimulated to purchase more freely.

The demand in piece goods for Egypt has improved somewhat. Better advices are being received from Alexandria and Cairo regarding clearances. Buyers realise that there is little probability of lower values in the near future. Some fair lots have been put through in sized goods and also in fancies.

Other Near Eastern outlets have also provided a rather more promising inquiry.

Our market in India is not over-supplied, and a few more offers have come through, but much uncertainty exists as to shipping facilities in the near future. A definite announcement by the Shipping Controller is eagerly awaited.

There has been business offering in grey shirtings for China, but not much has been done.

Miscellaneous sales have occurred for South America. Many manufacturers at the time of writing have not started work again after the Easter holidays.

American yarns have hardened in quotation, but it has been difficult for producers to obtain higher figures, and an irregular business has been done. No particular development has shown itself in the offtake in export yarns.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, April 13.

Seeds.

Linseed has been firm and dearer in sympathy with oil. Calcutta to London spot is quoted £29 10s. per ton. March-April is offered at £29 5s.; April-May realised £28 15s. Bombay prompt is asked at £29 5s.; and ditto to Hull at £29 5s. 3d. Rapeseed is firm and again harder to buy; brown Cawnpore to London prompt is quoted £25 6s. 3d.; and Toria April-May £27 6s. 3d.; Guzerat to Hull, April-May £27 0s. 9d. Cotton seed is firmer; Egyptian to London, spot, f.a.g. £18 0s. 9d., and prompt £18 12s. 6d.; to Hull spot, sellers ask £19 2s. 6d. Rangoon Beans continue firm. March were sold at £80, while March-April are quoted £78; April-May £73 10s.; May-June £68 10s., and June-July £63.

Oils.

Linseed oil is strong for spot pipes at £52, and barrels at £52 15s., with spot landed 6d. extra; April £53; May-August £54 10s.; September-December £55 0s. 10d. Rape oil is firm. Ordinary brown naked, spot, £64; English refined in barrels, spot, is offered at £69 to £70. Cotton oil is also firm, for crude pipes, spot, at £54; refined pale, pipes, £58; and sweet barrels £62 to £64.

Dates.

The supplies are comparatively small, and with the expectation of a probable scarcity the prices advanced, Persians being quoted at 50s. to 52s.

TRADE NOTES.**Liquidations.**

Mr. J. L. Elder, of Damanhús, has been appointed Receiver of the business of Albia and Otto Krumholz, with instructions to liquidate the same.

Mr. F. H. Russell, of Gresham House, Cairo, has received a similar appointment and instructions with regard to the business of Zola, Photographer.

All the property in Egypt of Messrs. O. A. Rosenberg and Co., and of Mr. O. A. Rosenberg, has been vested in the Public Custodian of Enemy Property. The Public Custodian has appointed Mr. Henri Lack to manage the properties in Egypt, under the control of the Public Custodian.

The estate of Alfred Wiesendanger (deceased) is liquidating its affairs, and all claims are to be sent in to the Official Receiver of the Liquidation, Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Sharia Suliman Pasha, Cairo.

NEWS FROM SYRIA.**Rainfall Gives Relief to Cultivators**

The following news from Syria is taken from a recent issue of the *Moustakbil*, an Arabic paper, published in Paris:—

Heavy rains have fallen in Syria lately, to the great satisfaction of cultivators, who rely upon rain-water for their cultivation, the rich showers that irrigate the land at this time of the year help to produce good crops. According to news from the interior of Syria, landowners there have had a good opportunity to sow their seeds and prepare their farms for growing products. . . .

A new "economic company" has been organised in the town of Homs, Syria, with the object of "protecting the market" with a capital of £T10,000 divided into 200 shares. The shares are reported to have been subscribed by the people. The scheme was carried out successfully in Damascus, where the administrative board is said to have been formed under the chairmanship of the Wali. Several branches have been formed in the districts, and the inhabitants are reaping enormous benefits from the new company's work.

COTTON FROM TURKEY.

We are told by the German economic Press that the growing of cotton in the Turkish hinterland goes hand in hand with the opening up of the country by the Bagdad Railway. It is not as yet possible to obtain a comprehensive view of all the scattered attempts that are being made in various places.

"Considering, however, that the climate of Asia Minor is very favourable to cotton growing, that all along the line of the railway fallow land is being brought under cultivation, as far as the water supply admits, and that extensive irrigation works are already in course of construction, we may confidently expect that within a short time cotton growing will become general in these districts. Large quantities of cotton seed have been sent to Smyrna, with instructions to take up growing of cotton on a large scale."

We are further told that the German and Austrian textile industries are interested in supporting these attempts.

Growers are placing their produce at the disposal of the military authorities, and as far back as October 50,000 bales had already arrived at Budapest. "This is not much, considering the enormous consumption of the armies of the Central Powers, to say nothing of the civilians; still, the results are satisfactory, and afford satisfactory prospects for the future of Turkish cotton growing."

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan, "
CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

R. OTT AND CO.,

ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLA-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: "Ottimo."

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from
J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

COMPANY MEETING.

"THE FINANCIAL TIMES."

The ordinary general meeting of the *Financial Times*, Ltd., was held on April 5, at 72, Coleman Street, E.C., Mr. William Graham (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said: You have all received a copy of the directors' report and balance-sheet, and you will, I am sure, have noted with pleasure, and probably with a certain amount of surprise, that under such adverse conditions we have been able to make the not inconsiderable profit of £19,263 2s., an increase on the profit earned for 1915 of just £10,000. The usual amount has been placed to staff pension fund, and the necessary redemption of debenture stock has been effected. We have dealt with the stocks and accounts in a thoroughly conservative manner, and a substantial sum has again been set aside as a reserve for income-tax. That reserve is necessary in view of taxation on the basis of three years' trading, during one of which a handsome profit was made. I am very glad to inform you that the increase in the amount of business done has been effected in every branch of the business, and that the operations of the company for the first three months of the current year are quite up to the standard of the operations during the corresponding period of last year.

Dividend of 5 Per Cent.

The directors have given the most careful consideration to the question of whether the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares should be made under all the circumstances prevailing. They have decided to recommend a distribution of 5 per cent. Too fearful anticipations of the future might deprecate the distribution of any cash, but the directors do not think that there is occasion for such pessimism as would deprive the shareholders of a dividend substantially less than that earned during the year, for the payment of which the company has ready resources. After payment of the dividend we shall carry forward £26,978 to the credit of next year's accounts, which is practically £2,000 more than was brought forward last year. In the directors' opinion it is only fair that the ordinary shareholders should receive a distribution. Most people want income in these times, and when profits are earned and are available we see no reason why shareholders should be deprived of reasonable distribution.

Position Maintained.

I have pointed out that the year just passed has been one necessitating economy in the use of paper, yet I think I may claim that we

have fully maintained the standing and reputation of the *Financial Times* as the leading financial journal in this country, and that we have also maintained the standing and reputation of our other papers, which are the leaders in their own spheres. While small papers have been the rule with the *Financial Times*, we have dealt effectively with every phase of finance, and have all the facilities, and are still able, as occasion arises, to produce large papers, as, for instance, in February last, when we produced a fourteen-page paper, containing our annual Banking Supplement, and last Friday, when we produced a twelve-page paper, containing our annual Insurance Supplement.

The past year has not been one suitable for the launching of new publications, but we have during the year produced several handbooks, all of which have not only proved valuable advertising media, but have resulted in a profit to the company. Among these I might mention the "Income Tax Guide," now in its sixth edition, "Tin Mining Handbook," "Russian Mines," and the book now universally regarded as the standard work dealing with rubber companies—namely, "Rubber Producing Companies." For the 1916 edition we had a wonderful sale, and are now taking orders in considerable numbers for the 1917 edition, which is now in preparation, and which will be published about the end of May.

The manner in which the sale of the *Financial Times* has kept up during these very trying times has been very gratifying. In times of boom one naturally expects a great demand for financial papers, but the steadiness of our circulation, which to-day stands higher than it did this time last year, is a most satisfactory indication of the hold the *Financial Times* has, not only on the speculative element in the country, but on the great investing class, who in ever-increasing numbers look to the *Financial Times* for guidance in the investing of their money and for being kept up to date on all matters that affect their investments.

War Finance.

The enormous financial war operations of the past year have convincingly demonstrated the value of the Press in raising money for the nation and instructing investors as to their duties and responsibilities. Nothing is more important in war time than to prevent the capital of the country from being wasted or diverted from the directions in which it can be of best use to the nation, and in this respect we may, without any suspicion of egotism, maintain that the *Financial Times* has done excellent work.

The steady stream of inquiries which are dealt with daily in our Answers to Correspondents

affords ample evidence of the position held by the paper among capitalists of all classes, and that our advice, which is always given after careful consideration and after a full use of our unique advantages in the matter of experience and means of research, is generally followed we have good means of knowing.

Company's Other Journals.

But now I want to say a word to you about the other branches of our business which have always been a great source of strength to the company and which during the period of war have been of such paramount assistance to the company and its shareholders. You have in the *Drapers' Record* and in *Men's Wear* two papers which are the leading journals in the drapery and textile trades. Both of those papers have well maintained their popularity during the period of the war, and such has been the demand for the *Drapers' Record* that, notwithstanding the increase of the price from 1d. to 2d., the sales have not diminished.

In this branch of our business the paper difficulty is and has been a serious one, but thanks to the foresight of your managing director, Mr. Bridgewater, and his able lieutenants, the position has been well safeguarded, and we think we can pass through the crisis successfully.

Printing Works.

The company's excellent printing works, "The St. Clements Press," has passed through the year successfully and profitably. The works are maintained in the highest efficiency, and in addition to *The Financial Times* and your other papers, the St. Clements Press prints no less than 40 weekly and monthly newspapers.

The shortage of labour is a difficulty which Mr. Hart has up to the present time, by care and arduous attention, succeeded in overcoming. The company has a very substantial general printing and jobbing business, and shareholders will be consulting their own interests, both as to their pockets as shareholders and their convenience in getting printing economically and expeditiously executed, by becoming customers of the St. Clements Press.

In conclusion I should like to say how much I consider the shareholders are indebted to those of my colleagues who are engaged in the day-to-day management of the business of the company and to those who work under them, for the good work they have given to the company during the past year, and the excellent results which they have achieved.

Many members of the company's staff have not only been doing their own work, but have been filling the places of those members

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LTD.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL - £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.
PAID-UP CAPITAL - £3,500,000. RESERVE - £4,000,000.

Chairman - THE RIGHT HON. THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
Deputy Chairman - WALTER LEAF, ESQ.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

PARIS: LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK (PARIS) LIMITED,
22, Place Vendôme.

Sums of £10 and upwards received on deposit, and interest allowed thereon.

Every description of British and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

of the staff who have joined the Colours. Altogether 314 employees of the company, including men from the printing works, are now serving in His Majesty's Forces in all parts of the world, and their berths are being kept open for them when the happy time arrives for them to return to civil duties. In the meantime the directors have afforded during the past year, and hope to continue to afford, assistance in relieving financial hardships that may be involved to men in their employment answering their country's call. I beg to move "That the report and accounts submitted to the meeting be received and adopted."

The report and accounts were adopted. Mr. G. E. Hart and Mr. H. A. Randall were re-elected directors, and after the usual compliments to the chairman the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meeting.

Having failed to attain the statutory quorum of votes at the General Meeting held on March 30, 1917, the shareholders of the Société Anonyme du Béhéra are called to a second meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 27, 1917.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

At the General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt held in Cairo on April 7, 1917, a dividend of 12s. per share was declared payable on April 11, 1917, for the year ended December 31, 1916. Coupon No. 23 will therefore be payable on and after April 11, 1917.

The directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company recommend a further dividend of 7 per cent., less income tax, making 12 per cent., less income tax, for 1916, as compared with 11 per cent., less income tax, for 1915.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less income tax), and an interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock of the company (free of income tax) for the half-year ended March 31 last. Warrants on May 16.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 25 and 23 tons; Hurgada 2,625 and 4,134 tons.

Baku Russian.—Week ended March 31, 67,800 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week to April 1, 57,300 poods (924 tons).

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended March 31, 19,630 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended March 31, 1,997 poods.

International Russian.—Four weeks to March 31, 5,463 poods.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended April 6.	1917. Week ended April 5.
Cattle markets	772 ..	1,005
General markets	348 ..	446
Cattle markets closed	37 ..	16
Receipts (£)	1,120 ..	1,451
Total from commencement of year (£)	18,970 ..	22,342

THE SUEZ CANAL.

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

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
April 3 and 4	180,000	150,000
April 5, 6, 7, and 8	1,190,000	640,000
April 9	180,000	170,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended March 10, 1917.

	1916. £s.	1917. £s.
Feb. 28-March 10	5,418 ..	6,101
April 1-March 10	177,374 ..	203,335

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C. ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET,
LONDON, E.C., April 12.

The holidays have interfered with business this week, but the tone of the market has remained very firm, and here and there we have to note a further hardening of prices.

Government stocks have continued a strong point, but business has been restricted owing to the absence of sellers.

Agricultural Banks are slightly firmer at 5½, at which price about a couple of hundred shares have changed hands. National Banks are also firmer at 13½ (ex-div.) but without business. Delta Lights have been done in a small way up to 5½. Behéras are wanted at the improved price of 7 and Behéra Prefs. at 3½. Egyptian Delta Lands and New Egyptians are both firmer at 9s. Khedivial Mails are, exceptionally, a trifle quieter at 27s. 9d.

In Greek stocks prices are firm, while Renten are somewhat higher at 41½, but although the demand continues, no business has been possible owing to the lack of sellers.

Oil Shares.

The market has been, and is, as dull as ever it was. A deal in Chelekens hardened the price to 6s. 3d. and Spies have changed hands at 14s. There have also been some deals in Rumanian Consolidateds, but the price of the stock has not been affected thereby.

North Caucasians have improved to 27s. 9d., and other Russian shares have remained firm.

Paris Bourse.

Except in purely French lines business on the Parquet has been quiet to dull. Quotations of interest yesterday were:—Egyptian Unified 92, Turkish Unified 62, against 63. Credit Foncier Egyptian 635 against 633, and Suez Canal 4,365 against 4,400.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, April 12.

The discount market has been affected by the impending Treasury bill issue and the expectation that an issue of Exchequer bonds will soon be announced. The result was that while there was ample money the demand for bills was not keen.

Nevertheless there has been an improved condition; rates have been less nominal. There has been little demand for day-to-day accommodation, the rates for which have been called 4 to 4½ per cent. There were few borrowers, however, and money might have been had at 3 per cent.

Exchange on Alexandria stands at 97 to 97½ piastres to £1 sterling.

NOTICES.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that the FOURTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, on Wednesday, the 25th April, 1917, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report;
- Receiving the Auditors' Report;
- Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1917;
- Declaration of Dividends;
- Election of Directors;
- Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
- And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 4th April, 1917), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.

In London—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.
Cairo, 23rd March, 1917.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

At the General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt held in Cairo on the 7th April, 1917, a DIVIDEND of 12s. per share was DECLARED PAYABLE on the 11th April, 1917, for the year ended 31st December, 1916. Coupon No. 23 will therefore be payable on and after 11th April, 1917. Coupons must be listed on forms to be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price	Price April 6.	Pre-sent Price.
	July 27, 1915.		
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	82	82½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	68	70
Greek 5%, 1881	57	51	51
Do. 5%, 1884	56	51	51
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	47	47
Do. 4% Renten, 1889	45	41½	41½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	50	50
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	48½	49
Do. 4% Ralls, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5% Lu., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71½	71½
Do. 5% Currant	—	88	88
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	—	—	—
Roumania 4½ Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., 480p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	76½	76½
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	67	68
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	52	52
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	6½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Athens	42	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf.	8½	5½	5½
Warrants to Bearer	17½	5½	5½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	90	75	75
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% ..	61	53	53
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	—	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	2½	2½	2½
Béhéra Co.	8½	6½	7½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2½	2½	2½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9½	8½	8½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5½	4½	4½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	1½	1½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	8½	9½
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1½
Unified Egyptian Lands	1½	1½	1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	25/-	25/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	19½	20/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	1½	28½	28½
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/3	10/6	10/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21/-	20/6	20/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6	3/6
Roumanian Consolidated	9/3	8/9	8/9

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON MARCH 15.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E. 13½	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. —	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E. 12	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. —	—
Do. priv.	L.E. —	—
lots Turos, oblig.	Frs. —	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. —	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs. 69	—
Cheikh Ed.	Frs. 74	—
Urbanes et Rurales	L.E. —	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£ —	—
Building Lands of Egypt	L.E. —	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. —	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. —	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. —	—
Unifiée	L.E. 81	—
Priviligiée	£ 70	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4½	—
Fondateur	£ —	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ —	—
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 5½	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ —	—
Ord.	26/-	—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£ 6½	—
Alex. and Banih Railway	£ 4½	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs. 4½	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 101	—
Jouissance	Frs. 160	—
Egyptian Markets	—	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 300	—
Div.	Frs. 225	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 180	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£ 20/-	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 600	—
1886 Oblig.	Frs. 332	—
1903	Frs. 261½	—
1911	Frs. 258	—
Delta Lands	—	—
Port Said Salt	—	—
Cotton Ginners	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	—	—
United Lands	P.T. —	—
Levant S.S. Co.	—	—
Read	—	—

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 311.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	557	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTER—		America and the Near East ..	566	Notes and News	571
Cyprus	559	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		The Sudan and its Economic	
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Armenian Poems	563	Development	572
Progress in Northern Persia.—		TANGIER TO TEHERAN	562	Slight Set-back in Egyptian	
II. In Tabriz (Mirza Firooz		PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	564	Trade	573
Khan)	560	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	569	World's Tobacco Supplies ..	574
Britain in Busreh)	560	LETTER TO THE EDITOR—		News from all Sources ..	574
The School of Oriental		The Future of Palestine		Cyprus Notes	575
Studies	561	and Syria (Mr. Alexander		Why Dates are Dear	575
"Turanian" and Moslem ..	567	Sén)	562	Pirot Carpet Industry ..	576
		ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES ..	568	Company Notes	576
				On 'Change	576
				Stock and Share List ..	576

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

If the ill-disguised dissatisfaction which the German Press was allowed to indulge in over the failure of the Turks to defend Baghdad reflected the displeasure felt by the German Higher Command and possibly conveyed to the Turkish military authorities, the latter will now be able to return the compliment by a reference to the Western front. Unless all the indications are at fault, even the Germans themselves will have to admit that the events of the last two weeks in France eclipse in military importance any possible reverse which the Central Alliance could suffer in distant Mesopotamia or on the confines of Palestine. Not only have the enemy lost 28,000 men as prisoners in ten days and been driven back on ground which they had no intention to yield and made desperate efforts to retain or to reconquer, but the German General Staff must also have a shrewd notion that the attack now in progress between Loos and Rheims does not represent the limit of the Allies' efforts. In such circumstances it may be held that the Allied force in Macedonia has no reason to grumble at the dull rôle which it has been forced to play. That it has largely interfered with the plans of the Central Powers in the Near East is obvious, and to this extent, therefore, it has served a useful purpose; but to the whole composite army, from General Sarrail to the last private arrived, the ordeal of enforced inactivity must have proved more trying than the fiercest battle.

In view of last year's experience it can hardly be the intention of the Allied Governments to keep this Salonika force in the same unhealthy positions through another summer. As a forward move is inevitable, it comes as an unpleasant realisation to those who recall the whole story of this expedition to learn what disappointments in regard to the equipment and provisioning of General Sarrail's army must have been incurred by the Allies during recent months. No troops would have remained stationary, if they had been able to essay an advance. The time for military movements in this part of the world has arrived, but the Commander-in-Chief has to content himself with desultory artillery practice and with dropping proclamations from aeroplanes over the Bulgarian lines. *Communiqués* from this front, however, are becoming more frequent, and we may hope that, even if the increased activity does

not lead to any sensational results, it will at least do more to wear down the enemy's staying power than the comparatively peaceful existence maintained hitherto on both sides.

The object of the proclamations was to inform the Bulgarian soldiery that revolt had broken out in their country, particularly at Sofia, where the people and the troops had risen on account of the tyranny of the Germans, "of whom the Bulgarian Government have become the mere valets." Reference was also made to the action of the United States as showing that Germany is the enemy of the whole of humanity, and the Bulgarians were invited to imitate the example of the Russians and to fling off the handful of Germans who hold Bulgaria beneath their yoke. Such messages may be necessary, for it is part of the German system, which will have been adopted in Bulgaria, to hoodwink the public and to keep the soldiers at the front in ignorance of the real state of affairs. But we are inclined to think that something in the nature of a serious defeat would be the best means of impressing the Bulgarians. So far, it must be remembered, they have, thanks to Austro-German aid, carried all before them. No doubt, they do not like the indefinite prolongation of the war; but nothing has been done to convince them of the Allies' capacity to strike hard and to win the war. There is good reason for bringing diplomacy to bear on the Bulgarian situation at this juncture; but it would be immeasurably strengthened, if General Sarrail had been in a position to score an unmistakable success on the battlefield.

A significant development has taken place in the Greek situation. Last week it was announced that the islanders on Zante had revolted against the Athens Government, and that the French naval command had intervened to persuade the Royalist officials to withdraw to the mainland. This movement has now spread to all the Ionian islands, including Corfu, as well as to Skiathos, off the east coast of Greece, and to Cythera, off the south. In each case the Royalist authorities have been expelled and representatives of the Venizelist Government have been installed. It will be remembered that in a recent interview M. Venizelos called attention to the fact that the Entente Powers had put a spoke in his wheel by giving a pledge to King Constantine that in return for his good behaviour they would not allow

the National Government of Salonika to extend its propaganda to those parts of Greece which were at the moment under the jurisdiction of the Athens Government. But for this embargo, M. Venizelos contended, he would have won over to his cause all the islands as well as Thessaly and Epirus. This claim has now in part been made good.

It appears that the Entente Powers have been dissatisfied with the attitude of King Constantine's Government towards the question of the armed bands operating against French troops in the neutral zone in Thessaly. Representations were made on the subject, but the Greek Premier was unable or unwilling to give any satisfactory answer. Accordingly, the Entente Powers have decided that, as King Constantine refuses to act up to his part of the agreement, they are absolved from their pledge to resist the extension of the jurisdiction of the National Government. What is not clear is the reason why the Entente Governments do not strengthen their case by an early publication of the facts. It was left to the Anglo-Hellenic League to make it known that the French military authorities controlling the neutral zone were in possession of definite proof that the bands of irregular troops were being armed and organized from Athens. At one village the French had occasion to arrest the Assistant Commissioner of King Constantine's police, who had been communicating to the Athenian Press imaginary stories of the proceedings of the French Army. In his office was found a complete file of documents, conveying orders from the Athens authorities to the chiefs of the various irregular bands operating in Thessaly, and at the same place were discovered more than five hundred rifles of the Greek regulation Army pattern, together with nearly half a million cartridges. We cannot help thinking that a better effect would be created, both in Greece and outside, if the Allied Governments made these facts officially known at once, and stated the steps that they proposed to adopt in consequence of the action of King Constantine's Government.

In the interview to which reference has already been made M. Venizelos stated that the plan of his Government was to extend its jurisdiction throughout Greece until King Constantine and the Athens Government were entirely surrounded by a people resolved to have a Constitutional regime. He anticipated that the supporters of autocracy would then capitulate and Greece would be able to restore her Constitution. The successful extension of the National Government's authority to a number of important islands justifies M. Venizelos' prediction, and we may look with some confidence to the rest of his programme being carried out. Now that the Entente Powers have yielded so much ground they would be well advised to leave M. Venizelos a clear field. The activities of the komitaji bands in Thessaly prove the hopelessness of looking for really satisfactory dealing on the part of King Constantine and his puppet Ministers. For this reason we are tempted to doubt the usefulness of an inspired statement circulated by a telegraphic agency to the effect that, as the King has modified his attitude towards the Entente, the time has come to revise the current estimate of him. We do not know from what source the inspiration comes, but the suggestion is in keeping with the policy which is responsible for the mismanagement of the Greek question. King Constantine's treachery to the Allies is only one part of the question, and a small part, for the Allies have been able to look after themselves. On the other hand, his treachery to Greece is serious. He has violated the Constitution and has split the country into two hostile camps. The Greek problem will not have been solved when he has ceased to annoy the Entente Powers. The solution towards which the Allies must work is the restoration of constitutionalism in Greece and the reunion of the people under the leadership which commands the approval of the majority.

It may be that the resignation of the Greek Prime Minister, which is said to be impending, will help to bring matters in Greece to a head. As far as the outside world is aware, the only reason for the step contemplated by M. Lambros is the general hopelessness of the situation in Royalist Greece. His own explanation to King Constantine is reported to have been that "the difficulties of the situation" made it undesirable that he should retain office. Whether any other time-serving politician among those who have pinned their faith to German money will be able to regard the position of First Minister to King Constantine more optimistically remains to be seen. The Allied Governments are not called upon to take any part in king-making or king-unmaking in Greece, but, as far as is consistent with the safety of the Salonika forces, they should put no obstacle in the way of the Greek people working out its own salvation by any embargo on the activities of the National Government.

The enemy's converging attack on the Anglo-Russian front in Mesopotamia has met with little success. Sir Stanley Maude withdrew his advanced detachments on the right bank of the DIALA and succeeded in drawing the bulk of the Turkish forces on this flank in a south-westerly direction towards Deltawa. Then, moving forward part of his left wing from the Tigris, he threatened to envelop the Turks, and caused them to retire hurriedly to their former positions. A battle begun on the morning of April 11 had to be temporarily suspended on account of a mirage; otherwise the enemy's losses would have been more severe. As it was, over three hundred killed were found on the battlefield. Meanwhile an advance on the right bank of the Tigris has brought British troops to the enemy's line fifteen miles south of Samarra, a satisfactory indication that General Maude has no intention of surrendering the initiative or of allowing the Turks much time to reorganise.

The searching ordeal through which Roumania has passed must make her people keenly susceptible to any symptoms of a turn in the tide of their misfortunes. Reports that the Germans are burning Braila and Focsani will inevitably raise hopes of an enemy withdrawal from the occupied territory; but the suggestion carries us far beyond the immediate fortunes of Roumania, and for that reason it must be received with caution. The present line held by the Central Alliance against our Allies in the East is the shortest possible. For the Germans to abandon it at this stage would imply that they recognise that the days of their co-operation with Bulgaria and Turkey are numbered, and that they are preparing for the time when the fighting will be transferred to German and Austro-Hungarian territory. If their thoughts already run in this direction, then Mr. Bonar Law's belief that the long night of sorrow and anguish which has desolated the world is coming to a close may not be unduly optimistic. For the Roumanian peasantry and soldiers of equal significance will be the official assurances given them that the old feudal system is to be broken down, and that henceforth each man may look forward to the possession of the land on which his whole life is spent. King Ferdinand has set an example to the other great landowners by undertaking to distribute some of the royal domains among the peasants. His predecessor had shown his confidence in the country of his adoption by investing large sums of money in Roumanian land, and consequently King Ferdinand will be in a position to make an important contribution to the settlement of what has long been a vexed question in Roumania.

A report on the condition of Allied prisoners in Turkey, issued by delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, offers some comfort in regard to a matter about which there has been considerable anxiety in this country. Unfortunately, the report deals mainly with officers' camps. Experience in Germany has shown that an attempt was made from the outset to introduce a modicum of humane treatment

into officers' camps, but an entirely different system prevailed in regard to the men's camps. In Turkey, it is to be feared, visits to officer prisoners of war would similarly reveal only the rosier side of the picture. Behind the well-meant effort to put the best complexion on what they saw, the delegates here and there lift the veil which obscures the fate of the bulk of the British prisoners. In the margin left to the imagination of the reader there is room for confirmation of the worst reports. "The Europeans, principally those coming from Kut, have been so weakened by the marches across the desert that one can understand that their restoration to health would be rendered more difficult by an insufficient diet. When, as at Afium Kara Hissar, they have to work, their strength is taxed to an extent which is not in proportion with their power of resistance." The situation could hardly be portrayed more mildly. But when the delegates add that "this implies no blame upon the Turkish military authorities, but is the result of exceptional circumstances," most people will be tempted to demur. The exceptional circumstances were solely due to the Turkish military authorities; for whatever difficulties of transport there may have been, there was no cause to make men work who were not in a fit condition.

From a copy of the report which has reached *The Times* we learn that the inspection of the camps in Asia Minor was made by M. Alfred Boissier and Dr. Adolphe Vischer, and lasted from October, 1916, to January, 1917. On arriving in Constantinople the visitors were received with great courtesy by the high officials of the Turkish Red Crescent and by the Director of the Prisoners' Agency, Izzet Bey. They were given particulars of the work of the agency in preparing lists of prisoners and despatching parcels, and pay a tribute to the way in which the work has been carried out, while recording the fact that the delay in forwarding letters and parcels has often been due on the one hand to illegible writing and imperfect addressing, and on the other hand to the difficulties of transport. It was owing to the latter cause that the officers of the Kut Army, who arrived at Kastamuni in July, 1916, were obliged to wait for an indefinite length of time for parcels which were sent to Baghdad, Mosul, and other places. Izzet Bey, who accompanied them on their mission, took measures to remedy this regrettable state of things, and proposed in the interest of the prisoners that henceforth the officers should be satisfied with two parcels and the soldiers with one parcel a month. By this means regular order will be established, and an end put to a number of complaints. On December 21, 1916, the Red Crescent had despatched 1,060 parcels; the number sent up to date was 30,257.

A second report by the International Committee of the Red Cross deals with visits to prisoners of war camps in Egypt, mainly those containing Turkish prisoners. The inspection of these camps, as well as of others in France and Corsica, was made by Dr. F. Blanchod, M. F. Thormeyer, and M. E. Schoch in December and January last. They declare themselves extremely satisfied with the arrangements made by the British authorities for the housing, feeding, and clothing of the prisoners. The camps are situated in healthy spots, and as a result of the sanitary precautions and of systematic vaccination there have been no epidemics. Beyond the work of cleaning their quarters the prisoners dispose entirely of their time. Their discipline is excellent. After closely examining the situation, the delegates express their conviction that the various officials treat the prisoners with humanity and do all in their power to soften their lot.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN ATHENS.

A Reuter telegram, dated April 18, from Athens, states:—Though not yet officially announced, there is practically a ministerial crisis, and the King last night consulted certain party leaders. At the King's invitation, Sir Francis Elliot, the British Minister, had a long audience this morning, the first since the events of last December.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Use of the Hellenic Flag.

At a recent meeting of the members of the Legislative Council for the Nicosia-Kyrenia Division and the members of the Holy Synod, it was decided to call a meeting of all members and ex-members of the Council, and of the mayors of the island, to consider the matter of the use of the Greek flag, respecting which there has been correspondence between the Greek Archbishop and the High Commissioner, arising out of the incident at Famagusta.

Progress in the Solea District.

The region of Solea, in the north-west, may be regarded as one of the more progressive parts of the island in matters of husbandry. The Director of Agriculture, Mr. Bevan, has recently visited the district, and encouraged villagers with regard to tree-planting, the upkeep of village school gardens, and various other matters. In several villages the people expressed a strong desire that there should be a return to the system under which field watchmen (an important class, at any rate, theoretically) were chosen and paid by the Government instead of by the village communities, their work being supervised by Government inspectors. Legislation would be necessary. At present there is much party feeling and quarrelling over the appointments, and irregularity in payment of wages, etc.

Soli, from which the region takes its name, possesses some interest, though nothing like that of Soli (latterly Pompeiopolis), on the opposite coast of Asia Minor, to the west of Mersina, the extensive ruins of which are well worth a visit. The latter Soli, by the way, is said to have given rise to the term solecism, owing to the corrupt *patois* of its citizens. The Cypriot Soli, however, was of some importance, and has temples to Aphrodite and Isis. Some have ascribed its name to Solon, by whose advice a Cypriot prince founded a city here. Solon, according to Herodotus, visited Cyprus. Others state that it was a colony from Athens.

M. Venizelos and the Holy Synod.

Greek papers publish the reply of M. Venizelos to members of the Greek Church at Paris. The Holy Synod of Greece recently suspended the Archimandrite at Paris, Vasilakis, who ceased to mention the King's name in services of the Greek Church. A general meeting of Greeks protested against this decision, and referred the matter to the National Government at Salonika through M. Romanos; also requesting that the Greek Church of St. Stephen, in Paris, might be taken under the protection of the Government at Salonika. The reply of M. Venizelos has been that, according to the Bishop of Salonika, priests who omit mentioning the names of the King and members of the Royal Family in church prayers are not liable to canonic penalty. The Holy Synod at Athens, therefore, exceeded its powers, and its decision is accordingly null and void.

Athletic Sports.

The Greek Pan-Cypriot Sports are held triennially in normal times at different chief towns, but these are suspended for the period of the war. A local meeting was held at Limassol on April 3, 4 and 6, to which all athletes were invited. The programme of events was a full one. These meetings are generally of a semi-political nature. Patriotic speeches are made, with allusions to the great historic past of Greece, and the youth of Cyprus are exhorted to show themselves worthy of the great traditions. The Hymn of the Olympic Games, by Samarra, was sung by 100 Greek girls and youths. The "Œdipus Tyrannus" of Sophocles, rendered into modern Greek, was played. At Nicosia the "Elektra" of Sophocles, also modernised, is being acted by pupils of the high schools.

According to a report from Constantinople, the American guard-ship, *Scorpion*, a familiar sight in the Bosphorus, has been interned.

A special mission sent by the Sultan of Turkey to the Kaiser arrived in Berlin last week, for the purpose of presenting to the Kaiser a golden sword of honour as "a token of the admiration of the Turkish Army."

Refugees who have arrived in Mytilene report a great scarcity of food in Asia Minor. Numbers of persons are stated to have died of starvation at Smyrna, and desertions among the soldiers are common.

German agents are reported to be conducting an active Pan-Islamic propaganda in the Dutch East Indies, and attempts have been made to bring in contraband of war. One vessel which sailed from California with war material has been seized by the Dutch authorities.

PROGRESS IN NORTHERN PERSIA.

By Mirza Firooz Khan.

'II.—IN TABRIZ.

Of all the Julfa-Tabriz line stations Tabriz is the busiest and most crowded, as becomes the capital city of our fertile province. The long road leading from the station into the city has been divided into three parts. The first section is named "Teresbinskia Avenue," after M. Teresbinsky, the chief engineer of the railroad; the second portion is called "Beliaeyeve," after the Russian Consul-General; while the third is named "Valiahd's Avenue," after the title of the Persian Crown Prince. The first and second portions have already been paved, and the Valiahd's Avenue is now being made ready for paving. The mud walls on each side of the narrow street are being demolished, and it is being widened from eight to ten Persian *arshins*. The first two sections have been paved by the Russians, the third is to be paved at the expense of H.I.H. the Valiahd himself.

The large open space or square in front of the station is filled with a throng of passengers, onlookers—loafers and idlers, who have come here to see the *donkooz* ("pig-machine") arrive—and many carriages. As soon as the train stops there is a great rush for these carriages, which are never sufficient to meet the requirements of the railway travellers. The "cabby" is much like his *confrère* in other lands, and charges you from 8 to 12 *krans*, and more if he can. Now, at the present rate of exchange 12 *krans* are equivalent to 10 roubles; but that is the "fare" here in Tabriz, though in Tiflis one can go from the station to any part of the city for one rouble only. What makes the imposition all the more galling is the fact that in the city the "taxsa," or fixed price, is two *krans*: you can ride in the city eight or ten miles and pay only two *krans*, but for the same distance from the station you have to pay six times as much. I would respectfully call the attention of the City Council and the Russian Consul-General to this state of affairs. Something should be done to put a stop to the extortions of those *faïton* drivers, whose greed is simply boundless.

Since the opening of the railroad—in fact, since the Russians entered the city—Tabriz has undergone many changes. The price of land has increased to five times what it was, as also have the cost of living and the price of foodstuffs. On the principal streets many stores and shops have been built in the Russian style, and anyone who has a site on any of these streets clears it as soon as he can of its old buildings, and in a few weeks there arises a fine "modern" shop, which brings in a sure and permanent income. The Russians have a chief of police in the city, and the police (Persians and Armenians) are under his control. In Russian style, the police carry a sword, a revolver, and a whip; their swords and their uniforms are also Russian in style, but their *papakhs* (caps) are of black lambskin.

Here, as elsewhere, the war has caused the cost of living to advance terribly. Indeed, life has become almost impossible for a certain class of the population. As an illustration of the rise in prices, I may say that before the war Russian sugar was actually cheaper in Persia than it was in Russia; it is now quite the reverse. In Russia to-day sugar is sold at ten roubles a *put*, but in Tabriz the *put* costs from 95 to 105 roubles. In spite of this, tea-drinking goes on just as it used to.

Those responsible for the rise in the price of sugar, I should explain, are not the Russians, but a few local merchants who revel in "speculations" of this kind. Such men ought by rights to be in jail, but they manage to avoid getting their deserts—by methods that were in use long, long before the war. Persia has lacked the firm hand of a master ever since the death of the powerful and never-to-be-forgotten Nasr-ed-Din Shah. And at present these "speculators" are making hay while the sun shines with a vengeance. It is not only in sugar that they operate. The rise and fall of the rouble, in this city at least, depends largely upon them, and it is currently reported that some of them have made between 15,000 and 20,000 *tomans* in a day by skill at this game.

A Montenegrin Committee for "National Union," which has been constituted by M. Radovitch, the former Prime Minister, and three former Montenegrin Ministers, has published at Geneva a journal—the *Quyédinyenyé* (Union)—with the object of promoting the union of Montenegro with Serbia and the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes of Austria-Hungary.

BRITAIN IN BUSREH.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Mesopotamia suffers in reputation owing to its distance from Great Britain; it is only when our Army, so brilliantly led by Sir Stanley Maude, inflicts a defeat on the disordered remnants of a Turkish army that the public at home realises that north of the Persian Gulf the flag is unfurled, that Kut-el-Amara has been retrieved, and that we are slowly working out our plans which maladministration and inept calculation interfered with last year.

Much has been accomplished in the Busreh region which deserves attention, of which people in this country know little; indeed, the public memory is so short that it is probable that even that little has been forgotten.

The fact is, however, that the work of organisation from our point of view, and amelioration from the point of view of the population, has been proceeded with most vigorously and successfully. British institutions are flourishing, corruption has been eliminated, the fear that makes the day precarious and the night horrible has disappeared, and order and peace reign where once chaos and terror ruled in sinister partnership.

It is difficult to realise, perhaps, but it is none the less true, that people who know Indian ports and towns and have gone to Busreh find in the one-time Turkish stronghold most of the characteristics of a British-administered Indian district. There are a Custom House, in which an officer of the Indian Customs Service, of gazetted rank, exercises complete control, and deals righteously with the traders who go to him; a police service, officered and manned by trained British and Indian civilians; a Public Works Department, in similar circumstances, busily engaged in constructing roads and buildings; a medical service, introducing all the best known methods of modern sanitary science; and a post and telegraph service, maintaining old communications, restoring dislocation, and establishing new lines as calmly as if they were at work in Bombay, or Calcutta, or Lahore.

Is it not a matter for regret that the British public are not made to realise all these facts? If they did so, would the knowledge not stimulate the Imperial sense and build up a stronger and more abounding faith in the British mission? In our elementary schools, for example, would not the ideal of civilisation be made clearer to the children if, when the war is spoken of and the enemy's ravages in Belgium, France, and Roumania described, the British way were illustrated—not from what we believe the British way ought to be, but from what we know it has accomplished?

There are lessons, too, not only for British and Allied children, but for the grown-ups who live in the few countries which remain neutral. Not long before I paid my first visit to Busreh, in 1894, everybody was still engaged in discussing the plight of the Marsh Arabs. Their desperation, caused by the oppression and ill-doing of their Turkish overlords, was so great that a horde of them actually proceeded to Amara, a desolate river station, and fired on one of the Blon-Lynch steamers moored there.

They had no grievance against the ship's company or her owners. They merely desired, as they explained later, to draw the attention of the British Government to their grievances and sorrow.

Turkish oppression and corruption did not affect the Arabs only, however. A young engineer employed on a British India steamer died and was buried at Busreh. His shipmates collected sufficient money to erect a tombstone, duly bought the article, shipped it, and it only got so far as the Busreh Custom House. Then the trouble began. The officer in charge demanded *backsheesh*, which, very properly, was refused.

"No *backshish*, no stone," was his reply, and when the local authorities were called on for an explanation it was forthcoming in the remarkable fact that the Customs authorities were unable to classify the stone for tariff purposes.

I have spoken to Busreh people of many races—Greeks, Armenians, British subjects, and even to Turks—and all agreed that Turkish rule meant oppression and unrighteousness. In those days there was no hope of better things. Turkey was a friendly Power, whose interests were to be safeguarded. We tolerated corruption and wickedness for reasons which we need not discuss now; but the fortunes of war brought her out on the side of our enemies, and it is appropriate, perhaps, that in this corner of the Ottoman empire it should be a distinctly British mission to do the "cleaning up."

The progress we have made in this direction has been so considerable in the face of extreme difficulty that there is ground for hope that from north to south of this great territory we shall be able to change milk for blood and peace for strife; and the ground is so strong and definite that we should not hesitate to tell the world what we have already accomplished.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

Not a few people were profoundly sceptical as to the advisability of opening the School of Oriental Studies in war time. They felt that it was improbable that any very great number of students could be obtained under war conditions, and that this factor might materially affect the future of so promising a scheme. No doubt there was something to be said for this attitude, but all things considered it was much better to court an inauspicious commencement rather than delay opening the school, and thus prevent it being of immediate utility in the commercial rivalry after the war.

As things have turned out (says the *Indiaman*) the first term of the school, far from being inauspicious, has actually been most promising. Judged by peace time standards, the results may not have been brilliant, but all the same it is no mean achievement that the school should have attracted some seventy-five students so early in its career. That number does not represent the permanent students, for it includes several who for one cause or another have only been in temporary attendance at the school, but it is near enough for practical purposes. About a third of the students are ladies, some of whom are learning languages prior to undertaking missionary work, while others are simply enthusiasts in the pursuit of knowledge. The students naturally include many Indians and Japanese, but the English students, owing largely to the influx of lady students, are much more numerous than might have been expected under the prevailing circumstances.

In one respect the school will have to wait until after the war to realise expectations, and that is with regard to training men in business houses who are going out to the Far East. It might have been thought that City firms would have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the school to send the more promising of their younger employees to it, so that they might be available for service abroad when required. This has not been the case, only one or two names having been entered, and these men, it may be added, were called up for military service before they could join the school. No doubt the reason for the attitude of business firms is that they are all so short-handed that it is impossible to allow their employees the necessary time to attend the school. After the war things will be very different, and it is from this source, indeed, that the school may expect to receive most of its students.

It is interesting as showing the diversity of interests of the present students and also, incidentally, a tribute to the syllabus, that scarcely one of the twenty languages for which provision has been made is at present untaught. This is partly due, of course, to the fact that there are a number of advanced students at the school who are already proficient in some Oriental languages, and are there for the purpose of acquiring some specialised knowledge. That the school should be attracting these men is a particularly happy feature, and one in thorough keeping with its aim, which is to be an institution for the acquirement of knowledge and not merely a school of languages, and there is a wide gulf between the two ideals.

As to the immediate future, there is every reason for thinking that the number of students will be materially increased, and as numerous appointments to the I.C.S. and other Eastern services will have to be made when the war ends it seems probable that the declaration of peace will be followed by a large influx of students. One all-important factor, however, will determine the continued popularity of Oriental languages in this country. It is only natural that students should expect to see some goal before them as the result of their work, and in the past the drawback has been that throughout the country there were not many more than half-a-dozen positions really worth having at the disposal of the Orientalists, leaving out of account appointments abroad. That being the case, the neglect of Oriental languages is not surprising, and before any permanent improvement is to be expected a very different state of things must prevail. If and when a definite career is assured to every proficient student of Oriental languages, then that branch of learning will be in a fair way of receiving the attention it deserves.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Lord Robert Cecil said the Foreign Secretary had no official information showing that the Provisional Government in Russia was prepared to agree that the Bosphorus and Dardanelles should be internationalized. General von Bissing, the German "Governor-General" of Belgium, whose death was announced yesterday, was the father of Dr. William von Bissing, Professor of Oriental Archaeology and Egyptology at Munich University.

SWEDES AND THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

On March 27 a meeting was held in the largest hall in Stockholm to protest against the Armenian deportations and the atrocities committed against the Armenian people by the Turkish Government. The hall was completely packed with many hundreds of people and was presided over by the Burgomaster of Stockholm, Mr. Lindhagen.

The chief speaker was the well-known Mr. Branting. After referring to the various acts of barbarity committed by Germany in this war he said that the determined effort made by the Turks to exterminate a whole people exceeded, if possible, the other events in horror. He referred his audience to Lord Bryce's collection of documents on the subject, terming them a body of evidence which it was impossible to deny. These events had up to that time been passed over in silence in Sweden, but he thought that the Swedes, who theoretically hold International Law in such high honour, should now protest in the strongest terms against these atrocities, which were far graver breaches of International Law than the detention of ships and the seizure of parcels post. He concluded by referring to the dawn of liberty in Russia and hoping that, as the new Russian Government had accepted the principle of freedom for oppressed nationalities, the rights and liberties of the Armenians might now be re-established.

His speech was received with the greatest enthusiasm and afterwards the story of the Armenian deportations was told by Madame Marika Stenstedt. Her husband, Mr. Ludwig Nordstrom, has written several pro-Ally books and pamphlets, notably a life of Mr. Lloyd George, which has already passed through many editions.

It may be remarked that the pro-German Conservative Press made scarcely any reference to this large and enthusiastic meeting and in some of their organs all mention of it was entirely suppressed.

HELP FOR ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

The following letter has been received from the Mayor of Tiflis by the Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. Some of the war garments referred to were supplied by our readers in response to an appeal in these columns:—

Dear Miss Robinson,—In reply to your esteemed letter I have the honour to inform you that the four cases of warm clothes sent by you for the Armenian refugees on the S.S. —, which left London for Archangel on the 29th June, 1916, have lately arrived and have been distributed among the districts most crowded by refugees in the following manner: In the district of Trebizond the articles have been sent with the member of the Tiflis Municipality and assistant representative of the Caucasian Committee of the Union of All Russian Towns, Prince Argoutinsky Dolgoroukoff, for immediate distribution among the refugees of that district; in the district of Saricamish-Erzorum with Dr. Piroumoff and Knies-Moushky to the disposal of Dr. Zavrieff. Of the arrival of the 28 cases of medicaments I have informed you in my letter of the 24th November, 1916. Allow me, dear Miss Robinson, to express to you and to all the members of the Armenian Red Cross my personal and of the Caucasian Committee's of the Union of All Russian Towns deep gratitude for the help accorded to the refugees, whose sharp need is considerably diminished by the generous contribution of your Fund.—I remain, etc.,

ALEX. KHATISSOFF,

Mayor of Tiflis City.

Tiflis, January 27, 1917.

Lists were enclosed of the numbers and various kinds of garments distributed in the above districts by Dr. Khatissoff at Tiflis.

It is impossible to send garments now, but money is very badly needed for food and clothing for the thousands of starving refugees who are crowding into Erzeroum and other towns as the Russian army advances. Contributions sent to Miss E. J. Robinson, Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, 35a, Elsham Road, London, W.14, will be gratefully acknowledged. Cheques should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Chambers. This fund is registered under the War Charities Act.

RED CROSS WORK AT SALONIKA.

Red Cross work in Salonika continues to be of an exacting character.

Reports received at the London headquarters show that the five Red Cross kitchens have recently produced 83,660 meals, and the rest stations supplied refreshments to 2,361 men of the Allied Armies. An officers' convalescent camp has been organised by the medical service, and two motor kitchens provided for the Serbian Army have been detailed to accompany detachments on the march.

The British Red Cross has arranged with the Serbian Minister of the Interior to compile reading matter for Serbian soldiers. Three books have been printed locally, and a preliminary distribution of some 500 copies of each has been made among the Serbian hospitals and convalescent camps.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The other day a friend told me of a curious experience that he had had. He lives not far from an aerodrome, and the sight and sounds of aeroplanes dashing hither and thither have become so familiar to him that he pays no heed at all to them. On this particular day, however, as he was walking across a field, he suddenly became aware that the engine of an aeroplane which had been whirring overhead had ceased abruptly. He looked up at once, and there, very low—"it looked only 500 ft. up," as he said—was an aeroplane with its propeller making one or two lazy, half-hearted revolutions. Knowing what this indicated, my friend felt anxious—and with reason. The aeroplane suddenly turned its nose earthwards and started an appalling dive. The spectator stood horror-struck. But the airman had kept his nerve, and ere the machine could dash itself and him to bits he had it under control again, and planed down to a safe landing some way off. My friend hastened to telephone news of the incident to the flying station, and learned that the machine and the officer in charge of it were expected and had come on from town. Later inquiring, he learned that no harm had been done. The airman was mildly vexed that his mishap had been observed at all, apparently. At any rate, when someone asked him what had gone wrong with his engine, he replied, quite testily: "Nothing at all. My propeller just stopped. That's all."

Now, the sight of the aeroplane's dive had made a strong impression on my friend, and naturally so. As he said, "Only the airman's perfect nerve made the difference between his landing safely and his coming down, a horrible wreck, in my field, almost at my feet." But what struck me, personally, as the strangest point in the narrative was that the narrator mentioned, quite casually, that the thing happened "just where I had dreamed several times of its happening." He himself thought this quite natural, apparently.

How does one's subconscious mind do that kind of thing? And, having done it, why does it so often present the particular picture it wants to impress upon us over and over again? Shortly before I paid my first visit to Mesopotamia, at a time when I had no idea of going out there, I dreamed many times over of being cut off in a flat country by sudden floods. And this actually happened to me on my first little journey from Baghdad. It was necessary to travel in the first part of the night, and our little caravan lost its way entirely in the flooded country. I felt then that my dream was "coming true." But, fortunately for me, the ending—my drowning—failed to come to fulfilment—thanks largely, I fancy, to the sagacity of the mule I was riding. In the dark we found ourselves on the edge of running water, and my mount refused to budge, though I did my best to force it on. Then the moon came out for a minute or two, and we found ourselves on the edge of a raging flood that was bad indeed to look on. After that I trusted my mule!

A correspondent, who is in a position to know the facts of the case, has sent me a letter on the subject of the price of dates in this country, regarding which I had something to say last week. I am much obliged to him, and should like to reproduce his remarks *in extenso*, but they are, perhaps, rather too technical for this frivolous column. So I shall pass the letter on to my talented confrère, "Commentator." Here it will suffice for me to say that, according to my correspondent, it appears that the exorbitant price is due to iniquitous high freights, and—to a less extent—to the prohibition of the importation of certain other fruits. But apparently there is also a good deal of "profiteering." What have the Food Controller and his assistants to say on the subject? In view of the food value of dates it seems to me to be an important one.

The taking of the Census in Egypt has brought to light at Alexandria a community hitherto "unknown," or unrecognised officially. According to the Egyptian papers, there are sixty families of these surprising folk, and as each family numbers from six to ten members, there must be nearly 500 of them in all. They are, as far as I can make out, allied to the gipsies, if not by blood at least in custom. Their language is said to resemble "the Aleppo gipsy tongue," and the men are all "pipers," or flute-players, while "the women tell fortunes and play the castanets and cymbals." The fair ones are also conspicuous by reason of the enormous nose-rings they wear. Both "men and women are in request at the marriages of the poorer classes of the native population"; and yet their language proved almost incomprehensible to the Census enumerators. I shall be anxious to see if further details of these newly "discovered" people are published in the Egyptian papers.

I have seen no mention of the subject in the English Press—probably because I have not looked in the right quarters!—but in the *Egyptian Gazette* of March 9 I read of a proposal to institute an Arabic Literary Association. London is suggested—naturally enough, one feels—as the headquarters of the society (which, however, is to be an "international" one), and "there is reason for hoping that the association, if satisfactorily started, could for a time be affiliated to the Royal Asiatic Society." The objects of the society, I gather, would be to study the great quantity of material available in the form of Arabic literary work; to facilitate the translation, both from and into Arabic, of suitable texts; to secure their publication; and to bring about co-operation between workers in this field. All these things, it seems to me, are much to be wished for. Indeed, it is only a fortnight ago that I mentioned the desirability of such work being undertaken on a larger scale and more systematically in this country. But if the scheme is to prove entirely successful, it is my humble opinion that it will have to be kept "all-British." Co-operation with similar bodies in foreign, but friendly, countries would certainly be highly desirable; but without the stimulus of healthy rivalry I am afraid the British members of the proposed association would fail to do themselves justice, and would eventually be "swamped." Would it not be possible to combine forces in some way with the London School of Oriental Studies?

To my story of the soldier who owed his life to one of those "insect pests," as they are called in the advertisements that you see nowadays in every chemist's window, may be added the following one. It may (or may not!) prove useful to travellers in the Near East when the return of peace enables civilians to resume travel there. At any rate, here it is:—Some soldiers back from the trenches were being shown behind the lines a machine for sterilizing clothing, and, of course, eliminating the "pests." One of the party was obviously quite unimpressed, and afterwards an assistant at the sanitary station asked him whether he did not think the machine a fine one. "Well enough, perhaps," said he. "But I've got a dodge of my own that is better." "Oh, what is that?" "Well, I wear my shirt two days one way; then they are all inside, see?" "Yes." "Then I turn it inside out, and wear it that way. Then they're all outside, aren't they?" "Well, yes!" "By the time they've got inside again I turn it back again." "Well, well?" "And so I go on and on; and at last the—marching and counter-marching breaks the little—s' hearts, and they die."

CORSAIR.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—When the German Herzl launched his scheme of Zionism, and had our sympathetic attention, he was actuated by purely material considerations, in opposition to other Jewish colonisation schemes in Africa and South America. Sentimental considerations and Biblical prophesying never entered his mind; he knew very well that, for obvious reasons, Jerusalem can never be handed back to Judaism.

But now, apart from the unbridgable gulf which separates Jews from Christians and Mohammedans, the necessity for a Jewish place of refuge from Russian persecution no longer holds good. Therefore the creation of a Jewish quasi-State in a circumscribed Palestine would be ridiculously inadequate, even as a burying-place for the derelict Jews of all nations who would flock to it. I say derelict because, with assured equality for them in any part of Europe, the Jews would find it more agreeable, and especially more profitable, to remain where they are.

The fate of that part of the world will, however, have to be settled as soon as the country can be freed from the Turks; and, to my mind, the only solution would be to create a Syrian Republic that will stretch from El-Arish to the Euphrates, round to Mersine, including Cyprus, and be in Customs union, for land produce, with Egypt, Arabia, and Irak, under the protection of the Allies.

Arabia proper, which is just now discussed in some French papers, quite uselessly to my mind, will know how to take care of itself, under the wise guidance of the King of the Hejaz.

From my experience of those countries, their peoples, and those peoples' aspirations, and on statesmanship grounds, I am quite sure that any other solution would be resented, and lead to much unstability, present and future.—I am, etc..

ALEXANDER SEFL.

London, N.W.,
April 13.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ARMENIAN POEMS.*

Of the sufferings and wrongs of the Armenians we have heard much, but of their literature, ancient and modern, their poems and legends, very little is yet known in England. Miss Boyajian has, therefore, comparatively new ground to take us over; and her handsome and attractive book should be sure of a welcome. As already mentioned in *THE NEAR EAST*, the profits are to be given to the Lord Mayor's Fund for Armenian Refugees.

The poems selected appear to be chiefly of comparatively recent date, probably because the earlier ones were mostly of a strictly religious character. The majority of them have been translated by Miss Boyajian herself, but there are several specimens of renderings by Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, an American lady who works enthusiastically for the Armenian cause. Upon the whole the verses are pleasing enough; and here and there are some really charming stanzas, as, for instance, in "The Nightingale of Avarair" and "Concerning the Rose and the Nightingale." Through many of the poems, however, runs a note of pessimism, of mourning over past greatness, that becomes in course of time rather monotonous. Occasionally, on the other hand, one has to regret a tendency to "self-praise," or at least to somewhat flamboyant praise of the Armenians and their genius. These things are, of course, due to the Oriental origin of the legends and poems. And the Armenians have at least every right to be proud of their patriotism, of the tenacity with which they have clung to their faith, and of the powers of recuperation that they have shown over and over again. Some idea of their history may be gathered from M. Aram Raffi's contribution to the volume, the section entitled "Armenia: Its Epics, Folk Songs, and Mediæval Poetry."

The volume contains a dozen illustrations in colour by Miss Boyajian. "The decorative scheme" of these pictures, we are told, "is based upon ancient Armenian art as seen in mediæval illuminations." They are shadeless and far removed from any approach to realism, but they are quite attractive in their own style, the colouring being particularly agreeable. Miss Boyajian certainly deserves congratulations upon a piece of work creditably done, and it is to be hoped that her effort will result in securing substantial help for the Fund in which she is so interested.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton announce "In Mesopotamia," by Martin Swayne. The author, who served in Lower Irak, illustrates his descriptions with colour sketches drawn on the spot.

Another volume issued by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton which has Mesopotamia as a background is "Miss Haroun al Raschid," by Jessie Douglas Kerruish. This, we understand, is the first prize winner in the publishers' thousand guinea novel competition. Mesopotamia is certainly well to the fore in many ways at present.

Mr. Milford is publishing Sir W. M. Ramsay's "The Intermixture of Races in Asia Minor; Some of its Causes and Effects."

Messrs. Blackie have published recently "Lord Kitchener: The Story of his Life and Work," by D. A. Mackenzie. The little book, which is very suitable for young readers, costs 1s.

Messrs. Bell and Son announce "A History of Serbia," by Captain H. V. Temperley. The price is 10s. 6d. net.

In the Royal Asiatic Society's *Journal*, M. Alphonse Mingana writes of the "sacred books" of the Yezidis, or devil-worshippers. He is sceptical regarding their authenticity.

"The History of the Eastern Question from the Advent of the Ottomans to the Outbreak of the European War," by Mr. J. A. R. Marriott, is announced by the Oxford University Press.

"The Gates of Kut," by Lindsay Russell (Cassell and Co.), is a novel, in which the operations upon the Tigris play only a very minor part.

The April "Quarterly Statement" of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains a paper by the late Lord Kitchener, giving a lively account of a ride from Gaza to Jerusalem, and a description of the "Great Holy Fire" and the ceremonies connected therewith. Dr. Masterman and Professor Macalister provide a particularly interesting paper on the modern inhabitants of Palestine; and Mr. Joseph Offord, in addition to his Notes on Jewish Antiquities, writes of "Egyptian Records Illustrative of Genesis xxxvi."

The "Life and Letters" of Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff are announced by Mr. Murray. It is a record, mainly told in his own words, of public service in India and Egypt, at home and abroad. It throws interesting sidelights upon the

early events of the British occupation of Egypt, including the death of General Gordon, the Cromer administration, and the regeneration of the country, to which Sir Colin's own bold schemes of irrigation largely contributed.

Mr. John Richmond, of 14-15, Conduit Street, W.1, has just published a very remarkable book of visions, with the suggestive title of "The Swine Gods," by Regina Miriam Bloch, a foreword by Israel Zangwill, and a cover designed by Will Gordon Mein. Price 3s. 6d. net. "The Swine Gods" is a peculiarly vivid and appealing work, strong but elusive, repellent, yet with a profound charm that fascinates. A brilliant literary career is predicted for the young author.

CONSTANTINOPLE: PAST AND FUTURE.

At the Royal Victoria Hall last Tuesday evening the Rev. J. A. Douglas, who was at one time Chaplain of the British Embassy in Constantinople, lectured on the past and future of that city. He said that Constantine's conversion to Christianity was not popular at Rome, and in 321, when he visited that city, he was hooted as he rode in the knights' procession to the Capitol. He left Rome the same day, and it was doubtful if he ever saw it again. He proceeded at once to carry out a plan which he had long meditated, that of building a city which should be to the eastern part of the empire what Rome was to the west—a centre of civilisation. For this purpose he chose the site of Byzantium, and so completely pulled down the ancient city that to-day only one of its monuments remained—that of his predecessor Severus. He commenced his work in 325, and dedicated the city he had rebuilt in 330. The walls were built by Theodosius toward the end of the fifth century, and remained virgin for almost a thousand years. Saint Sophia was built by Justinian in 535, about a thousand years earlier than St. Peter's, which was built by Pope Leo to replace it when it fell into the hands of the Turks. Constantine brought many Roman nobles with him to the new city, but the bulk of the population was Greek, and continued so until after the conquest by the Turks in 1453. To-day the bulk of the population was, roughly, one-third Turkish, one-third Greek, and one-third Armenian, the Armenians having been originally brought there to replace the people that were massacred when the city was taken. From 1453 until recent times Constantinople lay like the sleeping beauty in the fairy story. The Kaiser imagined himself the prince who was to awaken her, and made his celebrated visit in 1898. Then the big officials were bought up, and the country got under German control. Of the future of Constantinople the lecturer said that it would be best if the city went to Russia. The Greeks would not be strong enough to hold it, and it would not be a good thing to internationalise the city and cut it off from the country around about it. But the crisis in Russia might leave the Russian people unwilling to face the responsibility of taking over Constantinople, and still more unwilling to appear as annexationists. What the future would be no one could say, but if the Allies carried the war through to victory, as they would, the Turk would have to leave Constantinople.

The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. One of these showed the door through which the Greek Patriarch was brought in 1825 when, out of revenge for a defeat they had sustained at the hands of the revolting Greeks, the Turks dragged him from the altar and hanged him in his vestments. Mr. Douglas said that the door has been kept closed ever since, and that every new Patriarch swears that he will never have it reopened until he goes through it to re-consecrate St. Sophia as a Christian church.

MESOPOTAMIA DAY.

The moderate weather which "favoured" Mesopotamia Day in England on April 14 was outdone in generosity by the thousands of people who purchased emblems which were sold in aid of the Comforts for British Troops Fund. An excellent "trade" was done by the hundreds of ladies who gave up their time to the "business," and before they had been long at work nearly everybody was in possession of the medal with a camel device, hanging from red, white, and blue ribbon, or a bunch of the "apples of Eden," or paper "palms." Camel brooches or leaves were also in steady demand. Nearly 3,000,000 emblems of various sorts were sold, and a large sum was realised.

Chief in interest among the sellers in London was Miss Stella Maude, daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, the British Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia. Early in the day, accompanied by Lord Goschen, Miss Maude went to Smithfield, the principal meat market in the metropolis, where a considerable sum was collected. Billingsgate, the famous fish-market, was also visited with similar success.

At the Stock Exchange Lord Grenfell rallied the members, who made huge purchases of emblems, paying for more than the tariff value for them. Lord Grenfell, in the course of a speech in which he appealed for funds, said the first troops to enter Baghdad were a squadron of Yeomanry, composed almost entirely of Stock Exchange men, and led by one of them.

Lloyd's was next visited, and there, for the first time in the history of the famous institution, a lady made a speech. That was Miss Maude, who, provided with a "slip," received the members' signatures for various sums. More than £1,000 was thus collected.

Mesopotamia Day was celebrated on Saturday last at Watford, which is the home of Sir Stanley Maude. Of the local committee, Lady Maude acted as president, and has since stated that the results locally exceeded all anticipations.

* "Armenian Legends and Poems." Illustrated and compiled by Zabelle C. Boyajian. (Dent. 21s. net.)

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style.)	Julian (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. April. 20 21 22	1917. April. 7 8 9	Friday Saturday Sunday	1335. Jumada II. 27 28 29	5677. Nisan. 28 29 30
23 24 25 26	10 11 12 13	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday,	Rejeb. 1 2 3 4	Iyar. 1 2 3 4

Monday is the birthday of Princess Xenia of Montenegro, fifth daughter of King Nicholas, who was born in Cetinje in 1881.

Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Mary, who was born at Sandringham in 1897.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on Sunday from the Continent.

Prince Emanuel Bibesco, the brother of Prince Antoine Bibesco, has returned to London from the United States.

Rear-Admiral Nicolas Graçoski, aide-de-camp to the King of Roumania, and representing the Roumanian Red Cross, has left London for Berne on a special mission.

On Sunday the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch entertained a large number of members of the Serbian Colony at luncheon at the Legation.

The Serbian Minister and M. Voislav Antonievitch, secretary, visited Manchester this week, and were entertained by the Lord Mayor at luncheon.

Colonel Radomir Boyovitch, who was formerly Serbian Minister of War, has arrived in London.

Colonel J. Nicolaievitch, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation, arrived in London last Friday from France.

Madame Take Jonescu has left London to pay a series of visits in the country.

At Windsor Castle last Saturday Major-General George Kemball had the honour of being received by the King, when his Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Major Arion returned to London from Paris last week and resumed his duties at India House.

According to the Greek Calendar, last Friday was Good Friday, and at the Greek Church, Bayswater, a service was held during the evening. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Constantine Pagonis, officiated, being assisted by the Archimandrite. The musical part of the service was under the direction of M. Napoleon Lambelet. Among the congregation were M. Jean Gennadius, Madame Gennadius, the *personnel* of the Legation of the Greek National Government, M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, Madame Misu, M. Michel B. Boeresco, Madame Take Jonescu, General Georgesco, of the Roumanian Military Mission, and Madame Georgesco.

Brigadier-General A. Carton de Wiart, V.C., D.S.O., is reported to have been wounded again, for the seventh time during the war.

Captain and Adjutant Fisher (who in civil life is connected with the Imperial Ottoman Bank) is at present at home wounded in the leg. He is getting along well.

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

Mrs. Highton, wife of Lieutenant Highton, R.N., gave birth to a son at Seaton Cottage, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, on the 15th inst. Both mother and child are doing well.

On Wednesday next, the second anniversary of the landing in Gallipoli, General Sir Ian Hamilton will unveil a memorial to the 29th Division in the Lady Chapel of Holy Trinity Church, Eltham, S.E. The memorial consists of a carved reredos, with an appropriate inscription and a list of the units in the original division. Bishop Montgomery is to perform the dedication.

Last Friday afternoon, at Lowestoft, Lady Jellicoe opened a bazaar in aid of a fund for providing a Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers. In the course of her opening speech, she said that her audience might be interested to know that Lord Kitchener's last day in this world was spent with Sir John Jellicoe on board his flagship, and that he talked very earnestly about the future of disabled sailors and soldiers. It would thus be seen that his sympathy and support would have been given fully to such a home.

Colonel Sir T. H. Holdich, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., will read a paper on "Baghdad" before the Central Asian Society, 22, Albemarle Street, on Wednesday, April 25. Sir H. Mortimer Durand, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., will preside.

Next Monday afternoon, at a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, which meets at 39, Upper Bedford Place, Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall will deliver an address on the modern folk-lore of Palestine.

On Sunday next, at the Unitarian Church, Reading, Professor Léon will lecture on "Turkish Poetry."

The Roumanian Red Cross Society has opened a depot at 24, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, and the committee will welcome the help of ladies who will assist by giving up a portion of their time to making bandages, dressings, shirts, rugs, etc., for Roumanian wounded. M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, is president; Lady Muriel Paget is chairman, and Mme. Misu is vice-chairman. The secretary is Miss Wright. Ladies who are willing to assist and learn the work are requested to call and see the secretary any day between 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund appeal for clothing for women and children, having received a cable from Salonika urgently asking for such clothing for refugees from the Monastir region. Mrs. Carrington Wilde will be very glad to receive parcels at 5, Cornwell Road, S.W.7.

Lieutenant R. H. Walker, of the Seaforth Highlanders, who was killed on April 9, was for some time in Athens as the representative of the Neuchatel Asphalt Company. He was the eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Walker, late Royal Artillery, of Eythorne, Wokingham, and married, in 1905, the elder daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Wathen, of Bridge Court, Hereford.

A correspondent writes:—Those of your readers who think the action of the Bulgars in the present war is rather due to their king than to the people, will be interested in the following instance of Bulgar chivalry, which we get from the letter of a British officer serving on that front. Our troops played football on a spot well within range and no notice was taken. When, however, they drilled there shells were thrown. Afterwards a notice was left where the British patrols would find it: "Play football there as much as you like, but if you drill there we must shell you."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The *London Gazette* notifies the following Army appointment: Brevet Major (temporary Colonel) Sir G. B. Macanley, K.C.M.G., C.B., Reserve of Officers, to be temporary Brigadier-General whilst employed as a Director of Railway Transport; April 19, 1917.

M. L. Melas, who has been appointed First Secretary at the Legation of the Greek Nationalist Government, arrived in London last week and entered upon his duties.

M. S. A. Vagliano has been appointed an Attaché to the Greek Legation in London of the Provisional Government presided over by M. Venizelos.

M. Sakellarides, late Greek Consul at Mansourah in Egypt, has been appointed to represent the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos in Cyprus.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff has received a letter from the Home Office stating that it has been decided to withdraw the recognition which was granted to the Greek Consul, M. Stephanatos, in his Consular capacity, says the *South Wales Daily News*. It may be remembered that some time ago Mr. Melville Heard was appointed to represent the Greek Provisional Government in Cardiff, M. Stephanatos representing the Greek Royalist Government.

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

OBITUARY.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL MATTHEWS.

Brigadier-General Godfrey Estcourt Matthews, C.B., C.M.G., R.M.L.I., who died of wounds on April 13, was born in 1866. He joined the Marines in 1884, and in 1897 was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army. With a break of a few months in 1910, he remained in Egypt until 1913. During these sixteen years General Matthews saw considerable active service on the Nile, and besides being twice mentioned in despatches, he was specially promoted to brevet-major, received the Order of the Mejidieh, second class, and later of the Osmanieh, third class, and was specially thanked by the Sirdar on behalf of the Sudan Government. General Matthews afterwards became Governor of the Province of the Upper Nile, and was subsequently appointed Commandant of the troops in the Khartoum District. Before leaving Egypt he was made a C.B. On the outbreak of war he was given command of a battalion of the Naval Division, and assisted at the landing at the Dardanelles on April 25, 1915, for which he received the C.M.G. He was wounded in July of that year, but was able to be in command of his battalion again for the operations in August. In May, 1916, he was given command of a brigade, and went out to another front in February. He was seriously wounded by a shell on April 12, and died the following day.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL BULKELEY-JOHNSON.

Brigadier-General Charles Bulkeley Bulkeley-Johnson, who was killed in action last week, took part in the Nile Expedition of 1899 and in the operations that led up to the defeat of the Khalifa. He was awarded the Egyptian medal with clasps and the Order of Mejidieh (4th Class), and was twice mentioned in despatches. He received his commission in 1887, at the age of twenty, and became a captain in 1894, and a major eight years later. He was appointed brigadier-general in November, 1914, on vacating the command of the Royal Scots Greys.

A correspondent writes to the *Morning Post*:—The death of Brigadier-General Bulkeley-Johnson seems to have passed almost unnoticed in last week's fighting, but those who knew him well know best what a loss the country has sustained in his death. He was the perfect specimen of the regimental officer in the old Army, keen on his regiment and profession, widely read, a deep thinker, and a great sportsman. In the late 'nineties, when peace seemed likely to reign indefinitely in Europe, he went to Egypt and spent four years in the Egyptian Cavalry, first organising and afterwards testing his work in the campaign which ended in the defeat and death of the Khalifa; he thus missed the South African War and the chance of making an even bigger name for himself than he had done in the Sudan. Shortly after he had returned to the Scots Greys he wrote an article in a London newspaper respecting the *arme blanche* in modern warfare. On taking over the command of the Scots Greys in 1911 he bent all his energy on training the regiment for active service, and it was a perfectly-trained unit that crossed to France in August, 1914. It went through the retreat from Mons to the Marne and up again to Ypres, with surprisingly light casualties to men and horses, largely due to his training and leadership. Honours fell thick and fast upon him. He was appointed Brigadier-General and A.D.C. to the King in November, 1914, and was awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honour and the Russian Order of St. George. During the long period of inactivity of the Cavalry his gallant spirit was always fretting for action, and now, in about the first cavalry action since the retreat, he has fallen. Details are still lacking, but we who knew him well will be surprised if he was not struck down well in front of his brigade, showing his men the way they should go, and cheering them on. His force of character, his example and training have left an indelible mark on his old regiment, where he was idolised by officers and men, and where he will long be missed. But for himself let there be "no moaning at the bar." He has "put out to sea" in the way he would have chosen.

The death is announced in action of Lieutenant F. H. Masham, H.A.C., seventh son of the late Mr. W. G. Masham, I.S.O., of the Board of Education, and a brother-in-law of Mr. Wm. Sprowson, of Constantinople, with whom he was formerly in partnership. In announcing Mr. Masham's death to his widow, the captain of his company wrote:—"We had to make an attack on a certain point, and whilst gallantly going forward with the company he was hit by a bullet and killed instantaneously, and mercifully saved all suffering. We shall miss him so much. Ever cheery and brave through these strenuous days—a magnificent example. We know only too well what his loss will mean to you and yours."

Captain Eric Fitzgerald Clarke, London Regiment, who was killed on April 9, was for some time in 1915 at Khartoum, whence he proceeded to the Gallipoli Peninsula, where he was wounded at Suvla Bay. While in Khartoum he edited the regimental paper, which afforded amusing reading at times to civilians as well as the soldiers. He was the eldest son of Mr. F. W. A. Clarke, Accountant and Comptroller-General of Customs and Excise, and of Mrs. Clarke, of 24, Nevern Square, S.W. From Shirley House Preparatory School, Blackheath, he went to Dulwich College, where he gained the Doughty Memorial prize for English literature and the Anstie Memorial reading prize, and in 1913 went up to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, with a classical scholarship. Immediately after the outbreak of war he obtained a commission from the University O.T.C.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

GARNETT.—On April 8, at Cairo, the wife of R. M. Garnett, Lieut. R.F.A., of a son.

HIGHTON.—At Seaton Cottage, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, on April 15, the wife of Lieutenant Highton, R.N., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

SNEATH—SUTTON.—On April 11, at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Road, W., by the Rev. Leonard McCabe, Arthur Sneath, B.A.(Cantab), Toynton, Felixstowe, late of Egyptian Government Civil Service, son of W. Sneath, Stamford, Lincs., to Lena, sixth daughter of the late Robert A. Sutton and of Mrs. Frances M. Sutton, Rose Lodge, Blackrock, Cork.

DEATHS.

ADAMS.—On April 6, 1917, at 33, Ailesbury Road, Dublin, William Chatterton Adams, Egyptian Civil Service, aged forty-three, eldest son of the late William Adams, J.P., Drumelton House, Cootehill, Co. Cavan. (Egyptian and Indian papers please copy.)

MACKAY.—On April 7, at Croydon, Richard Dermott ("Derry"), the elder son of Ernest and Dorothy Mackay, of Luxor, Upper Egypt, aged 2½ years.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,

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

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.

Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

FOR SUMMER SEASON—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel. TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.

4,000 feet above sea level.

6,000 feet above sea level.

Open from May till October.

Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troödos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOURY & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troödos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS YAGHOUT

may be obtained at

SELFRIDGE'S, Ltd., Oxford St., W.,

W. WHITELEY, Ltd., Queen's Rd., W.,

or direct from the makers,

MANOLI-CORBETTI,

22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1917.

AMERICA AND THE NEAR EAST

In his Message to Congress asking for an immediate declaration that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany President Wilson deliberately refrained from any reference to Bulgaria and Turkey, on the ground that these countries had not made war upon Americans or challenged them to defend their rights and their honour. It must have been evident, however, to the President and to the American people that their desire to differentiate between the members of the Central Alliance had little chance of materialising. Whatever views on the subject might be held in Sofia and Constantinople, Germany would work hard to secure that the maximum injury should be done to American interests wherever these could be reached. Accordingly, without any actual declaration, the United States find themselves drifting into a state of war with the Bulgarians and Turks, the first overt act of which would seem, on the part of the latter, to have been the internment of the American guardship *Scorpion*. American interests in the two countries are represented for the most part by mission and educational establishments; but these are important enough to be the object of vindictive action on the part of the Governments concerned, if they are minded in this instance also to model their conduct on that of their German mentors. The course of events, therefore, in the Near East in connection with America's entry into the war is worthy of being watched with some attention, in view of its bearing on the attitude of the United States towards the peace settlement. In declaring war upon Germany President Wilson stated that Americans had not quarrelled with the German people and had no feeling towards them but one of sympathy and friendship. Presumably he would claim to have the same feelings towards the Turks and Bulgarians. The Allies, it so happens, have a very definite quarrel with the German people; for quite apart from the outrages committed by the army, which after all is the nation, there is some ground for supposing that the rest of Germany, including professors, pastors and Red Cross nurses, have only been less guilty of vile practices through lack of the same opportunities. If America plays her full part in the war side by side with the Allies, Dr. Wilson may have occasion to revise his present opinions and to extend his quarrel to the German people; similarly, if the Bulgarian and Turkish Governments take German vengeance on American property, the terms of peace as they affect the Near East may entail some modification of the peace principles enunciated in the Message to Congress.

At this stage of the war Americans will be justified in hoping that both the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments may display sufficient independence of Germany to avoid extreme measures, although they may formally declare war on the United States. There is little likelihood of their engaging in military or naval operations with American forces, and it ought to be hard for them, even in existing circumstances, to forget the peculiar

obligations under which their respective countries are placed in regard to the American people. In Turkey, American mission activity dates back for sixty years, to a period when Bulgaria had not recovered her independence. Americans are responsible for practically all the secondary education that exists in the Ottoman Empire to-day, and the Turks are indebted to them for much of the intellectual development that prompted whatever spirit of progress Turkey has manifested. In the case of Bulgaria the debt to America is even greater. Robert College, founded at Bebek in 1863, and removed in 1871 to Rumeli Hissar on the Bosphorus, where it occupies a site of fifty acres, has throughout its useful career been attended by as many Bulgarians as Turks. For the first twenty years the great majority of its graduates were Bulgarians, and the institution earned from King Ferdinand the title of the nursery of Bulgarian statesmen. Constantinople College is a secondary school for girls, which was established first at Scutari in 1871, and was removed to its present site near Robert College in 1912. Two similar institutions at Samakof have played an important part in the development of education in Bulgaria, while in both countries numerous American mission stations have fulfilled the same rôle on a smaller scale. During the past year it is unfortunately true that a number of American schools and mission stations in Turkey have been closed, probably at Germany's instigation, on the ground that their existence became an anomaly after the abolition of the Capitulations. But because in the heyday of German influence the Turkish Government was quick to adopt a suggestion which pandered to its vanity, it does not necessarily follow that it will now consent to go the whole length of Germany's demands and commit itself to a policy which must irrevocably forfeit any kindly feeling the Government of the United States may have for the Ottoman Empire.

The determining factor in the attitude of the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments is likely to be the precise degree to which the German alliance is now proving irksome in Constantinople and Sofia. But apart from the fate of American property in the Near East the entry of the United States into the war inevitably raises the question of the future of Constantinople. Certain utterances on the part of responsible members of the new order in Russia have given rise to the belief that when peace terms come to be settled the Petrograd Government will not insist upon the possession of Constantinople, which formed the basis of understanding between the Entente Powers in 1915. It is no secret that the American Government at one time was not inclined to view with favour this part of the Allies' price of victory. In laying down the attitude of the United States towards the war on April 2 President Wilson confined himself for the most part to general statements, and naturally made no specific reference to Turkey. As far as anything he said may be held to bear on the subject, it is to be found in his indictment of autocratic Governments. If the hint is given to Germany that she must rid herself of the Hohenzollerns before she can hope to make her peace with the Allies, there will be an even stronger reason for the elimination of King Ferdinand's rule in Bulgaria and of the Government of the Committee of Union and Progress in Turkey. Whether the Turks can be expected to remodel their state on democratic lines in the way that the Germans are likely to do it is another matter, and even if a favourable answer could be given, it would still leave open the question of the future interests of Europe in regard to the fate of Constantinople. In view of the situation in Russia, we should prefer to see the problem in abeyance until such time as Russia is in a position to know her own mind. Too many cross-currents are at work to enable her to approach complicated questions of foreign policy in the right spirit. The future of the Straits ought not to be revived and decided again off-hand, after it has formed the subject of a formal statement by the Allied Powers. The suggestions of the United States will be worthy of full consideration; but let it be given in solemn conclave and not while flags are being waved from a sudden exuberance of spirits.

"TURANIAN" AND MOSLEM.

THE TURKISH APOSTASY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Turanian movement is not the spasmodic effort of a few enthusiasts. It represents a carefully matured plan most elaborately studied in its philosophical and practical aspects, and carried out on a vast and ambitious scale. The spirit of its teaching has been made to permeate all classes of the purely Turkish population, including women; while, in the army, it has been taught in the shape of a patriotic creed, and the force of military discipline has been laid at the service of its promoters. The movement, therefore, no longer expresses the creed of a limited number of nationalist fanatics, represented by the Central Committee of Union and Progress, or the extremist section of it, but of practically the whole of the Turkish people, backed by the formidable power of the army. Thus, the view that would represent the Turkish people as unwitting or unwilling tools in the hands of the Unionist Government can no longer be accepted. The Turkish race as a whole, with but few exceptions, stands convicted of indulging in a wanton political dream, for the realization of which it seized the opportunity of the world-war to commit most atrocious crimes. It is true that the initial responsibility lies with the C.U.P., but the whole of the Turkish nation has since shared the responsibility by its ready response. This is borne out by the easy success attained by the Unionist Government in modifying—with hardly a dissentient voice—the system of State education, embracing even the elementary schools, and in misappropriating the *Wakfs* funds.

Military officers of the higher grades were instructed to pay periodical visits to the barracks and there deliver lectures of a mixed religious and racial character, prepared by the Government. Were not the Turkish heart a ready soil, such sowings would not have yielded such an early and abundant harvest. In spite of successive admixtures of blood, the Turks have retained the original instincts of the wild men of the Steppes; and a creed aiming at conquest and domination through destruction and bloodshed found eager response in their souls. Islam, sympathetic as it is, despite its militant character, was sacrificed for the realization of this widest of human dreams. There was not enough of "iron and blood" in its teaching. The Turanian creed, framed on the Prussian pattern of militarism, appealed a thousand times more to the Turks' savage nature; and the proof is that, without any compulsion being employed, it quickly supplanted the religious heritage of centuries. The troops took up readily the heroic Turanian songs in place of the usual prayers which had, until lately, been compulsory, but are so no more. The simplest of Anatolians willingly accepted the idea that the prophet of later days is Enver! The fundamental rules of Islam became, for them, the Testimony (for the unity of God), Reason, Character, and the Collection of contributions for the Government and the War under the Turkish banner. An officer once declared that the most potent means for propagating their nationalist doctrine was the barracks.

Following the proclamation of the Constitution of 1908, several opinions were discussed at the Ottoman Congress as to the future political system in Turkey. Some recommended the maintenance of the old system, while others suggested that the principle of nationality should form the foundation-stone of the Empire. The partisans of the latter theory are the men now in power in Turkey. Some of these held that Islam should be used as a weapon with which to attain their ends. Then there appeared in the arena the well-known Turkish writer Jelal Noury Bey, the author of "Union of Islam." The title of this work is misleading, but any reader of ordinary intelligence will at once perceive beneath the innocent surface the author's covert design of depicting the "Islamic Union" as being, in fact, but a plot conceived by deep-thinking Arabs for arabicizing the nations under the name of Islam. "What," asks the writer, "are Islam and Islamic Union? Islam is not only a religion, but also a social organization, a moral doctrine, a governmental system, a code of laws, and a philosophy. As to Islamic Union, it means the constitution of a government subject to these laws, traditions and habits—the whole of a social fabric set up by the Arabs thousands of years before the rise of Islam."

This book passed quickly into three editions in Constantinople alone. It seemed to crystallize the racial aspirations and ambitions of the Turkish youth into a well-defined political creed. It served, moreover, to widen the chasm between Islam and the Turkish political ideal by popularizing and intensifying the idea that they were mutually antagonistic. Jelal Noury Bey says to the Turkish youth: "Every Moslem is an Arab"; and he has a subtle, though curious, way of arguing the point. "If," adds he, "we assume the stan-

dard of pure Arab nationality to be represented by 100 degrees, we find that the Moslem at the farthest confines of China is by one or more degrees an Arab, because, however ignorant he may be, he can always pronounce the *Shahada* (testimony of *Ash'had Inn la ilah illallah*) in Arabic, and he is by so much an Arab. He who knows the *Fatila* (the opening Sura of the Koran) is still more of an Arab. Each Moslem must necessarily learn something of the geography of Arabia and of the history of the Arabs when learning the tenets of his religion; and if he performs the sacred duty of pilgrimage he comes still more under the arabicizing influence of Islam." The example is cited of a man who enters for the first time a mosque for prayer. What first strikes his attention are the names of the *Suhaba* on the wall. He naturally asks what these represent, and he is told that the first is the name of our Master (Sayed) Mohammed, the Arab Prophet who was born in Mecca on such a date, and that the others are the names of Abu Bekr, Omar, Othman, and Ali. "Now by so much knowledge of Arabian history that man becomes somewhat an Arab. What benefit is to be derived from the pan-Islamic Union?" The author evades a clear answer, and adds: "What I know is that it is the duty of every young Turk to know himself first of all, then fix his eyes on the future. Know, oh, young Turks! that there is no union but by language. This I say to thee: propagate thy language and literature that thou and thy nation may attain happiness." These are, in brief, the underlying principles of Jelal Noury's political creed.

The following exposition of the Turkish point of view was given to a Moslem Syrian who had exceptional opportunities of coming in contact with leading "Turaniens." The speaker was a member of the formidable association, "Turk-Ujaghi," and a prominent leader of thought among the Young Turks:

"Know, my friend," said he, "that we Turks now regard Islam as being foreign to us. We were born Turks before we trod this religious path. In other words, we are Turks, and Nature has thus fashioned us. After the lapse of years and centuries over this natural legacy we have entered Islam; but it is known that Islam is essentially Arabian, because, if we analyze it, we find clearly that it rests on principles that are eminently suited to the Arab temperament; for the Prophet was an Arab, and was sent to the Arabs, and, as far as is known, he only mixed with the Arabs, and did not go beyond the limits of Arabia. That is why I tell thee that we Turks consider Islamic culture in this form as suggesting the case of an Oriental who wishes to imitate a Westerner's mode of life and thinking, and *vice versa*. None of these can fill their rôle in life properly, owing to the divergence between instinct and culture in each case, Nature having endowed each with a racial characteristic. We Turks consider Islam as a social organization, a sort of sociological philosophy, a legislative system, a code of laws, as Jelal Noury said; and, as thou knowest, each nation develops along special lines in this world struggle until it attains the final stage—complete maturity. The French, for example, have a special culture and a special social and political system, and their national development has followed along lines which are different from those of other nations. If we were to suppose that one of the Western nations entrusted to another the framing of its laws and the working of its system of national existence, we should see, as an inevitable consequence, the degeneration of that nation. Know, my friend, that there is in Islam, as Jelal Noury said, a mysterious agency, which only the few deep thinkers have been able to comprehend and unravel, that is, a strong distinctive assimilative quality. If we compare the Christian with the Moslem religion, we find that there is a vast difference, of a sociological order, between them. The distinguishing feature of Christianity is that it is non-racial; it does not impart a racial character to its followers, whereas Islam, on the contrary, impresses its followers with its national 'cachet,' which is purely Arabian. As I have told thee, life in this world is but the enacting of a social drama. But who plays the successful rôle? First of all, the spirit of the individual or society must be conformable to the function he or it is called upon to exercise, and must suit his or its temperament and character. If, for instance, we call upon a man, cowardly by nature, to fulfil the function of a brave hero, the result would be an awkward attempt, and a sorry and ridiculous failure, and *vice versa*. This symbolizes the

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square London, E.C.2.

relation between Arab and Turk. The Turkish nation is a Turanian nation from Moghulistan, which had a cult, as well as traditions and habits of life, different from those of the Arabs of Arabia proper. Consequently, the Arab can adopt the Islamic religion, and fulfil thereby a sociological function which the Turk cannot, however much he may try to perfect his rôle. Furthermore, the spirit of this religion is Arabian, and it is difficult for the Turk to acquire a profound knowledge of its teachings, however deeply he may study the Arabic language. I have not seen one Turk in ten thousand who was well versed in Arabic; wherefore we see the Arab playing this part (the Islamic one) more or less to perfection, while the Turk's effort in this sense is but an awkward, unnatural, and sorry performance."

The Turks professed Islam for over six centuries, until the Germans, to suit their own political designs, unhinged the minds of their youth by subtle philosophical sophistries. Vain children as the Turks have always been, especially in matters intellectual, the Germans, with wonderful astuteness, played upon this racial weakness, and have made them abandon the faith of their forefathers, and sacrifice it on the altar of foolish pride, by representing their race as the master race, whose high mission was the hegemony of Asia.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

Since the famed excavations at the Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, carried out by the British explorer, Wood, the Austrians have made further explorations at the site, as has also our countryman, Mr. Hogarth. These labours have resulted in considerable additions to the relics of the many sculptures which adorned the edifice. The whole subject is now adequately treated by Mr. W. R. Lethaby in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* for 1916. Among other facts concerning these decorative features of the temple, Mr. Lethaby shows that the finest carvings—those upon the angular base pedestals of the front row of the building and the circular drums of the second row of entrance columns—depicted the Labours of Hercules and the Adventures of Theseus, whilst those at the back of the temple, where all the columns were round ones, gave figures of Hellenic deities and tableaux of preparations for the great festival of Diana. He also describes the motives of the pedestal and other sculptures, showing how these were copied later by vase painters and artists of all *métiers* in Greece and Italy.

One of the finds of the Austrian Ephesus expedition was a relief of an Amazon, now preserved at Vienna. It probably came off the great Artemis Altar. At Copenhagen and Berlin there are replicas of statues of another Amazon from the Ephesus temple. The Amazon figure in the relief now at Vienna is designed under the inspiration of an earlier Amazon, which Herr Noack believes to have been the "Euenemon," or "lovely legged" Amazon of the sculptor Strongylion. It is well known that the great goddess, "Diana of the Ephesians" of the Acts was a many-breasted deity; but she was not the only one so depicted in Asia Minor, for in the *Comptes Rendus* of the French Academy, M. Cumont, one of the many Belgian savants who have escaped from the Germans, edited a relief in the Leyden Museum, found near Koula, in ancient Mæonia, which shows the goddess Anaitis with the upper part of her body covered with many breasts, and the stag, Diana's special companion, by her side.

The destruction of historical and scientific material rescued from decay by ardent scholars and antiquarians, often at the risk of health and life itself, caused by this war of *kultur* against human freedom, is incalculable. A crucial instance of this is the carrying off—ostensibly to Constantinople, but probably with the basic idea of their perhaps ultimately arriving at Berlin—of the many valuable manuscripts gathered together by the learned Fathers of the St. Joseph College at Beyrout. The gradual but steady decline of Asiatic Turkey in the last century caused thousands of manuscripts to pass into oblivion, and this collection consisted of the gleanings of codices sporadically saved in ruins, or by private owners, and representing the last existing fragments of a vast lost literature. Fortunately, some of the rarest texts have been published in the seven or eight complete volumes of the *Mélanges d'Archéologie Orientale* of the St. Joseph University, or in the excellently edited magazine *El Machiq*, which the Fathers have carried on for many years.

Apropos of manuscripts, M. Munier, of the French Institute at Cairo, has recently edited in the Institute's *Bulletin* a Coptic work, giving what purports to be a veracious life of Saints Maximus and Domecius, or Duma-

dus. This is a Sahidic text, from the Egyptian Hamouli Convent, of a book already partly extant in other Coptic dialects. The whole of the text and a careful translation are given. Whilst this does great honour to M. Munier's erudition, it seems a pity that some fifty pages and so much time and study should have been devoted to such a worthless production. The so-called "miracles" of the two "saints" are of the most fantastic and puerile description, resembling the absurd stories of ancient Egyptian magical papyri, and being quite unworthy of any genuine Christian hagiology. Whether any of the early Egyptian Christians gave credence to such falsehoods is a moot point, but early Coptic literature is practically made up of such vagaries, which may perhaps account for the delay in publishing the many Coptic treatises for which the late Mr. Pierpont Morgan paid such fabulous prices to a Cairene dealer.

The writer, some years ago, had the pleasure of being at Sakkara with M. Jean Capart when he was excavating the great tomb which was, and it is to be hoped still will be, the chief monument in the Musée Cinquantenaire, at Brussels. Carefully removed in pieces, it was reconstituted in Belgium as an old Egyptian mastaba. The Metropolitan Museum has in emulation recently excavated, shipped, and re-erected in New York another large sepulchre from Sakkara of the fifth dynasty. The work was carried out by Mr. A. Lythgoe, who is, we believe, a Canadian. It was built for a courtier and official named Perneb, about 2,800 years B.C., and so is certainly the oldest tomb embellished with bas relief in the United States.

A good many years ago Professor Flinders Petrie found and uncovered a smaller tomb near the Pyramids. The Cairo Museum authorities did not want it for their collection, and so it was filled in and thinly covered over again, but under the warning of the Professor that it was not, in his opinion, safe from clandestine spoliation. Nothing, however, happened to it for so many years that someone who evidently felt interested in its existence thought it had been forgotten. Then one day it suddenly disappeared, and the disturbed and empty ground was the only evidence of its once having been. The whole must have been uncovered, broken up, and removed by night. The person suspected was a wealthy native dealer at Giza, who doubtless intended to conceal it for so long that its disappearance would be forgotten, after which his sons could make a little fortune out of its sale, in pieces, to tourists and collectors. Instead of being profitable, however, the transaction proved just the opposite to the spoliator. There were too many people in the secret—for numbers must have been employed in the deed—and all these, when impecunious, demanded "baksheesh" to keep silence! Sir Gaston Maspero, feeling sure this very Egyptian form of Nemesis would almost ruin the culprit, let matters run the course they were sure to do by the banks of the Nile.

The newly issued volume for 1916 of the *Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie*, of Cairo, contains an essay by that very accurate Egyptologist, M. G. Daressey, upon the peculiar animal that figures throughout Egyptian history as the most generally used type of the god Set, who was almost—but not quite—always regarded as a malevolent being. It was he who murdered and dismembered Osiris, and he is supposed to have been the type of darkness and evil of the desert and sterility. The cause of M. Daressey's taking up this subject is a suggestion put forward by Dr. Schweinfurth that the creature in question depicts the Ethiopian and South African ant-eater, or aard-vark, of the Boers. This seems hardly likely to be the case, for although the head and curved snout of the Set animal, as shown by Schweinfurth, are nearly identical, the legs and long tail, with forked termination, which is often shown erected above the back, are quite alien from the aard-vark's form. The attribution to the ant-eater is, however, more plausible than to the okapi. M. Daressey decides that the animal is not a copy of anything really produced by Nature, but a fantastic imaginary creature which would be useless in a combat with man or another animal, and which thus typifies the impotence of Set, as against his conqueror Horus, or to injure any true pious Egyptian devotees of the latter deity.

General Caubone has informed the Greek Government that the Allies have proofs of the existence of organised bands in the Greek neutral zone, and of the complicity of officers and officials in the organisation of the bands.

Serbian children born in the invaded country during the Austrian rule have been so frequently christened by the names of Slobodan ("Freeman") and Nadejda ("Hope") that the Austrian authorities have sent an intimation to the Serbian priests forbidding them in future to christen children with such names.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Germany's Real Ambition.

Germany persists in her declaration that the Allies are fighting for nothing and that the war was forced on her. Count Gleichen, writing in the *National Review*, shows the absurdity and futility of the lie.

Such trifles as her unprovoked attack on Belgium and occupation of a large portion of Northern France and Western Russia were, of course, forced on her by the ingratitude of these countries [he writes with fine satire], and her conversion of Bulgaria and Turkey into allies for the suppression of Serbia and attacks on Egypt were necessitated by the outrageous treachery of Great Britain, combined with the obligation to help her Austrian ally in the south. Nothing was further from her thoughts than a war of extension or of conquest—it was purely a war for the purposes of self-defence.

Meanwhile, under cover of these protestations, the real tendency of her movements was becoming apparent. The "Mittel-Europa" scheme, heralded by writers of eminence and moderation, gradually took shape. At first tentatively and delicately expressed, for fear of hurting the feelings of her main ally, suggestions were put forward both in pamphlet form and in the Government Press hinting at the eventual moral absorption into the German Empire of the Austro-Hungarian one. It need hardly be said that the proposal was made as tending directly to the benefit of the Austrians and their numerous nationalities; and the possibilities of real absorption were never even mentioned. It was to be a closer binding, a closer relation, a closer communion, political and commercial, with the object of mutual defence against Russia and other evil Powers, and so on. Naumann's book on "Mittel Europa" was the first open and well-reasoned argument in favour of the movement; and it was followed by hordes of other more or less well-written pamphlets with the same object in view. The movement, however, was not at first foreshadowed as reaching, for the present, any further: the idea was merely Germany and Austria combined as a Central Power, and wits were exercised as to how far a central Customs Union (*Zollverein*) was possible, how a combination was to be effected of the different nationalities into one harmonious whole, etc.

The development of the main idea itself was, however, spreading. It cannot be called in any sense new, for the Pan-Germans have for many years been issuing their views on the desirability of a huge German Empire extending from the North Sea to Asia Minor, and beyond. But what is new is that the Government have now given their imprimatur and sanction to the diffusion of these Pan-Germanic—one might almost call them Super-Germanic—ideas.

A Venomous Pan-German.

Count Gleichen then proceeds to review a book by Franz Köhler—"unknown up to the present, but a thorough representative of the ignorant, frothy, and venomous spirit which unfortunately animates such a large proportion of the German people"—on "A Political Programme of Work for the whole German Nation and its Friends." The Count writes:—

Any importance that the book possesses is not intrinsically due to the theories that it enunciates, for these are visionary and largely impracticable. But it is certainly remarkable in showing that these wild projects for the future are, in spite of the ignorance displayed in their compilation, acceptable to masses of the author's fellow-countrymen, and are greedily swallowed by them. Still more remarkably evident is it that the Government, in sanctioning their publication, gives its tacit approval to this form of propaganda and desires the assimilation of these theories by the populace.

The main idea of the book—let us say it at once—is that it is the duty of every German to strive towards the formation of a new Triple Alliance consisting of:

(a) The Germanic race (exclusive, of course, of Great Britain, but comprising Germany, Austria-Hungary, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, and Sweden).

(b) The Western Slavs (Serbians, Czechs, Slovaks, Slovenes, Poles, Bulgarians, Letts, Balts, and the Little Russians, i.e., the inhabitants of the Ukraine).

(c) The Mohammedan world in general.

The ultimate object to be attained in this monstrous programme would seem to be the seizure of the world's trade—or, at all events, that of Central and South-East Europe, of Africa, and of a large part of Asia—by land, so as to make the commercial development of the Super-Empire independent of the sea and of England's superiority thereon. This hardly bears out the Emperor's dictum as to the future of Germany lying on the water, but it is satisfactory in so far that it appears to acknowledge the incapacity of Germany to wrest the sovereignty of the seas from ourselves. Perhaps—who knows?—it may have been written with the purpose of gradually accustoming the Teuton mind to the fallacy of the dictum aforesaid.

On the other hand, we are told at the beginning of the book in so many words that "the destruction of England stands in the forefront of our desires," and the author proceeds to justify this kindly project by an account of our relations with other States, and references to our history which are, briefly put, a tissue of falsehoods based on pure imagination. The author must have a poor opinion of the intelligence of his compatriots if he expects them to accept his statements without examination. But, judging by the circulation of this precious book, he is right in his estimate.

"Besieged in Kut."

Amongst the many excellent articles in the centenary number of *Blackwood's Magazine* not the least interesting is "Besieged in Kut—and After," by "C. B." It gives a great deal of interesting information about the country under war conditions, and the description of life in Kut before and during the earlier stages of the siege help us to realise as vividly as any mere reader can do, perhaps, something of the horror of that time. The author, who is, one gathers, a surgeon of the Indian Army, introduces us to the country at Busreh; and afterwards we accompany him on his adventurous journey up the Tigris. But before we leave Busreh we have a description of the palm—one almost writes "a tribute to the palm"—which undoubtedly merits quotation:—

We have become fond of the palm. She is Mesopotamia, so far as we have seen it—we have watched her and her mate quiescent during the winter, blossoming forth with flowers and new foliage in the spring, have noted the process of fertilisation guided and controlled by her human owners; watched the formation of the fruit whilst her large and graceful leaves spread themselves in their richness and pride; and, finally, have awaited with ever-increasing curiosity the ripening of the generous fruit hanging in great golden bunches from her neck. Borne down with the weight and wealth of the fruit, exhausted by their wonderful effort, these God-sent trees lose their gloss and colour; their lower leaves wither and brown; they look worn and bedraggled; they return to rest for another winter, and care not how their human taskmasters dispose of their progeny. They have done their work; they have earned their rest. Their fruit does not, however, represent their only usefulness. The lighter parts of the old frond are used for making matting, which forms the floors and walls of many a poor dwelling, whilst the stem of the leaf, tough and strong, serves the hundred purposes to which short sticks are put—the base of the old leaf is the staple fire-wood, and the trunks of the old trees are seen in many a rustic bridge over irrigation channels, and form the props or beams of many a house. No part of the palm is lost, nothing is wasted.

In describing the journey up the Tigris, the author tells us that at Kurnah there has been erected a look-out tower, 180 feet high, which affords a wonderful view of the flat country. He also mentions a fact not widely known: that Amarah owes much to the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, who "took a special interest in the design and erection of this tower." But perhaps the chief interest of this part of the article lies in the way in which it makes us realise the risk run by the party of being attacked and cut up by the Arabs. This, in view of our occupation of all the main points on the river, certainly strikes the reader as strange. Of Kut itself we have a detailed description; and here, again, we are made to understand what an important factor in the situation were the Arabs at that time. "The uncertain attitude of a force of Beni Lam Arabs a few miles away under the hills" led the British to "put in a good deal of work in preparing perimeter breastworks and small trenches around our hospital as part of a local defence scheme, which at one time appeared likely to assume prime importance."

At Ctesiphon and Kut.

Apparently the British left behind in Kut when our force advanced on Baghdad did not feel over-sanguine of the result; and when they got the news—on December 2—it cannot have been any surprise. This is how the first tidings came:—

Boom! boom! boom! Faintly the sound of distant guns was borne to us on the north wind. It was the 2nd of December, and, tired and hungry, we were sitting down to a late breakfast and talking inconsequently, but the unmistakable sound made us sit up and stare at each other. "By God! those are guns, F—," said one, and we were up and outside the tent in a second, listening for a repetition of the ominous sound. Boom! boom! Yes, there was no doubt about it, and all the tales and rumours of disaster we had been hearing at intervals for the past ten days suddenly seemed to take concrete form, and the ghastly truth of it all was borne in upon us. We conjured up visions of our struggling, retreating troops being pressed by a relentless foe, and having to fight hard to keep him off.

Boom! boom! they must be eight or ten miles away yet. God! what sort of a time have they had for the last sixty miles if they are still being so pressed within a mile or two of Kut, where they mean to stand? Such the unspoken question that rises unbidden to our lips, and we seem to realise in a flash something of the past ten days' horror through which the old 6th Division has passed.

Vivid descriptions of life under siege conditions are given, and no reader can fail to be intensely proud of the brave little garrison and the magnificent defence it put up. We can quote only one more passage. It refers to an attack on the fort on the right of our line, delivered just before Christmas:—

Frequent bombardments of the tiny place had knocked it about a good deal, and the violent shelling on Christmas Eve played sad havoc with the walls. But in spite of it all, the gallant garrison put up a great fight, and held the place for England. The Turks did their best to rush it, and came on gallantly in swarms, struggling over the rough ground, stumbling through and over the wire, and being shot down in hundreds. They reached and took the bastion. Clambering over such walls as were left, they

drove our men back and through the second line of defence that had been built across the base of the projection. This was all they could manage, and they were not allowed to stay there for long. A few hours later the gallant Blank and Downshires counter-attacked and drove them out, and no enemy ever set foot therein again until the end of the siege. Abdul had lost very heavily indeed, and he never attempted a similar attack in force.

The Bulgarians and the War.

Writing in the *Daily Express* from the Headquarters of the Serbian Army, Salonika, Major Claude Askew declares that "the Bulgars are not fighting in the same mood that they did a few months ago. Generally speaking, they are tired and demoralised. They have lost their spirit." And it is not surprising, of course, to be told that it is the Bulgarians' German masters who are mainly to blame for this state of affairs:—

Not only because the Germans rule with a rod of iron and appropriate to their own needs everything of the best that happens to be going—though this has a good deal to do with it—but because the Bulgars have not been allowed to fight according to their own method. The Boche does not favour infantry attack; he generally gets the worst of it when he is compelled to that course. He prefers to use the infantry for reconnoitring purposes, and then to bring up his heavy guns.

This is just what the Bulgar, like the Serb, cannot stand. He is not accustomed to remain long in the same place. The wars in which he has taken part, though frequent, have not been of great duration. He grows sick of lying in the trenches. He expects either to advance or to be driven back; the middle course is particularly distasteful to him; and it is just this that he has to put up with.

Contrasting the Bulgar with the Serb, Mr. Askew writes:—

The Bulgars have not the patriotism of the Serbs. Few of them, like the majority of the latter, are landowners on their own account. One is surprised, in talking to a Bulgarian prisoner or deserter, at the indifference he expresses as to the result of the war. He is naturally a fighter, and war comes agreeably to him for what he can make out of it, to say nothing of the old-standing enmity; but when it comes to making nothing whatever as far as he himself is concerned, to prolonging a struggle under extremely difficult circumstances, and, particularly, to finding himself forced to be content with a pound of bread a day—and lucky if he gets that—when he is accustomed to eat at least two pounds with every meal, then he becomes discontented and—deserts.

Another factor in the situation is that the letters the Bulgarian soldier receives from home have now lost all their former cheerfulness and are full of complaints as to the cost of living, the prolongation of the war, and so forth.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* touched on the same subject of Bulgarian weariness in an article ("The Balkan Outlook") published last Friday:—

Bulgaria, according to more than one source of news, has already provided a small echo of the (Russian) revolution. There is a great war-weariness throughout the country, and there have been riots at Sofia, where the people have demonstrated against Ferdinand and his German garrisons. It is, of course, easily possible to attach more importance to these symptoms than they deserve, and to build high expectations upon them would be foolish. But we cannot go far wrong in anticipating marked developments as the principle of Hohenzollern militarism approaches its end, and the new world order for which America now joins the Allies begins to take its place.

The Balkan Tangle.

Writing in the *April Empire Review* upon "Future International Relations," Mr. H. Douglas Gregory reminds his readers that the principle of nationality must be shortly observed by the Allies, as well as enforced by them. He continues:—

In the Balkans particularly it forms a most difficult problem, and there can be no permanent hope of peace, unless the rights and individuality of nations are most scrupulously regarded both by victors and vanquished.

There may be serious temptation, especially in the Balkans, to ignore racial considerations in territorial readjustment. Both Serbia and Roumania have suffered grave injury from Bulgaria, and doubtless a clamour will arise in some quarters to annex Bulgarian territory irrespective of the nationality of the inhabitants. If a permanent and statesmanlike settlement is to be reached this clamour must be resisted, as unjust annexation will simply lay the foundation for a future Balkan war. We must strive, after all this bloodshed, to achieve an enduring solution of the Balkan tangle.

If "an enduring solution" can indeed be reached, the war will not have been fought in vain. And if it is to be reached justice—not sentiment—must be the guiding principle.

The Allies at Salonika.

The following passage is taken from a leading article, "The Salonika Army," in Tuesday's *Times*:—

"The mountains grow green" in the Balkans, where the Orthodox Easter has ever been the most propitious moment for campaigning. Indeed, the hope is widely shared in quarters where the war is regarded as a correlated whole that the apparent quiescence of General Sarrail's forces may be apparent only. His Army has now been reinforced by some tens of thousands

of Venizelist Hellenes, upon whose efficiency and moral General Sarrail is understood recently to have made a highly satisfactory report. The situation at Athens, which at one moment seemed to involve the danger of a flank attack upon his communications, is believed to be well in hand, and King Constantine himself to have been rendered by the logic of events a wiser, albeit a somewhat sadder, potentate than when he and his misguided counsellors were awaiting German succour from the north. From the military standpoint it is even more important that, were King Constantine never so ill-disposed towards the Allies, his power for evil has been so curtailed by the measures concerted at the Rome Conference that he is scarcely in a position to do much harm. He may safely be left to his own devices—for the present. The Commander of the Allied Forces in the Balkans should therefore be free to concentrate all his energy upon the defeat of the enemy entrenched before him. That enemy is the Bulgar.

After referring to the dropping in the Bulgarian lines of proclamations calling upon the enemy to imitate the example of Russia, the article remarks that the Bulgarians are a hard-headed folk, who are more amenable to manifestations of power than to arguments by proclamation. "Defeat in the field would serve to quicken their apprehension of German wiles—and of German impotence." And it concludes with the expression of the hope that "the great Allied Army of Salonika will speedily justify its existence by teaching the Bulgar dupes of Germany a stern and wholesome lesson."

"Time the Despot."

Under the above title, Mr. Crawford Price contributes an interesting article to the *Daily Graphic*. He holds that a crisis is coming in Greece; and believes that we may already detect the first signs of an oncoming tempest. He continues:—

In order that we may understand the situation when it arises, it is necessary to remember that in October, 1895, the King, so to speak, descended from his throne and became the chief of a political party—which may be called the Royalist or Anti-Venizelist party, as you will—and that the party adopted the programme laid down by its Royal leader. For the purposes of argument, we may leave aside the matter of German influence and propaganda and the mistakes of omission and commission of which Entente diplomacy was guilty, because after we have stripped the question of these important trappings the fact remains that King Constantine came forward himself with a cut-and-dried policy, which is now shown to have involved his country in divers nefarious consequences.

He then sketches the "motley party of men" grouped round the King's policy. It is not an attractive group, and what it will do, or not do, if and when the King requires its real help and service, remains to be seen. That "minority of Hellenes who have been alienated from Venizelos will commence to balance up accounts" ere long:—

They will find, much to their displeasure, that the prospects of Greater Hellas have been jettisoned. In addition, they will discover that the State has been commercially and financially ruined, that constitutional liberty has been usurped by a despotism, that the much-trumpeted German prowess is powerless to harm them, that Greece is rent in twain, friendless, degraded, and dishonoured, and that in that same Venizelos who was scorned and persecuted lies the only hope that the existing frontiers of the kingdom may be maintained intact.

Inwardly, the people may upbraid themselves for having lost faith in Venizelos; but, outwardly, while they will blame the Allies for having played their cards so badly, they will throw the onus of the responsibility upon King Constantine. M. Venizelos thinks that the internal Greek settlement must await the close of the war—and it is certain that the Nationalists will never lay down their arms until they have restored constitutional liberty and personal freedom to their country—but it is possible that the crisis will be precipitated from within at an earlier date. These first murmurings of discontent at the failure of the Royal policy may grow in volume, and, mingling with the voice of the majority (which, even in Old Greece, has remained faithful to Venizelos), themselves sweep away the newly raised ramparts of Prussianism in Hellas.

"False Prophecies Come True."

The *World's Work* for April draws a telling comparison between the first advance on Baghdad and the second. It says:—

The first Mesopotamian campaign was characterised by too great hurry and too little preparation. Roads were not built, transport was uncertain, and the weather so constantly unfavourable as to prove almost an ally of the Turks. Through humiliation we have, in our usual fashion, won through to success.

Competent Eastern authorities tell us that even the failure at Gallipoli has now been wiped out. Certainly the Eastern world attaches the greatest importance to Baghdad; and again believes in the long, strong arm of the British Empire.

Soldiers everywhere are unanimous in admiration of the conduct of the best planned and most successful military operation of the war. It is not often that false prophecies come true; but when eighteen months ago, acting upon Mr. Asquith's soft and comforting assurances, we lavished just such praise upon the expedition ending so disastrously in the surrender of Kut, few could have dreamed of a day to come when similar phrases would prove well earned.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The excellent appreciation in the value of P. and O. Deferred stock which has been witnessed during the past few days need occasion no surprise. For one thing the directors have been able to maintain the 3 per cent. increase in the interim dividend—the return for last year, it will be recalled, was 18 per cent., against the usual 15—and Lord Inchcape, to whose fine leadership this enhanced prosperity is really due, declared at the meeting that the increase was not to be regarded merely as a war development. The last quotation of the stock on April 18 was 324½—a rise of four points on the day. Excellent, indeed!

As a matter of fact, those who are "in the know" will not be surprised. The famous company stands out as a model of steamship management; its chiefs have an extraordinary facility for choosing the right men for the right places. Afloat, its officers command the supreme confidence of shippers and passengers, and with all these circumstances in view we may regard the prospects of the company as brilliant. Testimonials of this kind are often platitudes, but in the case of the P. and O. I can speak from an experience going well into twenty years, particularly east of the Canal, where conditions are more trying than they are in other trades. Lord Inchcape, it will be recalled, with Sir M. C. Turner, also took a leading part in establishing the prosperity of the British India years before that great concern linked up its fortunes so closely with the P. and O.

What do our Greek friends say now regarding King Constantine's Hun colleagues? The story of the torpedoing of the Nestos, a steamship belonging to the National Steam Navigation Company of Greece, which was carrying to a Greek port a cargo of wheat consigned to the Greek Government, will require some explanation. The wheat was intended for food for the hungry Greek poor, and the Berlin and Vienna Governments were duly informed of all the circumstances. Both ship and cargo were insured by the National Bank of Greece, under the guarantee of the Greek Government. There was no question whatever of Allied interest in the vessel or her cargo, and the Huns and their allies could not possibly have been in any doubt in the matter.

"Why do the Greek people not act?" a Greek friend with whom I discussed the matter asked me. Of course, I could not say, but I gathered from him that the entire colony in this country would hail definite action against German interests in Greece with great satisfaction, whoever took it. "Quite apart from the question of national honour," said my friend, "there is the welfare of Greek trade now and in the future to be considered." I must not repeat all he told me lest I embarrass, and be embarrassed by, my friend the Censor; I may say, however, that the Greeks in Britain, profoundly pro-Ally in sympathy, are greatly distressed by the continuance of the intolerable situation. The case of the Nestos will not act as a balm to their wounds.

In the meantime the financial difficulties of the Greek Government are increasing. The proposal to tax the war profits of the shipowners has upset that class very considerably; but seeing that shipowning has been the only profitable industry in the country since the war broke out, the proposal is not entirely unjustifiable. The revenue from those parts of the country occupied by our friend M. Venizelos's party has been entirely lost to the Royalist Government, and I have a shrewd suspicion that if the profits tax were intended to assist the Venizelist exchequer the opposition to it would not be so strenuous as it appears to be. The pity of it all is that the King is looking for the quickest way to the Bankruptcy Court; if he had played the game with the people who gave the throne to his family they would not have been in such desperate straits today. The unfortunate point about the lost revenue is that investors in Allied and neutral countries will suffer in common with those in enemy lands, because the money is devoted usually to meeting obligations on loans incurred abroad.

The fact, mentioned in the letter from our Cairo Correspondent, which is published to-day, that in February last the value of exports of cotton from Egypt was less by more than a million pounds will serve to recall that the cotton textile manufacturing trade in Lancashire is faced by a grave crisis. Fewer vessels will be available for non-war freights, and as Sir L. C. Money, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping, stated in the House of Commons last week, the exigencies of national need demand that ships should be employed on short voyages. The cotton trade is as unhappily situated as others which depend on imported raw material. Cotton has to be brought to England for the mills, and the manufactured goods have to be shipped to the overseas markets, which means, of course, a double drain on shipping. The situation in Manchester is acute. I learn from the *Textile Mercury* that "yarn and cloth to the value of millions of pounds sterling are lying in mills, warehouses, and docks that should have been delivered months ago."

There is a lesson for Egypt to learn in this matter. It is that the time has come for her to make herself less dependent of overseas buyers of cotton, and this can only be done by embarking on a new campaign of industry. If Egypt used her own cotton for textile manufactures she would find herself well placed regarding markets. There are the Red Sea ports, East Africa, where new markets are in progress of being opened up, the Persian Gulf, and Mesopotamia, and certain parts of Arabia. I am fully aware that there are many difficulties in the way—there are always difficulties in the way of anything that is worth having—but there is no reason outside Egypt herself why she should not possess a prosperous textile industry. All that is wanted is a man to lead the way.

It would be interesting to discover the condition of the wheat crop in Bulgaria and other Balkan countries in enemy occupation. Reports from other producing centres are to the effect that there is a general shortage in the crops this year which works out at, approximately, 27 per

cent. below the yield of 1916 and 16 per cent. below the average of the five years 1911-1915. The returns on which this dismal calculation are based include those from India, Algeria, Egypt, Tunis, and all the great producing countries in the East and West.

The *Times* on Saturday outlined the scheme which has been suggested to improve the collection and circulation of commercial intelligence, and I am afraid that I am not impressed by it. In short, it amounts to this:—Chambers of Commerce will receive from the Foreign Trade Department the information received from Consuls, and will circulate it secretly to manufacturers and dealers in British goods who are members of the Chambers and whose names are approved by the Department. We all appreciate that there is considerable difficulty in the way of engineering reforms in war time, particularly when there are questions of labour involved, but it is by no means certain that the scheme now proposed to the Chambers will not entail large armies of clerks and the like—it does not matter by whom they are employed, by a Government office or a group of trade associations, the result is the same.

The point is made that, by this scheme, "instead of the wearisome and belated annual Consular report a form is substituted which every Consular officer is required to fill up quarterly." There need never have been a "belated annual report," and no Consular report ought ever to be wearisome to the people for whose benefit it is compiled. Furthermore, there ought not now to be a quarterly report. The period is too long. What is wanted in this country is the system worked by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, something of an equivalent, perhaps, of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the British Board of Trade. The "Bulletins" of the Bureau are published daily, and cover in brief and concise form an immense amount of ground. They present word pictures of markets and opportunities which are difficult to beat, and American traders in India, the Straits Settlements, and elsewhere have told me that these documents have proved invaluable to them.

I have a copy of one of the American Commerce Reports before me as I write, and to illustrate the ground covered in this small brochure of sixteen pages of the size of a large sheet of notepaper, I set out some of its principal contents:—

- Exports from London to U.S.
- Rubber production in Dutch East Indies.
- Advance in trans-Pacific freight rates.
- Returns of Canadian Government Railways.
- Raw soda deposits in East Africa.
- Hong Kong exports of bristles.
- American hardware in Hong Kong.
- Receipts of Vera Cruz Custom House.
- Features of Trinidad's holiday trade.
- Report of French West African Bank.
- Russian railway construction.
- South Africa independent in meat trade.
- British Columbia agricultural notes.
- Live-stock statistics of Bolivia.

Multiply that lot by about 300 for the working days of the year, and there is a fairly useful mass of ready-to-hand information to be placed at the disposal of manufacturers and traders.

COMMENTATOR

The Sudan and Its Economic Development.

No. 6.—The Halfa Province.

By PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

Entering from the Egyptian side, the flat, brown, and uninteresting-looking land of Halfa is the first Sudanese territory encountered by the traveller. So poorly is one impressed that one is reminded of Hare's description in "Guesses at Truth"—"the mind is like a sheet of white paper in this, that the impression it receives the oftenest, and retains the longest, is the blackest." Certainly in his progress through the province there is little that the traveller meets with scenically that helps to remove the unpleasant early effect of the ugly-looking country stretching away endlessly towards the Red Sea.

Halfa Province is almost evenly bisected by the railway line, which, commencing at Wady Halfa, runs across the continent to Port Sudan. West of the line is seen nothing but arid country, the general formation of which is that of a plain covered with sand or gravel, dotted here and there with black, forbidding-looking rocks, and steep, sometimes precipitous hills of from 100 to 800 feet elevation above the plain which falls gently and uniformly towards the Nile. East of the railway is what is known as the "Atbai," which lies approximately between N. Lat. 26° and 20°. Of this the northern half, inhabited by the Ababda, belongs to Egypt, and the southern portion, inhabited by the Bisharin and the Amarar, belongs to the Sudan. You will see this country labelled on some maps "the Nubian Desert"; but much of it is anything but true desert.

Favourable Climate.

In spite of the unattractive appearance of the country, the climate of Halfa Province is, perhaps, one of the best to be found in the Sudan, the air being absolutely pure, while the elevation—1,500 to 3,000 feet above sea level—considerably mitigates the shade temperature. If it were not for the intense glare of the sun, reflected from the sand and rocks, and the occasional waves of superheated air (such as destroyed a convoy on the march from Korosko to Abu Hamed in 1897), one would feel inclined to recommend Halfa as a "rest cure" for consumptives.

In such a desolate-looking region one would hardly expect to find any kind of vegetation whatever; but the traveller who leaves the railway track and wanders away inland will find plenty, and moreover of a luxuriant nature, on the banks and in the beds of the wadis—such as that of Alagi, where one sees the fine *sayal* and *heglig* trees, as well as the graceful *marakh*, the *arak*, and other evergreens, mixed with date-palms, beautiful grasses, and brilliantly coloured wild blossoms.

The town of Halfa formerly marked the limit of the rule of the ancient Egyptians on the south, while the famous Forts of Semnah and Kumna, which still stand at a distance of thirty-five miles from the Second Cataract, are now known to have been merely advanced outposts. Here, by the end of November, 1884, had passed through the 7,000 Egyptian troops, forming part of the first Sudan Expeditionary Force under the gallant Sir Herbert Stewart, while the 11,000 British troops, under Lord Wolseley, were transported between Assiout (sometimes spelt Asvút) and Wadi Halfa, a distance of 550 miles, by the agents of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son. The expedition, however, proved anything but a "pleasure trip." Nevertheless, so well did the eminent firm of tourist-agents carry out their task, that Mr. Royle,

the author of "The Egyptian Campaigns," has declared that had Cook been entrusted with the relief of General Gordon they would have succeeded in bringing that great soldier and his garrison safely out of Khartoum.

First Railway Track.

Here, also, in 1897, had been commenced the long line of railway track, the construction of which was found absolutely necessary to overcome the difficulty of transporting the troops of the Second Expeditionary Force. Abu Hamed was the objective point, and by the time that the track had reached but half-way from the Wadi Halfa, the Dervishes—who then infested the whole district—had been seriously defeated by General Hunter, no fewer than 1,300 of the enemy being killed and wounded out of a total of 1,500. Thus was the enterprise abundantly justified. The line finally reached Abu Hamed on October 31, 1897. The town remained the headquarters of the Sudan Government Railways until 1906, when the workshops, offices, and carriage sheds were removed to Atbara, where they still remain.

Precarious Cultivation.

In the Province of Halfa cultivation is carried on very precariously on account of the uncongenial nature of the soil and the always uncertain rainfall. When it rains, however, it rains—violent showers fall that beat the sand into temporary fountains of spray; while many places may go without rain for several years in succession, other parts are fairly well visited during the months of July and August (rains have even been known in May), such falls being classed as "Shuti" rains. Heavy dews are also met with, but they are not of sufficient density to make the short grass grow. The glorious Nile, of course, serves the district of Wadi Halfa, and opposite the town the width of the river cannot be less than 900 yards. It is navigable up to the foot of the Second Cataract, 26½ miles up stream. The old Halfa Camp, so famous in Sudanese history, was situated 802 miles from Cairo, while the Quarantine Station is still maintained here on a sandy slope towards the river.

The population of the province of Halfa is given officially as 38,325, and of this some 30,000 are Berberin. The province contains no nomad tribes, if one excepts a few of the Kababish from Dongola, who habitually reside there, but still pay their tribute to the adjoining province. Naturally, with so unresponsive a soil with which to deal, the people have very little opportunity of succeeding in agriculture, which is still further handicapped by the lack of rapid means of communication. Entirely dependent upon the vagaries of the Nile, it is always a question how much or how little prosperity is likely to attend the industry of the people.

Two Lean Years.

In the two successive years, 1913 and 1914, for instance, the crops secured proved exceedingly poor, owing to the low Nile. The crops usually grown are dura, wheat, and barley, but the mainstay is the date-palm, which flourishes in Halfa as it flourishes in but few other parts of the Sudan—Dongola alone excepted. Some 80 per cent. of the revenue is derived from date and land taxes. Fortunately, the people do not rely entirely for a living upon the pursuit of agriculture; if they did so, governmental assistance would be never-ending. A considerable number of the male population earn a fair living abroad, and, as a general rule, they faithfully transmit a substantial part of their winnings to their families in Halfa. In times of depression thousands of the people wander away from the province in search of a living elsewhere, always, however, coming back when reports reach them of improved local conditions.

As to the town of Halfa, "I'chabod" has long since been written above its portals, for,

with the removal of the railway headquarters, departed its *raison d'être*. Nevertheless, there remain several interesting buildings, such as the early official headquarters of the Kitchener days, with their neat and well-kept little gardens (maintained with difficulty on account of every drop of water expended upon them having to be drawn up from the Nile, running many feet below the banks), and the quarters of the European official element. Trees which were planted seventeen years ago—including sycamore, lebbek, wild fig, and acacia—give the town a semi-tropical appearance when first viewed from the Shellal steamer deck, thus softening to some extent the crude and ill-constructed native hovels which abound everywhere. Australian eucalyptus-trees have also flourished apace in Wadi Halfa, the strong perfume mixing pleasantly with the more delicate odour of the many roses which bloom in the Sudan practically all the year round.

"The Cabinet."

The European Government staff maintained is a modest one, consisting of the Governor (up till last month Mr. C. E. Lyall was the Governor, but he has now succeeded Captain C. H. Townsend as the Governor of Kassala); one Third Inspector, Mr. W. L. Cheesman, and the District Judge, Major S. K. Flint. A former Governor of this province, Mr. G. E. Iles, who left in 1914, and is now located in a similar capacity at Wad Medani, Blue Nile Province, effected many substantial improvements during his term of office. He did much to improve the sanitation of Halfa town, and worked loyally and successfully in regard to the land settlement of Orgin, commenced and completed in 1913. Apart from his undoubted administrative abilities, Mr. Iles is considered one of the finest Arabic scholars, having been one of the few Sudan officials to win the handsome cash bonus of £E100 offered by the Sudan Government to the successful competitor in the advanced Arabic examination. All three of the permanent officials above-mentioned are customarily located at Wadi Halfa.

U BOATS AND BRITISH SHIPS

Official tables have now been issued regarding the losses of shipping in the Hun U-boat campaign by the British authorities, and while, unfortunately, the toll has been heavy, there are no present indications of the materialisation of the German boast that the British Empire will be brought to her knees.

In a period of eight weeks 130 ships of over 1,600 tons, 58 ships of under 1,600 tons, and 65 fishing boats have been sunk, making a total of 253 vessels. During the same period 118 merchant vessels were unsuccessfully attacked by submarines. It appears, therefore, that out of every three ships subjected to attack two were sunk and one escaped. Some of the losses were due to mines, but how many is not shown.

Similar tables issued by the Allies indicate a somewhat different result. The French have lost 75 ships, and only nine vessels escaped, so that out of every seven ships attacked six were sunk.

The Italian tables also indicate a high proportion of losses relatively to the numbers attacked. The total sunk was 52, while the vessels which escaped were only five. Therefore out of every ten attacked nine were sunk.

Britons abroad will be glad to realise that so far as our figures of arrival and departure are concerned, those of the period mentioned show that the volume of traffic has been steadily maintained.

In the week which ended on March 18, the highest total was reached, both at British and French ports. Little change is to be noted in the traffic to and from Italian ports, the best week being that which ended on March 25.

GRANT & CHINN.

The British Sanitary Engineers
"of Egypt and the Sudan,"

CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."

Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

R. OTT AND CO.,

ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM.
(An Anglo-Swiss Firm.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE
AGENTS.

EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.

Telegrams: "Ottimo."

Slight Set - Back in Egyptian Trade.

Reduced Imports and Exports in February. Cotton Less by £1,131,940.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 22.

Trade fell off somewhat during February, according to the Customs returns for that month just published. Imports amounted to £E1,838,246 and exports to £E3,715,624, as against £E2,254,768 and £E4,763,071 in the corresponding month of the previous year. There was, therefore, a drop of £E416,523 in imports and one of £E1,047,447 in exports, but it is interesting to note that the figures for February this year are still in excess of those for February, 1915.

The total imports for the two first months of the current year came to £E4,432,291 and the exports to £E9,078,062, representing increases of £E482,468 and £E1,066,622 respectively over the totals for the corresponding period of 1916.

Principal Imports.

The principal imports during the month were: preserved meat £E103,618, barley £E11,323, flour £E34,702, coffee £E54,560, wine £E16,119, beer £E21,795, petroleum £E82,709, liquid fuel £E30,215, stationery £E63,771, coal £E283,552, indigo £E15,791, drugs £E12,874, cotton threads £E53,941, cotton tissues £E367,574, sacks £E21,011, wool tissues £E22,580, worked iron and steel £E47,964, and machinery £E13,545.

No wheat, maize or other cereals were imported during the month, and the principal decreases were in flour and barley, both of which fell off by 50 per cent., beer by 33 per cent., common soap by 80 per cent., tobacco imports increased by £E28,168, to £E96,181, or by 300 tons to 900 tons.

Exports.

The most important exports were: eggs, which fell off by £E33,927 to £E71,071; skins and tanned goods, which improved by £E17,169 to £E34,538; cereals, which fell off by £E105,360 to £E93,193; sugar, which increased from £E10,723 to £E148,813; cotton seed oil, which rose from practically nil to £E23,504; cotton, which decreased by £E1,131,940 to £E3,030,943; and cotton seed and cake, which improved by £E41,719 to £E215,245.

Owing to the prohibition of imports into Great Britain no quails were exported; the export of alcohol also fell to comparatively nil. Cigarettes slightly decreased during the month.

Cause and Effect.

The decrease in the imports is accounted for by the falling off in the shipments from Great Britain, Chili, and Canada. The former's share fell by £E264,463 to £E822,599, whilst nothing came from the other two countries. Great Britain sent all the coal, chemical manures and barley, 6 per cent. of the beer, 60 per cent. of the textiles (75 per cent. of the cotton tissues and 80 per cent. of the wool tissues) and 80 per cent. of the metals.

Australia rose from a fraction to £E102,245 (preserved meat), America from £E94,828 to £E112,391 (all the petroleum and benzene, half the skins and all but a fraction of the construction wood), Greece by £E15,051 to £E92,725 (due to the increase in tobacco), Norway from £E1,611 to £E13,589 (half the writing and printing paper and 14 per cent. of the packing paper and cardboard), Persia from £E13,037 to £E35,936 (all the liquid fuel and over half the carpets), Italy fell off by about 10 per cent., Sweden by two-thirds, and France by 60 per cent. Great Britain's share of the exports decreased by £E669,177 to £E1,500,311; she took all the wool, cotton seed and cake, 36 per cent. of the cotton, and practically all the eggs.

Advance India!

On the other hand, India trebled her purchases to £E28,797 (almost entirely sugar). America fell off by 12 per cent. to

£E1,181,482, Japan by £E110,945 to £E47,257, Russia by 85 per cent. to £E35,785, and France by £E210,814 (practically all cotton), but it is interesting to note that the French Possessions in the Mediterranean make up for a good part of the decrease in their mother-country's share, by taking £E120,991, against £E912 a year ago (all sugar). Switzerland is once more to the fore with £E227,010, against £E30,546 (all cotton).

Trade With the Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan was brisk during February. Imports thence into Egypt more than doubled, the figures being £E167,883 as compared with £E81,654; traffic in the other direction, however, fell off slightly from £E94,680 to £E89,440. The chief imports into Egypt were: skins £E10,800, maize £E56,969, sesame £E13,280, live-stock £E50,660, gum £E5,566, charcoal £E2,227, and senna £E3,248. Exports from Egypt into the Sudan were: refined sugar £E15,744, and cotton tissues £E21,826.

EGYPTIAN FOOD CROPS.

The yield from the Egyptian maize and millet crops will be slightly above the normal, according to the most recent reports. The condition of the rice crops is from 6 to 10 per cent. above the average, while wheat and barley are only just normal. With the exception of maize, all the areas sown are larger than in the year before the war, but it is feared that there will be a shortage in the supply of breadstuffs this year owing to the drastic curtailment of flour and rice imports. The Government is encouraging the production of crops that will assist in alleviating the situation, and arrangements have been made for a substantial increase in the area under potatoes. It is customary in Egypt to rely mainly on imported potatoes, only just sufficient being cultivated in the country to meet requirements during the winter months, when the supply abroad is at its lowest ebb. Seed potatoes also have to be imported, the locally-produced seed, as in other tropical countries, being of no use for reproduction. Hitherto Italy has been the main source of Egypt's potato supply, but now this market is closed, the export of all foodstuffs having been forbidden. The British military authorities have, as described in THE NEAR EAST some time ago, placed a certain quantity of good seed potatoes at the disposal of the Egyptian Government, and this timely assistance will materially help to counterbalance the anticipated shortage of breadstuffs.

WORLD'S WHEAT CROP IN 1917.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute:—

The yield of wheat in 1916 and 1916-17 is not yet known for the following countries:—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Russia-in-Asia, Chile and Uruguay, but in the case of the following countries it is known:—Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, United States, India, Japan, Algeria, Egypt, Tunis, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand.

The total yield of wheat in these countries is estimated at 293,384,000 cwt., or 27.7 per cent. below the yield of 1916 and 16.9 per cent. below the average of the five years 1911-15. The carry-over of the preceding crop remaining at the beginning of the commercial season (August 1, 1916, in the Northern Hemisphere, and January 1, 1917, in the Southern Hemisphere), together is estimated at 50,484,000 cwt., making the total available supply 343,868,000 cwt.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

Buyers and Sellers Go Slow Owing to Uncertain Outlook.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, April 19.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the past week have not shown very much change. The outlook is very uncertain, and buyers and sellers are still disposed to go slowly. Some recent developments in our local industry have not been very favourable, and the fact that an old-established spinning and weaving concern is going into liquidation has caused some nervousness as to the future financial position.

Many ups and downs have occurred in raw cotton rates, and many things may happen to prices during the next few months. The application of the operative weavers for an advance in wages has been strongly refused, but we shall probably hear more of this matter, and it is said the trade union officials are determined to press their demand.

Users of Egyptian cotton are a good deal harassed at the moment, and difficulty is experienced in obtaining adequate supplies of certain grades. Advances as to clearances of piece goods in Egypt are generally encouraging, and steady buying has continued to take place in our market.

Although prices are on a high level, further supplies are needed abroad, and the demand from the up-country districts is said to be improving, there being better advices from Baghdad.

For India, scattered sales have been put through, but most of the offers have been disappointing, especially in grey shirtings.

Some special transactions have been mentioned for China in white and grey shirtings, without the general demand being important.

The South American markets have given rather irregular support. Useful orders continue to be booked in home trade fabrics. American yarns for home use have been sold in small lots at irregular rates.

It has been hard work to arrange transactions in shipping yarns, but there has been inquiry about in bundles for India.

Egyptian yarns have been firm in quotation, without much activity. The higher numbers continue distinctly better situated than coarse counts, such as 60's twist.

BOARD OF TRADE ACTIVITIES.

Sir William Clark, Comptroller of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, explained to a gathering of members of the Aldwych Club on Tuesday what the Government is doing to further British trade abroad.

The Intelligence Branch, which was established twenty years ago, did not flourish at first, said Sir William, but when it was rid of official surroundings and was accommodated with offices in Basinghall Street it began a career of great usefulness. This usefulness had increased considerably since the outbreak of the war. Information had been acquired and collated and distributed to those interested.

A library of 7,000 volumes of trade catalogues had been collected, and representatives had been sent abroad to study trade necessities. Attached to the Department was a section consisting of commercial experts, with special trade information and a polyglot command of languages. But the chief glory of the Department was, he thought, the institution of industrial fairs in this country on lines modified from those of the Leipzig fair. The third of these had been held, and it was intended to hold them yearly.

RESTRICTED TRADE.

The supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of April 19 contained complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported to various destinations from British India, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, Egypt, Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius and Ceylon. Copies of the supplement may be obtained either from any bookseller or from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

WORLD'S TOBACCO SUPPLIES**Russian Planters and the Serious Shortage.**

The serious scarcity in cigarette tobacco owing to the dislocation in supplies from Turkey and Macedonia has caused the more important manufacturers to look abroad for a solution of the problem with which they have thus been confronted.

According to a writer in the *Financier and Bullionist*, the manufacturers, when they realized the situation, "began to take measures to get into their hands the finest parcels of Russian leaf in order to send them abroad as soon as possible, the more so as the inland market was quite secured with the existing supplies. Not being bound by fixed prices for tobacco goods, they can purchase leaf tobacco at much higher prices than is permitted for the supply of the inland market, for which only poor parcels of tobacco and trash is available which was unsaleable previous to the war.

"Coming to the planters, it must be observed, first of all, that very favourable circumstances have smiled on them. After two years of war, thanks to a great rise in the price of tobacco, planters to a great extent spread their responsibilities and losses over a period of years. Large profits for these

years made it possible for them to improve their properties and build stores, of which great need had been experienced in the earlier times, when, instead of holding their tobacco for suitable prices, they had to sell it prematurely to obviate injury.

"Unfortunately, for some time amongst the tobacco planters an opinion has been forming that they should not extend their production this year, so as not to spoil prices now ruling for tobacco by offering large quantities. On this subject the organ of the Kuban tobacco growers observes that the state of the market, combined with the general conditions for supplying the world-market with cigarette tobacco, is such that with even an increased area of tobacco plantations, double that of the preceding year, prices would not suffer much.

"On the other hand, if the tobacco planters carry their intention into effect—namely, reduce the area of planting—this may produce a serious tobacco crisis which would materially affect the consumer."

The Société Internationale d'Etudes et de Travaux au Maroc and the Société d'Entreprises du Maroc Occidental (address—16, rue de l'Abbé de l'Épée, Paris) have jointly obtained the contract for the construction of the Bab Tisra section, near Mequinez, of the French part of the Tangier-Fez railway.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The parcel post to Russia is entirely suspended.

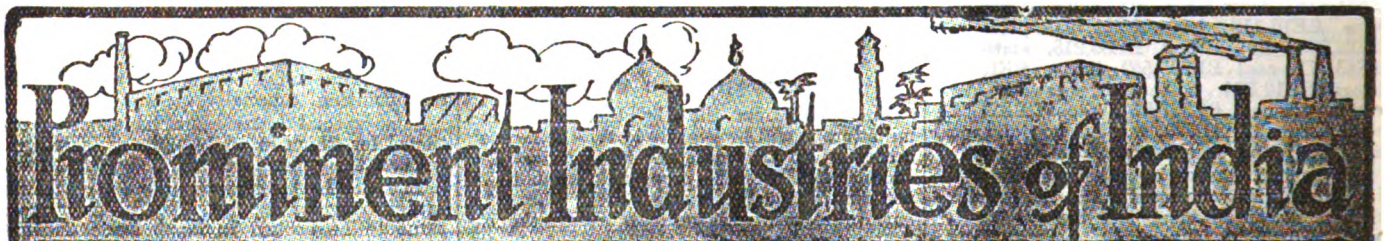
A large quantity of merchandise seized as prize on enemy ships is announced for sale through the Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Company, Ltd., in Alexandria.

The Bulgarian Sobranje has adjourned, after passing a Bill for the sequestration of all enemy property in Bulgaria and forbidding commercial relations with enemy countries.

An Alexandria message of April 10 states that the cottonseed market is dull and prices are easier at 131p., equivalent to £11 14s. 8d., for April, and 135p., equal to £12 1s. 10d. for May.

A Turkish *communiqué* says a Turkish submarine sank at the port of Alexandria the steamship Hamour (?) of 8,500 tons, with 7,000 tons of coal and 1,000 tons of cattle food on board. No steamer called the Hamour appears in Lloyd's Register.

Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co., Ltd., have acquired from Messrs. J. H. Welford and Co., Ltd., and the Gulf Transport Company their interests in the regular Gulf trade, together with the steamers Indore and Ikal, which were specially built for that trade.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

CYPRUS NOTES.

Decrease in Exports in Last Quarter of 1916.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT).

For the three months ended December 31, 1916, the value of imports is given as £321,693, as against £213,719, for the corresponding period in 1915. Exports £195,955, as against £213,465. Flour imported during this period was valued at £53,238.

Monopoly of Eggs.

The General Provost Marshal has decided that all eggs in the island will be bought by the Provost Marshal in each district, at six piastres (8d.) a dozen, and sold to the public at the same rate. All eggs which are not required for inland consumption are to be sold at 1s. a dozen for British troops at Salonika, the difference in price being applied to expenses of purchase, etc. It is not anticipated that, under present circumstances, the surplus for export will be large. The eggs will be sold at various depots in convenient centres.

Agricultural Prospects.

More rain has fallen very opportunely. The torrents have been filled, and have brought down abundant water for irrigation purposes. Mr. Bevan, Director of Agriculture, has been visiting the Solea district, which may be reckoned among the more progressive parts of the island.

At some villages the people made strong appeals for a return to the system under which Field Watchmen, an important class (now chosen by villagers) were formerly appointed and paid by the Government, being under District Inspectors. This is also desired in many other parts. Legislation would be necessary. These visits are of great value. Villagers are encouraged in tree planting, the upkeep of village school gardens, and on various questions relating to agricultural progress.

Mining Prospects.

The experimental borings which have been carried out at Athénou by Mr. Gunther, of the American Mining Company, having failed to produce satisfactory results, work at this site has been abandoned, and Mr. Gunther proposes to try a new field at Mitseros, also in the Nicosia District.

Mitseros lies in the northern spurs of the great central range of mountains, between two of the main branches of the torrent which irrigates the large Morphou plain in the north west, as the Pedies river does the central and eastern plains. Dr. Photiades, who is medical officer at the Amiantos Asbestos quarries on Mount Troodos, has been also appointed as physician at the American Company's copper mine at Skouriotissa.

ENGLISH SUGAR.

Sugar-producing countries in the Empire in which the industry has been neglected will be interested to learn that an enterprise for the production of British-grown sugar, estimated to cost £500,000, has now been initiated. A grant has been made by the Treasury of £125,000 by way of loan from the Development Fund towards the purchase of an estate of 5,600 acres at Kelham, near Newark, where it is proposed to grow sugar beet and to erect a factory for its manufacture into sugar. The undertaking is to be carried out by the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Limited, of which the chairman is Captain Beville Stanier, M.P. The property has already been acquired on behalf of the society by the vice-chairman, Mr. Ernest Jardine, M.P.

If the result of this enterprise is to make less urgent—from the Home point of view, the long-promised, but equally long-delayed—developments in our African and Indian possessions, the latter will have little cause for complaint.

EGYPTIAN COTTON SEED.

A noticeable decrease in the importation of Egyptian cotton seed into Britain is recorded during 1916 by the Port of Hull Annual, 1917. The decrease is accounted for largely by restricted transport facilities. As was the case in 1915, the entire crop came to the United Kingdom. Hull's share was nearly three-quarters of the whole shipment, but it worked out at about 85,000 tons below that last year.

WHY DATES ARE DEAR.

High Freights, Restricted Imports and Speculative Buying.

A correspondent who knows the trade, and all the conditions which have controlled it for years past, writes to THE NEAR EAST—in connection with "Corsair's" lament last week—to point out why the prices of this valuable fruit-food have advanced so remarkably in the last few months.

He writes: "The new dates were bought and packed at Busreh in September last, on the basis of a selling price of 9s. to 10s. cwt., free on board, in half-hundredweight cases, and 15s. in cartons. This was cheap enough, but the dates had to be brought home.

"Well, the general rate of freight from India to the United Kingdom was then about 90s. a ton, but slower loading at Busreh incurred ship demurrage, and shipowners deserved a better rate of freight. In circumstances over which the owners had no control, freights went up to anything between 180s. to 240s. a ton, of which, I understand, the owners received only from 72s. to 100s.

"Compared with a pre-war rate of 25s. a ton, the owner's share still remains exorbitant.

"This increase in freight meant an extra penny to the consumer on this side, but this was not all.

"Some of the owners are also date merchants, and have branches at Busreh, and some of these, again, combined to 'corner' the date trade and send prices 'up.' Dates that, even with dear freight, could have been sold profitably at 24s. a cwt. c.i.f. were not offered under 32s. and 33s. c.i.f. This added another penny to the price to be paid to the consumer. The consequence was that London retailers put the dates in their windows at 6d. per lb.

"Then came the Government order, which restricted imports to this country of various fruits. Speculators rushed quickly to buy dates, and paid 40s., then 44s., then 50s., then 55s. a cwt. Wherefor, the public has now to pay 8d. to 10d. a lb. instead of the pre-war prices of 2d. and less.

"Apply these 'principles' to wheat, rice, maize, lentils, peas, beans, macaroni, raisins, nuts, etc., and, if you can, discover the sums which the public pays to profiteers!"

CONSULAR REF

"Commentator," in his notes to-day, discusses a scheme of Consular reform which was published a few days ago.

It will be recalled that one of the most important recommendations made by the Dominions Royal Commission in their recently issued report has reference to the reform of the British Consular Service and is to the following effect:—"As regards the Consular Service the Commission recommends that a training of six months or a year in the Department of Commercial Intelligence should be regarded as essential before a Consul or Vice-Consul entering the service takes up his duties abroad. . . . It is remarked also that this brief preliminary training will be of little avail unless steps are taken to secure that adequate attention shall be paid to commercial matters during the subsequent career of Consular Officers.

"The Commission approves the suggestion that there should be a more extended system of trade representation in foreign countries, and recommends the appointment of officers with duties analogous to those of Trade Commissioners in the Dominions.

"In addition, the existing arrangements for partially utilising the service for the trade of the Dominions might be extended. For example, Consuls might be instructed to furnish occasional reports on openings for Dominion trade, similar to those relating to openings for United Kingdom trade which they already provide.

"Again, arrangements might be made to send to the competent Departments of the Dominions, or to their Trade Commissioners, information received from Consuls, Commercial Attachés and other sources abroad. Finally, Consuls in important centres might be instructed to pay periodic visits to the Dominions."

PIROT CARPET INDUSTRY.

A Famous Serbian Industry under War-Time Conditions.

A correspondent sends to the *Textile Mercury* an interesting account of the carpet industry of Pirot, as it is carried out under war-time conditions and under German occupation. He writes:—

The industry, which is mostly dependent upon the labour of women and children, has so far not been greatly interfered with by the war. Among the Bulgarian and German soldiers the young girls may be seen sitting or kneeling in front of the simple wooden frames on which they weave the white, red, and green carpets with their characteristic patterns. While working they sing, keeping time to the "tack-tack" of the looms, and as three or four girls work on each carpet, some very pleasant music is often to be heard.

A Cotton Industry.

The Pirot carpet weaving industry (Schiffli looms) is several centuries old. At one time it was a "personal industry" pure and simple; at present certain well-defined patterns, and styles are followed by everyone. The carpets are mostly made at home, the loom usually belonging to the weaver, while the wool is wholly or partially supplied by the employer.

If a large carpet is being made, and the members of one family are not sufficient to cope with it, two or even three families will combine in the work. For such assistance from 60 to 80 para (5d. to 6½d.) are paid per diem, or are booked to the credit of the weaver.

These women do not have an easy time of it; they work from ten to eighteen hours daily, and, with the low pay, obtain little money for themselves, save when able to make a carpet from their own materials, selling direct to the buyers. Even so they do not earn much, as the purchase price of these carpets only leaves a very poor margin of profit.

"Organized" Labour.

This sad state of affairs has led to the founding of the "Pirot Carpet Weavers' Union," the chief aims of which are to facilitate the purchase of cheap raw material and the due control of sale prices. Unfortunately, owing to the scattered situation of the various centres of production at Pirot, and also to the suspicious nature of the peasants, who preferred to buy their bad wool at dearer prices from travelling Wallachians, the Union has hitherto not made much progress. Now, however, a good warehouse stored with good wool has been opened, and, owing to the war, the peasants are being forced to patronise it, this helping to open their eyes to the folly of their action.

A few years ago the introduction of aniline dyes jeopardised the quality, and hence the reputation and very existence of these carpets; but the danger was soon removed, the State forbidding the use of these dyes, as the fame of the Pirot carpet was based upon its imperishable colours, original designs, and durability. The Union also is doing good work in retaining these features, and preventing the industry from being debased by "modern improvements."

Successful Exhibits.

Pirot carpets, which were exhibited at the World's Exhibition in Paris and Turin, and at the London Balkan Exhibition (at all of which they took first prizes), have still but a restricted sale abroad. This is due to the way in which sales are organised in Serbia, and so far the Union's capital has been too small to enable adequate dealing with the situation. A better time will come after the war, when this industry will no longer be crippled; when its beautiful products will, it is hoped, go out far and wide to win further and warmer friends in all parts of the globe. The Union is already taking steps to bring this about, and the efforts will be greatly assisted by the Balkan-Orient Railway, laid down by Germany, but destined (we will hope) to slip from her grasp into the hands of a worthier and nobler people.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas H. Barker, who was for many years Secretary to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The half-yearly dividend due on April 15, on the outstanding bonds of the Ottoman 3½ per cent. loan of 1894 (secured by the Egyptian Tribute) is payable at the offices of Messrs. Dent, Palmer and Co., 1, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons, due on May 1, on Egyptian Unified Bonds.

The numbers are announced of 112 bonds, amounting to £6,240, of the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. sterling loan 1911, which have been drawn for redemption on May 15.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 25 tons, against 23 tons; Hurgahda, 2,256 tons, against 2,635 tons.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended April 1, 88,500 poods; week ended April 8, 974 tons.

European Corporation.—Week ended March 25, 76,600 poods; week ended April 8, 87,900 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended April 10, 10,447 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended April 7, 47,900 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended April 5, 119,810 poods.

Meeting.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company, Ltd., will be held at 8, Sharia Bank el Watani, Cairo; on April 23.

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, April 19.

At the close of this week there has been a keen demand for money for short loans owing to the due payment on account of War Loan. The average rate for day-to-day advances consequently hardened to 4½ per cent., although in some directions there was cash to be had at 4. Some money, on weekly transaction basis, passed from the Bank of England at 5½ per cent. For fixtures 4½ and 4½ per cent. were paid.

Discount business has been fairly brisk, rates being from 1-16 to ¼ per cent harder all round. The bank rate continues at 5 per cent.

Exchange on Alexandria remains at 97½ piasres to the pound sterling.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

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

	1916.	1917.
April 11	Francs. 230,000	Francs. 250,000
April 12	239,000	160,000
April 13, 14	240,000	510,000
April 15	240,000	130,000
April 16	220,000	70,000

According to news received by *Beirut* (a journal bearing the name of the town) from Baalbeck, the Lebanese Government has established a special bureau to deal with the question of organising shelters for the poor, and appointed for it a manager and two inspectors. The Constantinople papers have paid a high tribute to Ali Munif Bey, Governor of the Lebanon, for the energetic efforts that have been made by him in connection with these shelters, which are being resorted to by thousands of needy people.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flat Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohit, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

ON 'CHANGE.

Growing Interest in Egyptian Stocks and Shares.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

Thursday, April 19.

There has been a growing interest in Egyptian shares, but so far not much business has resulted, owing to the scarcity of sellers at present levels. The price of cotton and other produce is much higher than it was a year ago, and, barring accidents, the encashments of all Egyptian companies, which were certainly quite satisfactory last year, should this year produce record results. It is not surprising, therefore, that the public should look about to pick up what shares offer at the present advantageously low level.

Agricultural Banks have been dealt in to-day up to 5½, showing an advance of ½, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks are ½ higher at 11½. Nationals remain a firm spot, but with hardly any business passing. Alexandria Waters are in continuous demand, and business has been done to-day at 12. Delta Light Rails have again been done at about 5 9-16.

Behéras continue to be wanted, but there are no sellers, and Behéras Prefrs. have improved to about 4. Gharbiehs are buyers at about 17s. 6d., but no shares are offering. New Egyptians are in strong demand, but here again the absence of sellers stops business. Some business was done in United Egyptian Lands at about 6d., and there are still better buyers to-night; but even here shares are scarce.

Markets are again firmer round 26s. 3d., and Salts have further improved 6d. to 20s. 6d. Khedivial Mails have been in constant demand, and have risen from 28s. to nearly 30s.

In Greek securities Bonds have been strong to-day, with a large business in Rentes round 44.44½, and a further 1 per cent. rise in 1881. 1884, Larissa and Monopoly.

Oil Shares.

This market has not recovered from the attack of lethargy which we have previously reported. The only improvements of note this week have taken place in Maikop Pipes, which advanced on Wednesday to 3s. 4½d., and Anglo-Persian Prefrs., which have been in moderate request, and rose 2½d. to 3d., finally halting at 22s.

There has also been some demand for new Schibaieffs, but sellers were scarce. Their price is hard at 7s. 6d. Ural Caspians have been steady at 1 11-16; Spies and North Caucasians have not been touched.

Paris Bourse.

Closing prices of Near Eastern interest on the Bourse on April 18 were:—Serbian 1895, 55 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 62 (unchanged); Crédit Foncier Egyptian, 635 (against 636); Ottoman Bank, 415 (against 416), and Suez Canal shares, 4,378 (against 4,400).

NOTICE.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that the FOURTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, on Wednesday, the 25th April, 1917, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report;
- Receiving the Auditors' Report;
- Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1917;
- Declaration of Dividends;
- Election of Directors;
- Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
- And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 4th April, 1917), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

- In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
- At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
- In London—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.
- F. T. ROWLATT, President.
- Cairo, 23rd March, 1917.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price	Price April 13.	Pre-sent Price.
	July 27, 1915.		
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	83½	83½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	70	69½	69½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	51	52
Do. 5%, 1884	56	51	52
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	47	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	41½	44
Do. 5%, 1890	56	50	52
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	49	50
Do. 4% Rents, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71½	71½
Do. 5% Currant	88	88	88
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	—	—	—
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., 1890	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% United Bonds	67	76½	77
Turkish 4%, 1891	84	68	69½
Do. 3½% P.g. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	52	52
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	6½	6½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11½
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pl. Warrants to Bearer	81	5½	5½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	17½	9½	9½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% ..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3½ Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment ..	2½	2½	2½
Behéras Co.	8½	7½	7½
Do. Pref.	4½	3½	4
Daira Sanieh	2½	2½	2½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. Do. and Foreign Trust ..	9½	9½	9½
Gharbieh Land Co.	5½	5½	5½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	9½	9½
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands	1½	1½	1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	25½	25½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1½	20½	20½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3½	28½	30½
Do. do. Prefrs.	—	3½	3½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10½	10½	10½
Anglo-Persian Pref.	21½	20½	20½
European Oilfields	3½	3½	3½
Roumanian Consolidated	9½	9½	9½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON MARCH 15.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E. 13½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. —
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E. 12
Soc. Anonyme du Behéras	L.E. —
lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. —
Bons de Panama	Frs. —
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) ..	Frs. 69
Privilegiée	Frs. —
Cheikh Fadi	Frs. 74
Urbanes et Rurales	L.E. —
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	Frs. —
Building Lands of Egypt	Frs. —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. —
Société des Immeubles	L.E. —
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. —
Unifiée	L.E. 81
Privilegiée	Frs. 70
Land Bank of Egypt	Frs. 4½
Do. Do. Fondateur	Frs. —
Presses et dépôts	Frs. —
Nungovich Hotels	Frs. 24
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	Frs. 5½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	Frs. —
Ord.	Frs. 26½
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	Frs. 6½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	Frs. 4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs. 4½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Canal	Frs. 101
Do. Do. Jouissance	Frs. 160
Egyptian Markets	Frs. 300
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 225
Div.	Frs. 180
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 20½
Egyptian Salt and Soda	Frs. 600
Credit Foncier Egyptian	Frs. 332
Do. 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 261½
Do. 1903	Frs. —
Do. 1911	Frs. 258
Delta Lands	Frs. —
Port Said Salt	Frs. —
Cotton Ginner	Frs. —
New Egyptian Co	F.T. —
United Lands	Frs. —
Levant S.S. Co.	Frs. —
Do. Do.	Frs. —

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 312.—Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	577	LEADING ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Arab and Turk	586	Notes and News	591
Cairo	579	NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF—		Sudan Crops	592
Cyprus	580	Turkey and the War	583	Pink Seed Worm	592
SPECIAL ARTICLES—		TANGIER TO TEHERAN	582	Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	593
Hill Stations in the Sudan ..	580	PERSONAL AND SOCIAL	584	Company Reports	593
Public Works in Egypt	587	THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST	589	Company Meetings	593
NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT ..	588	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—		On 'Change	596
		Greek "Flag-Wagging" in		Stock and Share List	596
		Cyprus	581		

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With the occupation of Samarra station another notable landmark has been reached in the Mesopotamian campaign. Some uncertainty has prevailed regarding the exact locality of railhead of this small section of the Baghdad Railway, as it was thought that the Turks had contrived to carry the line some miles further north. The capture, however, of a considerable quantity of rolling stock—sixteen locomotives and over two hundred trucks—would seem to indicate that the railway has not been extended, and that the enemy's retreat had been sufficiently hurried to prevent him from destroying all the railway material. General Maude's success has not been gained without stubborn fighting. The railway would naturally form the main line of the British advance, and the Turks in attempting a converging movement on General Maude's right flank no doubt hoped to strike a weak spot, and by rolling up the British front on this side to relieve the pressure on Samarra. Their effort was short-lived. Quickly routed, they were forced to fall back in the direction of Deli Abbas, and the advance on Samarra continued without further interruption.

Taking advantage of the course of the Tigris, which at this point flows almost due east, the Turks had selected a strong position for defence, some twelve miles south of Samarra, stretching from Istabulat, a station on the railway line, to the junction of the Shatt-el-Adhaim with the Tigris. Once again the enemy's defences were turned by means of a force thrown across the river at night, and on the morning of April 18 a general attack on the main position on the left bank of the Tigris was begun. It was completely successful; over twelve hundred Turks were taken prisoners, together with six machine guns and a considerable amount of other booty. General Maude mentions that only the exhaustion of the horses prevented the capture of the enemy's guns. The heat was excessive, and after a hard day's fight under such conditions it is not a matter for surprise to find that the troops engaged were given a respite the following days. The portion of the Istabulat position on the right bank of the Tigris remained in the hands of the Turks, but from these they were driven on the 21st or they evacuated them during the same night, and the next morning found the British advancing against a new Turkish position six miles nearer Samarra. The engagement began late in the afternoon, and was carried on well into the night. Fighting, it is stated, was severe

and hand-to-hand, numerous counter-attacks being made by the enemy, but he was driven from a stubbornly defended position elaborately prepared with iron-roofed dug-outs. Following in pursuit, British troops occupied Samarra station early on April 23.

The British and Russian forces in Mesopotamia are now disposed along the arc of a circle stretching from Samarra on the west through Deltawa and Kizil Robat to Kasr-i-Shirin on the Persian border. From the fact that enemy irregulars fell upon a Russian squadron at Shahroban, on the Baghdad—Kasr-i-Shirin road, on April 15, we may infer that the Turks who made the unsuccessful attack on General Maude's right flank are still in the district between Deltawa and Deli Abbas. In these circumstances, as both Kizil Robat and Khanikin are well to the north-east of Deli Abbas, there would be an excellent opportunity for the Allies to clear the whole of this region of the enemy, by a converging movement, if the Russians were in sufficient strength to support General Maude's operations on the western flank. There has been no news of General Baratoff's main force since the occupation of Khanikin; but the Turks report unsuccessful attempts on the part of the Russians to advance in the neighbourhood of Penjivin, on the Turco-Persian frontier north of Kasr-i-Shirin, and at Rowandiz, north-east of Mosul, and it is evident that the Russians are for the present unable to make headway against the enemy.

The experience of the Mesopotamia Expedition, as well as that of the force under General Dobell now in Palestine, suggests that the Turks still have considerable powers of resistance, and it may not be altogether an improbable statement that they have obtained the services of the redoubtable von Mackensen for the supreme command in Asiatic Turkey. Neither the fate of von der Goltz Pasha nor the general situation in the Ottoman Empire can make the post a very attractive one at this juncture, but from the German point of view it will be a case of a desperate remedy for a desperate disease. The battle of Wadi Ghuzzeh was fought on March 26 and 27; but in spite of the heavy losses inflicted on the enemy the British force was not able to advance beyond the position it had gained until April 17. On that day the Turkish foremost positions on a front of over six miles were captured, the attack being assisted by the fire from men-of-war. As our troops were now in touch with the enemy's main position covering Gaza, it was to be expected that an immediate attempt would be

made to capture the town. But so far there has been no report of any further operations, apart from an artillery duel. On the Western front the Germans seem to have decided that the time has come to use their reserves in the firing line in the hope of stemming the Allied advance, and it may be that the Turks are adopting the same policy and are preparing to stake all in an attempt to prevent the British from penetrating farther into Palestine.

An interchange of visits between highly placed representatives of the countries forming the Central Alliance lends colour to the reports that the longing and the absolute necessity for peace in two at least of the States allied to Germany can no longer be ignored. Following upon conferences between Germany and Austria-Hungary, Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, has recently visited both Vienna and Berlin. Prince Cyril of Bulgaria went to Constantinople ostensibly to decorate the Sultan with a Bulgarian Order; but, as he was accompanied by General Jekoff, the Bulgarian Commander-in-Chief, and General Petroff, it is evident that important military considerations prompted the visit. It is believed that Turkey's insistence upon using her army to protect her own territory is causing embarrassment to her allies, as the presence of Turkish troops in countries where the temper of the people is rapidly becoming more and more unreliable is held by the anxious authorities to be an almost indispensable precaution.

In regard to one point we may feel more certain—that as the food position in each country grows more critical, those in authority will be exercised to know what prospects there will be of replenishing stocks even when peace has been declared. Unless Germany is able to give her allies an assurance that peace will bring an immediate amelioration of the existing state of affairs, they will want guarantees that the war will end before their food supplies are entirely depleted. If, for instance, Bulgaria should foresee difficulty in feeding herself until the new harvest, it will be to the interest of the Government to have the war over some time before the real pinch is felt. Moreover, even where the present shortage can be weathered, it may be out of the question to face the possibility of a year still leaner than this one; and to obviate this, demobilization will have to be carried out before the time comes for preparing for the next sowing. An indication that the position in Bulgaria is giving rise to uneasiness is afforded by the extravagant expectations formed of the results to be obtained from the appointment of a Food Controller with plenary powers.

Greece continues to play her rôle as a great political and diplomatic laboratory. Here all manner of strange germs are handled, experiments made and minor explosions take place. But no damage is done, unless it be to the germs and test tubes, and who shall grudge the Allied Governments their hobby? During the past week it has been possible to watch the evolution of a harmless Ministerial crisis. As there happens to be a political vacuum in Greece at the present time, no action of this character could take place, unless the ingredients were introduced from outside. M. Lambros appears to have found it undesirable that he should retain the Premiership, and King Constantine at once performs his part in forwarding the process of evolution. The problem of how to deal with the friendly head of an unfriendly country is next propounded. It proves of absorbing interest to the Allies, who discuss the matter in all its bearings with M. Zaimis. Meanwhile, in another part of the laboratory the task of squaring the circle is being carried out with much avidity. The British Minister has an audience of King Constantine, who from another source is styled "technically a friendly Sovereign," and we learn that the conversation "made a favourable impression in Royalist circles"—presumably the ones which the Allies are trying to square. In the message to *The Times* of the same date appear the following statements:—"To-day German officers continue to frequent the Palace clandestinely"; "From Athens have been organized

those irregular bands which infest the neutral zone and have had numerous affrays with French troops"; "There are at least 20,000 rifles still available for arming troops in the country"; "At the least the royal regime seems to be entering upon the period of dissolution."

As an illustration of the way in which the Government of one who is technically a friendly Sovereign acts the Greek Government has been pressed to publish the correspondence which has passed between the head of the Allied Military Control Board and the Greek Premier in regard to the action of komitajis in the neutral zone in Thessaly. If this correspondence had not taken place in a privileged laboratory conducted by way of a hobby, it is certain that the only possible sequel would have been an immediate rupture of relations between the Allies and Greece. But as both parties to the international farce seem to have agreed that nothing done in Greece matters, M. Lambros remains in office, his offensive and equivocal correspondence is published, and the British Minister pays friendly visits to the man who is solely responsible for a regime described as one "which has never been anything but a German propaganda centre."

There has been a recrudescence of activity on the Macedonian front during the last week, but the net result is not for the present considerable. Trenches have changed hands both in the west in the French and Italian sectors and in the eastern portion held by the British. After a bombardment lasting three days, the latter attacked on a front of two and a-half miles in the neighbourhood of Doiran Lake and Doiran town. Some ground was gained north of the latter and four counter-attacks repelled, but nearer the Lake, although some enemy trenches were occupied, they had to be evacuated subsequently. In so far as this activity may be a sign that General Sarrail now finds himself in a position to contemplate an offensive it will be welcomed by the troops themselves no less than in France and Great Britain; but it is manifest that the enemy have used their long respite to some advantage, and have formidable defences.

The report of the Mesopotamia Commission is expected at an early date. Whatever explanations may be given of mistakes made in the past, the point that concerns the British public most is that it should have a definite assurance that the blunders and the tragedy of 1915 and 1916 have long been at an end and can never be repeated. Welcome testimony to this effect is given by a letter from Sir Arthur Lawley, Chief Commissioner in Mesopotamia of the British Red Cross Society and of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, addressed to the Secretary of State for India. He writes *inter alia*:—"Now a new chapter is in the writing. The story of our failure is known. Its cause is clear enough. The days of muddle are ended and order has been evolved out of chaos. To-day all that human agency can do has been and is being done to turn past failures to success and prevent future breakdowns in our organization. Communications by road, railway, and river have been laid out and developed on a well-thought-out plan. Facilities for loading and unloading of vessels at Busreh of every kind exist on an adequate scale. Stores in abundance are available and methodically controlled. Medical equipment has been introduced on a lavish scale. An ample water-supply is assured at the base and every camp."

Sir Arthur Lawley proceeds to describe the evacuation of the wounded after the storming of the Sanna-i-Yat position and during a subsequent engagement higher up the river, of which he was himself an eyewitness. He concludes: "After what I have seen since my arrival in this country I am equally certain that you may contemplate the future with perfect confidence so far as that [the medical] organization is concerned. I have had a unique opportunity of testing, so to speak, every link in the chain so far as a layman can do so, and I feel assured that the chain is throughout free from flaw and well able to bear any strain put upon it, however great the strain may be."

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 28.

The New Budget.

The unprecedented size of the 1917-18 Budget has, not unnaturally, aroused considerable comment, and has in certain circles given rise to the expression of somewhat ultra-optimistic and exaggerated forecasts as to the future. The more level-headed of the population, however, agree that the new Budget is merely the outcome of the abnormal circumstances created by the war, and that, although Egypt is exceedingly prosperous, yet the Egyptians must not expect the present condition of things to continue, and must be prepared for the shrinkage in trade values which is bound to set in sooner or later. Certain writers in the vernacular Press have lately been lecturing the people on the situation, and have, very rightly, been enjoining them not to spend their money on luxurious and unproductive articles, but either to invest it in directions that will prove remunerative or to put it by against the inevitable period of depression. It is much to be feared, however, that these wise counsels are not being listened to; for, albeit the Mixed Courts' records and the mortgage companies' balance-sheets show that some Egyptians are utilising their profits to increase their holdings of land and reduce their indebtedness, there are distinct indications that the population, as a whole, is not retrenching, but is spending money up to the hilt.

One important fact seems to have escaped attention, and that is that the enormous revenue collected last year and budgeted for the current year is being obtained without the imposition of any fresh direct taxation. Railway rates, first and second class, have been increased by 10 per cent., the telegraph rates and some of the postal ones have been doubled, and the Customs tariff on tobacco, coal, and construction wood has been raised. These increases have, however, all been dictated by special considerations, such as decrease in traffic, extra cost of working, or the desirability of making people pay more for services or commodities which are not exactly of first necessity. In every case they represent purely indirect taxation. The fact that it has not been found necessary to increase the rate of direct taxation, which is admittedly very low in Egypt, and the nature and scope of which constitute an important fiscal reserve, that, indeed, it has been possible, and is considered still to be possible, to meet the extra cost of administration due to the war without calling for any greater direct contribution from the people than was made in pre-war times, is a remarkable feature of the British administration of Egypt, and redounds to the credit of those responsible for it during the past two years. At the same time, mature consideration of the situation and a comparison of their condition with that of other peoples, especially of those in countries occupied or controlled by the Germans, should arouse in the hearts of the Egyptians a feeling of thankfulness and of loyalty to Great Britain, to whose disinterestedness and solicitude they owe the better fate which in every respect has befallen them.

The Egyptian Army.

With regard to the credit for the Egyptian Army, which is raised by £E396,000, or 40 per cent. of the previous year's military Budget, and which is explained as being due to the extra expenditure in Darfur, the re-arming of the Army, and the reinforcement of the Camel Corps, I understand that it is intended to increase the strength of the Army by a little over 2,000 men. It must be remembered that Egypt's frontier responsibilities have considerably increased since the war. Darfur has been added to the territory garrisoned by the Egyptian Army, as also has all the country between Mariut and the Tripoli frontier. For some time—even after peace is declared—it will be necessary to keep troops at all the outlying stations, and it is surprising that a greater addition is not being made to the strength of the Egyptian Army, which, as it is, seems remarkably small, when one considers the vast area that has to be policed by it in Egypt and the Sudan.

An Assize Court Sensation.

Quite a sensation has been caused by a case which has just come before the Criminal Courts. Briefly, the facts are the following. A man was accused of murder and duly brought before the Assize Court, which found him guilty and sentenced him to death. An appeal was lodged with the Court of Cassation on a question of procedure, and the point being allowed, the sentence was quashed and a re-trial was ordered before another Assize Court. The re-trial took place, but the new Court acquitted the man, on the ground, it is understood, that the evidence was suspect. Needless to say, this result has given rise to no little comment in

both legal and lay circles, for the evidence before the second Court was substantially the same as before the first. Had it not been for the technical illegality committed in connection with the first trial, the accused would have been executed for a crime of which he has since been declared innocent. It should be explained that in Egypt no Assize Court decision can be appealed against on questions of fact; only appeals on points of law or procedure can be made, as in this case, to the Court of Cassation. This case would certainly appear to strengthen the arguments in favour of the re-establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, which, it may be mentioned, was abolished in this country at about the same time as we created a similar jurisdiction at home.

Egypt's Fishing Industry.

An industry which is very much neglected and certainly merits special attention on the part of the Government is the fishing industry, which, according to a paper recently read at the Sultania Society of Political Economy, has fallen off very much of late years. A considerable amount of fish is, of course, caught in the lakes in the north, but what I particularly refer to is the sea-fishing industry. Considering that Egypt has a coast-line of 2,800 kilometres—as the lecturer pointed out, but 100 kilometres less than that possessed by France, where the industry is particularly flourishing—this country ought to be an important fish market. So it was at one time, but to-day the catch has in many cases fallen off by half compared with the quantity caught some forty years ago. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that beyond the control exercised over the lake fisheries there is no organisation existing in Egypt, as in other countries, for the supervision of the industry, especially the sea-fishing branch. Certainly the facts and figures quoted by the lecturer are very striking, and it would appear to be extremely desirable that some official action should be taken in this matter without delay. H.H. Prince Fuad has already announced his intention to form an organisation for the study of the subject with a view to developing and protecting the Egyptian fishing industry on proper scientific lines; but whilst private initiative is welcome as always, and can undoubtedly render very substantial assistance, this would appear to be pre-eminently a matter where the State should intervene; and it is to be hoped that before long we shall hear that the Government has taken up the question.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

According to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office the transmission abroad of parcels addressed to prisoners of war in Turkey has been resumed. Such parcels are, therefore, again being accepted at post offices, subject to the general regulations governing the acceptance and transmission of parcels for prisoners of war.

ANTI-GERMAN MOVEMENT IN BULGARIA.

Information has reached here (says the Athens correspondent of *The Times*) that the anti-German movement in Bulgaria has led to outbreaks in more than twenty towns. Several bombs have been used against German officers. The Bulgarian Government, it is said, has begged the Turkish authorities to allow the Turkish troops to remain in Bulgaria so that they may be employed to stifle the revolution, which is directed by a secret committee composed of Russophil politicians and officers impatient of the German yoke. Prince Cyril of Bulgaria's mission to Constantinople is partly concerned with this request.

MAKE OFFERS C.I.F. HULL OF

**HIDES AND SKINS,
TANNING MATERIALS,
DYEWOODS.**

**KUYPERS, OSTLER & SCOTT,
LOWGATE, HULL.**

Established
over 50 Years.

Cablegrams: KUYPERS, HULL.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Legislative Council

The Council will be opened on April 24. The High Commissioner has informed members by letter that, for reasons connected with the war, the customary ceremonial will not be observed at the opening, and that the first meeting will be of an ordinary character. The session should again be a short one.

Irregular Greek Marriages and the Holy Synod.

The Holy Synod will probably bring its meetings to a close on April 2. It has been dealing for some weeks with matters of importance to the Greek community, Church and laity alike. One of the subjects which has been under discussion has been that of marriages which are not recognized by the Church, and which are a topic of frequent local discussion. Many Cypriots have contracted marriages, not lawful in the eyes of the Church, with persons connected by blood relationship or affinity. Marriages between first cousins are, for instance, not infrequent. Only under very special circumstances is the Church able theoretically to give its sanction to such unions. How numerous these unrecognized marriages are may be gathered from the fact that in the diocese of one of the four island bishops alone there are 250 such unions. Many of the persons so united in matrimony have applied, without success, to the ecclesiastical authorities and to the Holy Synod praying that they may obtain the recognition of the Church. The Holy Synod has, indeed, the power to relax the rule of prohibition in certain degrees both of blood relationship and of affinity, but it has not deemed it expedient to proceed to any definite resolution in favour of applicants without first securing common action by the other Patriarchal Churches, and especially that of the Church in Greece. The matter has, it seems, been under their consideration for a considerable time; but the ecclesiastical mills grind slowly, and no definite decision has been arrived at. In the circumstances the Holy Synod of Cyprus proposes to communicate without delay with the Churches referred to, and to address itself in the first instance to the Church of Alexandria. As there is still much work to be carried out, the Synod will probably be convened during the summer, either at Larnaca or on Mount Troodos.

Athletic Sports of the English School.

The annual meeting of the English school at Nicosia was held on April 24 in the presence of Sir John and Lady Clauson and a large gathering of the British, Greek, and Turkish communities. The principal winners were Spyros Hadji Changari and Pavlos Angelinides, both of whom received silver cups presented by Lady Clauson and Lady Tyser. Other prizes were given by Mr. Bowring, Mr. E. Lucie Smith, and M. Michaelides. The meeting was a very successful one.

HILL STATIONS IN THE SUDAN.

(BY OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

The intense dry heat of the greater part of the Sudan makes it imperative for the Europeans resident there to get a change yearly if possible, and those who disregard the rule generally pay for it in the form of some sort of breakdown, or by contracting fever, or the like. It is difficult and expensive for most people to go to Europe every year, and it has been hoped to establish a hill station to which Europeans could retreat, or, at least, send their families to. The first effort in this direction was made at Erkowit, in the hills of the Red Sea Province, at a place discovered by General Wingate when he was at Suakin in the early days of the Sudan Expedition, and, indeed, he is said to have made a hurried retreat thence, as the Dervishes had news of his venturing into the hills and tried to cut him off. He remembered the place with the intention of returning thither in the future, and when he became Governor-General and Sirdar he had a house built in the valley and went there yearly with his staff for some part of the hot weather.

The valley lies some twenty miles south of the highest point of the Port Sudan-Khartoum railway, and a road was made for motor traffic, so that the distance could be covered with greater ease and speed. Numerous other houses were built there, and it was thought that the hill station of the Sudan had been found. The valley is singularly attractive to those whose eyes are weary with the continual brown and yellow of the desert, as it is very green, and there are quantities of trees and flowers, and the maidenhair fern grows in abundance. The valley is cut up by a "khor," or dry bed of a stream, which runs right through it in curves, incidentally supplying the golf course with many of its hazards. The khor winds, owing to the presence of a number of small hills around which it has to make its way.

On the top of each of these hills is a house, as this ensures complete drainage when the rain comes, while it is obviously easier to build on the flat surface on the top of the hill than on the steep side. There is a considerable open space available for the purpose of making tennis courts or giving accommodation to those who prefer to put up tents.

Unfortunately, the accommodation is somewhat limited, and it is not so far worth the while of any enterprising builder to erect other houses, as the period over which he would have to get the rent to cover his expenses is rather short, and he would find it necessary to put almost prohibitive rents on his houses. Furthermore, beautiful as the valley is, it bears a sinister reputation among the local Arabs, who maintain that the water is not good for their animals, and therefore only go there under the compulsion of drought elsewhere. The result is that supplies are difficult to get, and they have to be carried from the railway. The country through which the railway goes at this point is almost non-productive, and the supplies have to be sent from the sea or from the Nile—in each case a considerable distance. Thus it has turned out that Erkowit is not used except by the Governor-General and the Governor of the Red Sea Province and their respective Staffs.

The people of Suakin all go to Sinkat for the hot weather, and there is a considerable town there during those months. This is on the railway, and is only about twenty-five miles from Erkowit. Owing to the presence of the natives, it is possible to get meat and eggs in reasonable quantities, and some of the officials of Port Sudan have built houses there.

Further down the line there has grown up in the last few years quite a settlement at Gebeit, which is the local headquarters of the railway. Steps have been taken to make it easy to get board and lodging at set terms, and an increasing number of junior officials are taking advantage of the accommodation.

Both Sinkat and Gebeit are infinitely cooler than the coast of the Red Sea in the hot months, but they offer little in the way of occupation to visitors. The scenery is chiefly rocky hills barren of any vegetation, and though there is a little shooting to be got, it is nothing very great. Ibex do, indeed, exist, but it is an expensive business to pay for the necessary beaters for more than a day or two.

In effect, though there is a respite from the heat, the hills of the Red Sea Province have little else to offer to the holiday-maker. The cost of living in that province is extremely high, and for those who wish to be economical it has not much to recommend it. Those who can disregard economy can go to Egypt or to Europe.

Perhaps the most attractive country in the Sudan is the hill country of the extreme South, where the altitude ensures cool weather, at any rate, as compared with the North. The hills are wooded, and there is an abundance of fruit of almost every description. Unfortunately, much of this country is almost unexplored, and it is at this date difficult to get to, and it will be many years before the journey will be done from Khartoum under several weeks.

Possibly the Zeppelin will find a use in peace to transport travellers over the wastes of the "Sudd," where there are miles and miles of land hidden by water and papyrus grass, a country through which no railway could go without the expenditure of millions in reclaiming the marshes. Until that Utopian scheme can be carried into effect the residents of the Sudan will have to be content with the hill stations that they have got. No doubt much may be done to increase the accommodation and to provide the standard amusements of the true Briton. Much can be done by improving the water supply, to make gardens, and grow vegetables and fruit. The first need is housing, and that, where there is nothing but stone on the spot, is more difficult than it sounds, as the accessories of wood, etc., are very costly, and the war has made this worse than ever. Still, it is to be hoped that a beginning will be made, as there is no doubt that with some expenditure after a few years a quite adequate settlement could be made.

At present there are several rival spots, and none of them is concentrated upon. If one were selected and worked up, after a short time it would soon improve in appearance and become popular. Probably the best place for the purpose is Sinkat. First, it is the native selection, and, consciously or not, the native has generally selected the best places for his habitation. The presence of a number of natives simplifies the question of supplies, and draws a number of small shopkeepers, who may learn to extend their trade to Europeans. The difficulty of getting water can probably be solved without any great trouble, and it remains for some of the merchants of Suakin who go habitually to Sinkat to add to their profits by building some houses suitable for Europeans. It is possible too, that the headquarters of the province may go to Sinkat instead of Erkowit, owing to the proximity of the natives with whom the administration has to deal. Tentative efforts have already been made to arrange a golf course there, and football is already well known, thanks to the military, and the natives emulate the British in their enthusiasm for the game.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

GREEK "FLAG-WAGGING" IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Referring to correspondence in THE NEAR EAST regarding the use of the Greek flag in Cyprus, I have not yet seen what has been the outcome of the incident at Famagusta. I concur in the views of "Union Jack," in your issue of March 9.

The custom which has been carried to such ridiculous lengths should never have been allowed to grow up at all. It was due to the weak toleration of disaffection on the part of a small handful of Greek town agitators in the early years of the occupation. The Government "gave an inch," with the proverbial results. Semi-Orientals, as well as Orientals, require a firm as well as a just hand over them.

I notice in the *British Empire Review* for April, in an article on "Cyprus of To-day," by Rose Henniker-Heaton, that the late High Commissioner, Sir Hamilton Gould Adams, "won the esteem of the whole island by his firmness and the prompt measures he took." When on tour he "let it be known that if any Greek flag was flying at any village en route he would not receive any deputation or accept any petition from the inhabitants." But surely it is monstrous that the Governor of such a small island cannot go where he pleases without such proviso, but can be, as it were, dictated to by villagers, led by a group of "lawyers or school masters," who endeavour to propagate their views among a people who are perfectly contented, who do not desire to meddle in politics, but only wish to be left alone. The writer referred to regards the flags as a "hostile demonstration." We need not go so far as that, but the custom undoubtedly indicates disloyalty, if not active disaffection. These displays of the Hellenic flag by Cypriots who are not Hellenic subjects are quite out of place, and should not be tolerated.—Yours truly,

E. E.

London, April 25, 1917.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I was glad to read in THE NEAR EAST last month that the question of the use of the Hellenic flag by the Greek-speaking community had come under notice. A step was, very rightly, taken at Famagusta to restrict or prohibit the unlimited use of the Greek flag at public meetings and functions. The new Greek Archbishop protested to the High Commissioner—an act of very questionable propriety. The Archbishop has not, I believe, been a "political Bishop," as was his predecessor in office; so presumably he acted under pressure of the agitating Greek element. I have been curious to know what was the reply of the High Commissioner to his protest. Your correspondent has not yet, I think, informed us; but, no doubt, it has been given; for I notice, in your issue of March 20, that a meeting of Greek members of the Legislative Council and mayors has been called to consider the matter further.

I believe that all impartial persons who know or have visited Cyprus will agree with your correspondent that "it is high time that the use of the Greek flag should be made the subject of proper regulations," which have apparently been hitherto lacking. A great deal more might be said respecting the altogether improper use of the Hellenic flag in an island practically without Hellenes; and, it might be added, about the manner in which the Hellenic national air is (or certainly was a few years ago) played at Greek meetings in precedence of, and, when possible, to the exclusion of the British.

The abuse of the freedom which was introduced into Cyprus under British rule has grown out of small beginnings, and gradually reached a point at which some check should be imposed. The island is now British, and this licence, in place of liberty, should not be tolerated. Moreover, the feelings of other, and loyal, communities, to whom this flaunting of the Greek flag is offensive, should be considered. I hope, and I know that many others share the hope, that some action will now be taken to place this matter, too long neglected, on a proper footing.—I am, etc.,

READER.

April 20, 1917.

BAGHDAD AND THE FUTURE OF ARABIA.

Last Tuesday, before the Central Asian Society, Sir Thos. Holdich read a paper on Baghdad. He had, he said, visited that city twenty years ago, travelling there from India, at a time when it was necessary to learn something of the topography of the southern highlands of Persia, through which overland communication might eventually be established with the Persian Gulf. He had found Baghdad an Oriental city, as yet not Europeanised. Turks, Arabs, Jews and Persians were there in the undiluted atmosphere of the East. Top hats and bowlers were not to be seen beyond the European quarter, and even there European women had to wear veils when out of doors. It was a unique experience to meet a lady of your acquaintance and see her welcoming smile beneath the veil, but not be able to take off your hat or otherwise salute her.

Speaking of the country generally, Sir Thomas said that geographically, ethnographically and, above all, historically Mesopotamia was associated with Arabia. All the great empires of Western Asia had swung their sceptres over its plain; but it was not until the second of the Abbaside Khalifs selected Baghdad for his capital that Damascus paled before the rising significance of the new city. Doubtless it was the wealth of the Mesopotamian plain which led to this choice, but Baghdad also had great advantages as a strategic centre for an attack on India. Whilst it was impossible to draw any sharp line of demarcation between Arabia and Mesopotamia, the line was sharp enough between Arabia and Persia, for between the Aryan, Persian and the Semitic Arab there was no affinity of race or tongue, and, though both were Moslems, the division between Sunni and Shia went back to the earliest days of Islam, and was as irreconcilable now as ever.

Of the future Sir Thomas said he did not think the Arabs would ever be united again into one consolidated nationality, governed from one supreme centre, and acknowledging but one overlord; Arabia would never again be even a federation of provinces owning allegiance in political and military matters to a central administration; Medina, Damascus and Baghdad would all be revived as centres of administration, apart from Central Arabia. Thus Baghdad might become once more a home of Oriental literature and art, but it would be long ere we could leave Baghdad and Mesopotamia to work out their own salvation. We should have to see to it that the Mesopotamian provinces were well guarded and well administered, that the remarkable opportunity they afforded for agricultural renovation was brought to a successful issue, and that well-defined boundaries drew a line between Mesopotamia and Turkey or Russia, before we could leave the Baghdad railway and Mesopotamian culture, both human and agrarian, to take care of themselves.

In the course of a discussion that followed, Sir Edwin Pears said that with regard to the idea which involved the separation of the Arabs from the Turks and the establishment of a great Arab state which should include Mesopotamia, Baghdad and the regions beyond the Euphrates and Tigris, he would not venture to express an opinion. Men of eminence in the Arab state, it had been suggested, should consider among themselves what should be their form of government. They had already done so, for eight or nine years ago Mahmoud Yahia, a man of large possessions in Mesopotamia, had been chosen Khalif for the Sheikhs. He had gone to Medina, and, according to the most recent reports, had thrown in his lot with the Shereef of Mecca, who had proclaimed himself King of the Hejaz. The remarkable dissensions which had arisen on religious and political matters between Turk and Arab had occasioned a large amount of unrest, and if the Arabs could maintain their unity and not quarrel among themselves, it was possible they would ask England to be their protector. If we accepted that responsibility, we must remember we had nothing to do with the question of who should be Khalif. If we kept ourselves out of the religious difficulty, we might live to see a great Arab state, occupying from Mesopotamia to Bab-el-Mandeb and from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf.

A French patrol vessel entered the fortified port of Beyrout (Syria) on April 22. After firing 24 shots and being fired at, the vessel steamed off without having suffered any damage.

If you are willing to help
THE SERBIAN ARMY
SEND YOUR DONATION FOR
THE SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."

There is a separate fund for the
**RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE
SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION**

at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The Russian Revolution has had its effects in quarters that I, for one, should have regarded as unlikely to be affected by it. Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports that the Khan of Khiva, "in response to popular demand," has decided to grant a Constitution "on broad democratic lines." Shades of Fred Burnaby! "Popular demand" for a broadly democratic Constitution in Khiva! At this rate, it looks as if Khiva may yet prove irresistibly attractive as a place of residence to Mr. H. G. Wells. The only drawback that strikes me at once is that it would take so long for his letters to reach *The Times*.

Then, again, we are informed that the Khan of Khiva's neighbour (so to say), the Emir of Bokhara, has been influenced by the Russian Revolution to the extent of publishing a manifesto "promising extensive internal reforms" and "containing an order to set at liberty all persons detained in the prisons." Of the wisdom of the last mentioned step I have my doubts—and very active doubts at that—but the first part of the message is remarkable enough in all conscience. With all due respect to Khiva and Bokhara, it strikes me as quaint to find them so hot-foot on the road to Progress.

But in connection with the Russian Revolution, I am inclined to think that the palm for unconscious humour in a message bearing on the subject must be awarded to one from Sofia. Unfortunately I have mislaid the newspaper cutting, but I remember that the message concluded with a kind of reassurance for Russia, and I think the wording was: "New Russia has nothing to fear from Bulgaria." At any rate, that was the spirit of the thing; and it struck me as truly gorgeous.

By the time these lines appear in print Sir Stanley Maude may have captured the town of Samarra, as well as the railway station of that name. But I imagine that it would be a far less valuable prize than the station; for in these days historical associations do not count for much—at any rate, they have no value for a conqueror—and historical associations are almost the only thing that Samarra has to boast about. I never visited it, but those of my friends who did so all agreed in assuring me that I had missed nothing. Mr. Soane thus describes it in his interesting book, "To Mesopotamia and Kurdistan in Disguise":—

"It is a big place upon a cliff that juts out into the broad Tigris; tawny, like the desert out of which it rises, its great mosque standing clear above all, with that clean, new appearance that any strong building must possess in this clear, dry atmosphere. No trees adorn its streets, they are as desert as the plain outside. Only upon the opposite side are a few gardens, and the remains of a bridge of boats, which affords sufficient excuse for the Turks to take a toll from all who pass down the stream."

The mosque to which Mr. Soane refers is the reputed burying place of many of the supporters of Hussein, the son of Ali. It is also one of the two (or more) places in which the Twelfth Imam, "El Mahdi," is reported to have disappeared—the other being, I think, at Hillah. The dome of this mosque, like that at Kazimaim and the minarets at Kerbellah, is plated with gold, and presents a fine spectacle from a distance, I am told. Possibly it is this effulgence that has won for the place its name. Surra-man-ra means either "That maketh glad the heart of him who spies it" or "Delighted was he who saw (it)." But it is more likely that the name is a survival of the old days when it was for a time the capital of the Abbasside Khalifs. There seems to be some little doubt whether Mamun or Mutassim first favoured the spot as a royal residence. But there can be very little, if any, doubt that Mutassim used it as a centre for his Turkish troops, who were always making trouble for him in Baghdad.

Another point of interest about Samarra, and one that I have not seen mentioned elsewhere, is referred to in Messrs. W. A. and E. T. Wigram's "The Cradle of Mankind." They write that here "stands the only ziggurat or Babylonian temple tower that has not been ruined in the lapse of centuries." When the temple ceased to be used, this tower appears to have been preserved "as Zoroastrian fire-temple, and subsequently as minaret to the great mosque which Haroun-al-Rashid built at its foot." That is surely a strange story, and we can readily agree with the Messrs. Wigram when they observe that "we owe some gratitude

to the Abbasside who was great enough to revere the monument of an older day." One is less inclined to share their hopes that the Germans will one day excavate this fine site. If they have not already done so, the Huns are unlikely to do so in the near future, at any rate!

Those who believe in "omens" and so forth may find in the chasing of the Turks first from Baghdad and then from Samarra good grounds for hope of a revival of Arab learning and Arab civilisation. For it is undeniable that it was the advent of the Turks in these two cities that heralded the downfall of the splendid Arab empire. Having made the mistake of employing them for their bodyguard, the successors of Haroun-el-Rashid found it impossible to get rid of them. Now they have been got rid of so far as this particular region is concerned. Will Baghdad resume its former greatness? And will even little Samarra become a place of importance once again? *Inshallah!*

It is not many weeks since I mentioned in these columns the production of "Hamlet" in Arabic, and with considerable revisions, in the Sudan, by an amateur dramatic society. Now I read in the *Egyptian Mail* that the first performance in Arabic of the opera "Carmen" was witnessed recently in Cairo. The event attracted a crowded audience, and, apparently, went off most successfully. The title-rôle was played by Mme. Munira, who is described in the report as "the first woman of true Egyptian nationality that has ever appeared on the Egyptian stage," and as "strikingly handsome, and as fair in complexion as any Andalusian beauty that has sustained the popular rôle of Carmen." This being so, it is easy to understand "the general desire to be present . . . which resulted in the early publication of the 'house full' notice and the turning away of many from the doors." Moreover, as the critic discreetly hints, Egyptian ladies detected in the appearance of Mme. Munira another step along the line of "feminine development"; and, attracted by this, occupied the galleries "in great numbers." I regret to read, also, that their "interest in the proceedings caused them largely to disregard the traditional conventions of seclusion." It sounds rather alarming. Did they indulge in oranges and nuts, or did they so far forget the "conventions of seclusion" as to let their veils slip aside?

Be that as it may, the leading lady (on the stage) scored a great triumph. "Her acting was instinct with verve and grace, and it would have been a stony Don José, indeed, who was not melted by her charm." The enunciation of the text, we are informed, was declared perfect by Arabic critics. But it puzzles me not a little to read that "the music was expressly written for her by Kamel Effendi el Khali and Abdul Hamid Effendi Ali, though some of Bizet's well-known airs were sung by the choruses of soldiers," etc. . . . It may be unavoidable, but it almost looks as if the composer and his work were of very small importance in the adaptation of an opera for an Arab audience!

CORSAIR.

The United States Ambassador at Constantinople has obtained the consent of the Turkish Government to the inspection of certain of the prisoners' camps by representatives of the Embassy.

Prince Boris of Bulgaria, after a stay of several days at Main Headquarters with the Kaiser, has returned to Bulgaria.

Hazel & Co

FOUNDED 1815

Complete Service Outfitters

Land and Camp Equipment Makers

4 Princes Street,
Hanover Square,
London, W.
Phone, Mayfair 4071



Illustrated Catalogues on Request

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

TURKEY AND THE WAR.*

The British nation is a bad hater. In this war the Germans have done their utmost to correct this defect in our nature, and have aroused such depths of loathing that possibly decades will pass before their deeds are forgotten or forgiven. But towards a people who are not in a position to do us such great harm we shall always remain more inclined to emphasize the good that is in them than to lay stress on the evil that they have done or are capable of doing. The Turk is a case in point, and in spite of his record in association with the German there will be many people who will doubt whether he really deserves the drastic fate that is thought to be in store for him. It is well, therefore, to be able to turn to a critical analysis of the Turkish question *per se*, especially at a moment when the changed order in Russia is interpreted in some quarters to imply that the Allied Powers may be called upon to revise their previous arrangement in regard to the disposal of Constantinople. M. Jabotinsky may attempt to carry his readers farther than some of them will care to go at this stage in the division of the bear's skin; but there can be no doubt that his statement is a useful contribution to the understanding of the problem which centres in the future of Turkey in Europe. His contention is that Asiatic Turkey rather than the Balkans was the real origin of the war, that Austria-Hungary, as well as her more vigorous partner, looked beyond Salonika and the Aegean to the "borderless spaces and bottomless resources" of Asia Minor, and that Germany was not aiming at the partition of Turkey, because she preferred to swallow Turkey as a whole. The war, having been brought about, has revealed the close interest which all the Powers have in the "Turkish heritage," and the special circumstances prevent any other solution than partition pure and simple, which the author proceeds to outline in very clear colours. Into a small compass he compresses a masterly *résumé* of Turkey's internal condition, and seeks to show that it is practically impossible to keep Turkish rule in Turkey.

"The Turkish culture is one of the poorest in Turkey; their language is one of the least considered; their part in the higher levels of economic life is little short of nothing. Peasants, soldiers, and officials, they rule the country only as long as they are able to keep the sword and the seal in their hands. Their authority is not supported by any fact of the life outside the barrack and the office; it is built upon itself alone, and can only last as long as every seat representing any infinitesimal fraction of power is kept by a Turk.

"The conclusion is clear. Turkish rule in Turkey can be assured only by autocracy, and rather a mediæval autocracy."

In view of the author's nationality the reader will expect to find Russia's claim to Constantinople and the Straits strongly urged. The case is succinctly stated, and the conclusions drawn are thus summed up:—

"Some international agreement concerning the free use of the Straits may prove indispensable, and would certainly not be opposed by Russian opinion in principle; but Russia could accept it only as a corollary in a settlement which should leave to her the full sovereignty, the military and administrative control of the two shores of the Bosphorus and of the two shores of the Dardanelles. Any other decision of the half-way sort would inevitably lead to this one result—that Russia would seize the first opportunity to help herself out of a precarious 'neutralisation' which would leave her, just as now, under the sword of Damocles."

Syria and Palestine are also provided for, and the future of the Arab people is indicated. M. Jabotinsky has written an informative volume, and in a question hitherto approached with bated breath it is not unrefreshing to come across some one prepared to take the bull by the horns, even though it means the end of the bull.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Milford has just issued "The Religious Thought of the Greeks," by Professor Clifford Herschel Moore. The work, which contains eight lectures given before the Lowell Institute in Boston by the Professor of Latin at Harvard University, with material drawn from a course of University Lectures, covers the period between the time of Homer to the rise of Christianity.

Messrs. Constable are about to publish an essay on "The Expansion of Europe," by Professor Ramsey Muir. In this work, which is a continuation of the author's essays previously published under the title "Nationalism and Internationalism," Professor Ramsey Muir analyses the nature of the share taken by the leading Powers in the process by

which, during the last four centuries, the whole world has come under the influence of the civilisation of Europe.

Messrs. Allen and Unwin have in preparation "A Dying Empire," by Bogumil Vojak. It has been the author's aim in this volume to trace the sociological factors in the breakdown of the Hapsburg Empire, and also to show how closely its future is bound up with the fate of Pan-Germanism. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., is contributing a preface to the work.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Intermixture of Races in Asia Minor: Some of its Causes and Effects. By Sir Wm. M. Ramsay. (Oxford University Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

A Roumanian Manual: For Self Tuition. By Fred G. Ackerley, B.A. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 2s. net.)

Songs on Service. By Crawshaw Williams. (Oxford: Blackwell. 2s. 6d. net.)

Poland as a Geographical Entity. By W. Nalkowski; with a Preface by Jas. Fairgrieve, M.A., F.R.G.S. (For the Polish Information Committee, London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6d. net.)

PALESTINE BEDOUIN AND THE TURKS.

Writing on April 3, a Cairo correspondent reports:—Some alarmists have lately been indulging in gloomy interpretations of the cessation of news during the last few weeks from Emir Faisal, the warrior son of the King of the Hejaz. Admirers of the Emir have learned, not only with relief, but with the deepest gratification, the news, just arrived, of his having received lately a large representative deputation from the leading Bedouin tribes of Palestine and Syria, such as the Jof and Kerak, which presented him, among other gifts, with 150 steeds of the purest breed. The recent blow dealt by General Murray to the Turkish forces in Southern Palestine has afforded these Bedouin tribes the chance of joining in the glorious task of freeing this part of the Near East from the rule of the Turk.

PROFESSOR LEON ON TURKISH POETRY.

Last Sunday, at the Reading Unitarian Church, Dr. Henri M. Léon lectured on Turkish poetry. The earliest Turkish poet was, he said, Ashik Pasha, who was born in 1271, and died in 1332. Ashik's great poem was called *Ghalib Kitab*, or the "Stranger's Book." He also wrote many shorter poems, amongst others a *ghazal* called "Yalnız," in English "Alone." This Dr. Léon translated as follows:—

Alone doth man pass when he endeth this life,
Alone he endures its struggles and strife;
Alone 'fore his God to be judged at last,
Alone must he bear the sentence then pass'd;
Alone he to answer for ev'ry misdeed,
Alone then to prove his faith and his creed.
Alone man retire e'er it be too late,
Alone there deep muse on thy possible fate;
Alone man resolve for sin to atone,
Alone man e'er strive, yet never alone.
For learn then, O man! whatever betide,
Thou art not alone, for God's by thy side.

JOHN RICHMOND,
14-15, CONDUIT STREET, W.1, LONDON,
announces the publication of

GLORY OF YOUTH

By TEMPLE BAILEY,

Author of "Contrary Mary."

Price 6s. Cloth. Illustrated.

(The Romance of a Rich Airman and a Poor Girl.)

The Athenæum says:—"The principal characters are all attractive and pleasant, and the book well written. . . . A wealthy American lady, sojourning in Germany, fascinated by the mediævalism of the Rhine castles, becomes engaged to a baron. . . ."

The Times Literary Supplement speaks of the "wonderful Diana."

The Financial Chronicle says:—"The book has a charm for jaded nerves and war-worn spirits."

The Field, in a sweet criticism, says:—"The story has one quality so permanent that it is impossible to miss it. It is sweetness—so evidently this is just the novel to absorb one these sugarless days—but—well, read the book."

A marvellous Book of Visions, called

THE SWINE GODS

By REGINA MIRIAM BLOCH,

with a Foreword by ISRAEL ZANGWILL, and a Cover designed by W. GORDON MEIN. Will be published in a few days.

Price 3s. 6d. net.

ORDER FROM BOOKSELLERS, LIBRARIES, or direct from

JOHN RICHMOND.

Telephone—GERRARD 6103.

*"Turkey and the War." By Vladimir Jabotinsky. (London, T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. Price 6s. net.)

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. April. 27 28 29 30 May. 1 2 3	1917. April. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	1335. Rejeb. 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5677. Iyar. 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

To-morrow is the birthday of Prince Paul Kara-Georgevitch, son of Prince Arsène and nephew of King Peter. His Highness was born in Petrograd in 1893.

Tuesday is the birthday of Prince Arthur of Connaught, who was born in 1883.

Thursday is the birthday of Princess Helen of Greece, eldest daughter of King Constantine, who was born in Athens in 1896.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left London for Ireland. Lady Oranmore is staying at Lutterworth.

The Comtesse Laura de Rubien, Comte de Beaumont and M. Fauchier-Magnay, who are connected with the French Red Cross, and who recently arrived in this country from Roumania, have left London for Paris.

Lady Carter, the wife of Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, who gave birth to a daughter on Sunday, is doing well.

Mr. Elkers, the United States Ambassador in Constantinople, is suffering from typhus and will be compelled to remain in the Turkish capital for some time, in spite of the severance of diplomatic relations between Turkey and America.

Lieutenant C. J. Law, King's Own Scottish Borderers, second son of Mr. Bonar Law, has been wounded in the fighting in Palestine, and is missing.

Colonel Borgovitch has arrived in London.

Next Tuesday afternoon, at 64, New Bond Street, Madame Yovanovitch, the wife of H.E. the Serbian Minister, will open an Exhibition of Serbian Handicrafts made by the Serbian refugees in Corsica. The exhibition will also be open from 10 to 6 o'clock on May 2, 3 and 4, and admission will be free. We understand that some very beautiful examples of our Allies' work will be on view.

M. Cincinat Pavelesco, the well-known Roumanian author, left London on Sunday for Paris.

The King has granted to Mr. Richard Abdy, president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Alexandria, his Majesty's Royal licence to wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the Sultan of Egypt.

The marriage arranged between Captain A. Maule Ramsay, Coldstream Guards, and Lady Ninian Crichton-Stuart will take place very quietly next Monday, April 30, at St. James's Church, Spanish Place. No invitations will be issued, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

The marriage arranged between Mr. John Henry Goldsmith, Sudan Civil Service, and Miss Coote, of Ballyfin, will, owing to the war, take place at the English Church, Port Sudan, on Wednesday, May 9.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, Mr. Critchley, manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Alexandria, has left Egypt on a visit to the bank's branches in Mesopotamia.

Writing from Jassy on March 21, the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula refers to the equipment, early in the war, of the ground floor of the Royal Palace at Bucharest as a hospital. This was done, as our readers doubtless recall, by the direction of Queen Marie, and here, says the *Times* correspondent, "she and the young Princesses ministered to the patients with unremitting care and devotion. I had the honour of accompanying her Majesty as she passed through the rooms; it was interesting to see how the eyes of the patients brightened at her approach."

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes under date of March 31: Major R. M. Feilden, the Governor of the Bahr el Ghazal Province, has arrived, and is taking over his new office of Civil Secretary.

Major Colville has reached Khartoum from Kaffia Kangi, on his way north for change of air.

Lieutenant Robinson, R.N.R., has arrived on a visit to Khartoum.

The sum of £400 has been collected at Khartoum for the Roumanian Red Cross Fund and despatched to the Roumanian representative at Cairo.

Mr. Huddleston, the Senior Inspector of Berber Province, has come to Khartoum for a few days to discuss agricultural developments in that Province.

Mr. C. H. Thomson has come in from Kassala for his Arabic examination. The examination will be taking place during the first few days of April.

Colonel Kennedy has gone for a few days to Port Sudan. He was accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy.

The Rev. T. McNeile has returned from El Obeid, and will remain a short time in Khartoum, and then proceed north.

Mr. Drossos, a member of the Venizelist Committee at Alexandria, has arrived at Khartoum for a few days' visit, partly to go into the affairs of his business in Khartoum and partly to see how the affairs of the party are progressing in the Sudan.

The weather has been excessively oppressive lately; the thermometer went up to 109 deg. Fahr., and the nights have been still and hot. The wind has been variable, and from an unfavourable direction, and the hot weather has definitely set in.

A number of notables from Western Kordofan have been visiting Khartoum, and have been seeing the sights. They went to the Experimental Farm and to the Quarantine Station, where the Veterinary Department has a selection of stallions for the improvement of the breed of horses, a stud bull and various of its progeny, and experiments in sheep and mules, all of which were much appreciated by these Arabs, who live by live stock and realise the possibilities before them.

We regret to announce the death at Hove, on the 22nd inst., of General Geoffrey Mairis, late Royal Marine Light Infantry, who served through the Crimean Campaign, including the Battle of Balaklava and the Siege of Sebastopol, 1854-5, and with the Flying Squadron in the Baltic in 1856. He also served through the China War, 1857 to 1861.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

The death of M. Theokharves Mites, on March 23, has deprived the Greek Community of one of its foremost citizens. Mr. Mites was well known and respected from times preceding the British occupation. On the reform of the Law Courts, in 1883, he was appointed to be one of the first native judges, and he served for many years in the Kyrenia and Nicosia Districts, retiring on a pension a few years ago. He was esteemed by all communities, not only as a judge, but for his many good qualities.

Dervish Hadji Shukri, a member of the Turkish Community of Nicosia, has died, and has left £3,000 for the benefit of Ottoman schools at the capital, subject to certain provisions.

Wednesday was "Gallipoli Day" for the English troops and "Anzac Day" for the New Zealanders and Australians. A tablet was unveiled by General Sir Ian Hamilton and dedicated by Bishop Montgomery at the Holy Trinity Church, Eltham. It has been erected by officers and men of the 29th Division, B.E.F., in memory of their comrades who fell at Gallipoli. A wreath was placed upon the tablet by the New Zealanders, bearing the following inscription: "A tribute to the glorious men of the 29th Division from their New Zealand comrades." Representatives of each infantry unit of the original 29th Division formed a guard of honour. The Rev. Henry A. Hall, vicar of Trinity Church and Chaplain to the 29th Division at the landing, assisted at the service, and in the congregation were many relatives of officers and men who fell at Gallipoli, the officers commanding H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth and H.M.S. Implacable, Rear-Admiral Hope and Captain Lockyer, and Brigadier-General and Mrs. A. Stokes.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, is, says the *Mokattam*, of Cairo, to be appointed to a high position in the British Government, and will be succeeded at the Finance Ministry by Sir Arthur Chitty, K.C.M.G., formerly Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, who retired from the service of the Egyptian Government in 1910.

The Sultan of Egypt has approved of the promotion of Bimbashi T. A. Nicholas, Veterinary Department, Sudan Government; E. D. Bally, Intelligence Department; P. G. W. Maynard and R. S. Hart, Inspector Sudan Government, to the rank of Kaimakam.

EXHIBITION OF
SERBIAN HANDICRAFTS.

Embroideries, Hand-weaving, Pottery, Opanki, &c.,
made by refugees in the workshops of the

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND IN CORSICA.

To be Opened on MAY 1st, at 3 p.m., by

Madame JOVANOVITCH (wife of H.E. the Serbian Minister),
at 64, NEW BOND STREET, W. (corner of Brook Street).

The EXHIBITION will REMAIN OPEN on
MAY 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ADMISSION FREE.

Lieutenant C. A. M. van Millingen, the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor van Millingen, has been appointed Adjutant of his battalion.

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

Bimbashi W. F. M. Bagshaw, Department of Ordnance, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

HONOURS FOR BRITISH OFFICERS.

Two Supplements to the *London Gazette*—one naval and the other military—were issued on Saturday. Each contained a list of decorations conferred on officers and men of the British forces for distinguished services during the war. The following are the honours conferred for operations in the Near East:—

BY THE KING OF SERBIA.

(In recognition of services during the operations in Serbia in November and December, 1915.)

Order of the White Eagle, Third Class.—Major and Brevet Colonel (temporary Major-General) T. E. Clarke, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; Colonel L. L. Nicol, C.B. (retired pay); Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) R. S. Vandeleur, C.M.G., Seaforth Highlanders.

Order of the White Eagle, Fourth Class.—Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) J. D. M. Beckett, D.S.O., Hampshire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel E. T. F. Birrell, C.M.G., M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps; Major M. J. Cromie, Royal Army Medical Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel F. Cunliffe-Owen, C.M.G., Royal Artillery; Captain (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) G. Drage (retired, Indian Army), Royal Munster Fusiliers; Major (acting Lieutenant-Colonel) M. J. Furnell, Royal Irish Fusiliers, attached South Lancashire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Gordon, Royal Artillery; Captain (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) the Right Honourable B. A. W. P. Hastings, Earl of Granard, K.P., G.C.V.O., Reserve of Officers, late Scots Guards; Major A. P. Heneage, Royal Artillery; Major-General N. Malcolm, D.S.O.; Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Matthew, D.S.O., Lowland Divisional Train, Army Service Corps; Captain (temporary Major) V. M. B. Scully, Border Regiment, attached Connaught Rangers; Lieutenant (temporary Major) W. H. Whyte, Reserve of Officers, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, attached Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Order of the White Eagle, Fifth Class.—Temporary Captain C. F. Davies, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; Temporary Captain H. T. Goodland, Royal Munster Fusiliers; Temporary Captain C. Grellier, Hampshire Regiment; Captain E. S. C. Grune, Suffolk Regiment, attached Essex Regiment; Temporary Second Lieutenant G. Robinson, M.C., Connaught Rangers; Lieutenant T. H. Stern, Royal Engineers, Special Reserve; Lieutenant G. W. B. Tarleton, M.C., Royal Dublin Fusiliers; Lieutenant (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) C. W. Villiers, D.S.O., Coldstream Guards, Special Reserve.

Order of St. Sava.—Temporary Lieutenant R. MacK. Morison, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.

BY H.M. THE KING OF MONTENEGRO.

Obilitch Medal (Gold).—General Sir H. S. Rawlinson, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

BY THE SULTAN OF EGYPT.

Order of Mahommed Ali, First Class (Grand Cordon).—General Sir F. R. Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Order of the Nile, Second Class.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Palmer, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, late Commandant of Artillery and Director of Ordnance, Egyptian Army.

Order of the Nile, Third Class.—Major R. G. Anderson, Royal Army Medical Corps, late Assistant Adjutant-General, Recruiting Department, Egyptian Army; Major W. Byam, Royal Army Medical Corps, late Medical Corps, Egyptian Army.

Order of the Nile, Fourth Class.—Major F. W. L. Edwards, King's Royal Rifle Corps, General Staff, Egyptian Army; Honorary Lieutenant F. Ferguson, Director of Music, attached to Egyptian Army; Major the Honourable B. A. Forbes, Royal Irish Rifles, General Staff, Egyptian Army; Captain E. Gibbon, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, attached Medical Corps, Egyptian Army; Captain C. C. Godwin, Yorkshire Regiment, General Staff, Egyptian Army; Major A. C. Hewitt, Royal Fusiliers, attached Egyptian Army; Major P. C. Joyce, Connaught Rangers, late attached Egyptian Army; Major F. J. M. Postlethwaite, Yorkshire Light Infantry, late Egyptian Army and Sudan Service; Major P. B. Stafford, East Surrey Regiment, attached Egyptian Army; Major G. B. Wauhope, York and Lancaster Regiment, late Egyptian Army and Sudan Government Service; Deputy Commissary of Ordnance and Honorary Captain (temporary Commissary of Ordnance and Honorary Major) H. S. Willson, Army Ordnance Department, Assistant Director of Stores, Egyptian Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

HUDDESTON.—On April 17, at 11, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, the wife of A. J. C. Huddleston, Sudan Civil Service, of a daughter.

NOBLE.—On April 13, at 13, Prince's Gate, the wife of Crawford Noble, second-lieutenant, Yeomanry, and A.P.F.O., Cyprus, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

PARKER—DUCKETT-CLARK.—On Primrose Day, at All Saints, East Finchley, N., by the Rev. H. Haslem-Jones, Arnold Shirecliffe Parker, Manchester Regiment, of Alexandria, son of the late Arnold Parker, Esq., Brincliffe, Sheffield, to Muriel Primrose, daughter of the late R. W. Duckett-Clark, Esq., of Dulwich.

THEATRICALS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Our Alexandria Correspondent writes:—"No. 15 General," Abbassia, is one of the military hospitals in Alexandria whose staffs were called upon to perform almost superhuman tasks during the Gallipoli campaign, especially in its earlier stages. Indeed, it is on record that on one occasion its surgeons operated for an unbroken stretch of 48 hours. In the more normal times which have succeeded those months of well-nigh intolerable strain, the need for providing suitable recreation for the staff in its leisure hours has resulted in the formation of a Musical and Dramatic Society under the presidency of Lieut.-Colonel H. E. R. James, C.B., C.M.G., and, incidentally, in the discovery among the staff of talent of no mean order.

On March 14, in celebration of the second anniversary of the landing of the unit in Egypt, the society presented Oscar Wilde's comedy, "The Importance of Being Earnest," and on March 24 a second representation was given, to which the officers invited friends.

In hands less competent than those of Lance-Corporal Nugent Monck, R.A.M.C., the producer, this not unambitious effort might have been fraught with disaster, but, obviously, the cast had "found" itself, and the author's brilliantly cynical dialogue lost nothing of its effect histrionically. Captain E. L. Taylor and Corporal Monck admirably sustained their respective rôles of John Worthing and Lady Bracknell, while the personal charm and "will to woo" of Corporal Smithson, as the Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax, made light of her lack of dowry. Private R. W. Symes, as Algernon Moncrieff, the languid, self-possessed, dilettante man-about-town of the period, with an infinite capacity for muffins, "Bunburyism," and the enjoyment of a life of leisure, was particularly convincing, and if his vocation in civil life be unconnected with the stage, let his talent or my ignorance justify the conjecture. The decoration in all three scenes was carefully contrived and artistically executed by Private J. E. Lee, who, it is rumoured, is not unknown in Chelsea art circles. Captain J. A. Delmege and Lance-Corporal J. H. Teasdale were responsible for the incidental music, and Corporal F. P. Waters for the stage carpentry. It is to be hoped that the society will not languish during the summer months.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.

Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.

Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.

Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,

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

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL

(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.

Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.

For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,

GLYMENOPOULOU, RAMLEH.

This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.

Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20
Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOUY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—

NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.

LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.

FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.

FOR SUMMER SEASON—

PLATRES—Platres Hotel. TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.

4,000 feet above sea level. 6,000 feet above sea level.

Open from May till October. Open from May till October.

Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

Excursions to Mount Troodos.

For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to

NAJEM HOUY & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.

Proprietors of "The Army and Navy Stores."

Branches—Polymedia, Troodos, Nikosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Platres.

Head Offices and Central Stores: LIMASSOL.

All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No. 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1917.

ARAB AND TURK.

In these days when history is being made on a large scale in so many parts of the world there seems to be little time to spare for the consideration of movements of a less spectacular growth. One of such movements is the Hejaz revolt, which, however modest its present dimensions may be, deserves attention, nevertheless, by reason of its potential significance. The lull that has succeeded the earlier military operations based on Mecca is far from implying that the movement has ceased to make progress. It is probably in the interests of the new kingdom that the extension of the King's sovereignty should be gradual, in order that the ground won may be consolidated. Owing to the thoroughness with which his plans were laid, the Grand Shereef of Mecca achieved his immediate object in a surprisingly short time. Medina alone, thanks to its railway communication and to the facilities thus given to the Turks to reinforce their garrison, resisted capture by a *coup de main*, and the Shereef hesitated to shed blood unnecessarily, in the confidence that circumstances would eventually bring the town into his possession without a struggle. Meanwhile he has had opportunity to establish his claim to the title of King of the Hejaz and to meet the criticisms which his action inevitably evoked in the Arab world. The particularist tendencies of the Arabs could hardly fail to make them suspicious of a chieftain who stepped forward so suddenly into the limelight, and it is certain that the Turks would know well how to launch a campaign of misrepresentation with a view to prejudicing King Hussein Ali in the eyes of his co-religionists. His sturdy common sense and the progressive nature of his rule, however, have compelled general respect. Some of the difficulties attending the first days of his reign may be gauged by the fact that he was supposed in certain quarters to be acting in collusion with the Turks, in order that, by feigning a revolt, he might secure supplies from the Allied Powers, who had stopped the importation of foodstuffs to the Holy Places when they found that they were being deflected for the use of Turkish troops. Arab opinion, apart from the Hejaz itself, was at first frankly critical of the movement, and in the long run it will probably be shown that the King has been fortunate in being able to concentrate his attention on winning the good opinion of his fellow-Arabs instead of being engaged in an incessant struggle against Turkish forces.

For the outside world the preliminary success of the King of the Hejaz raises the question of the capacity of the Arabs to recover their lost independence and to build up once more a great State on the ruins which will shortly represent all that is left of the Ottoman Empire after the rule of Abdul Hamid and the Committee of Union and Progress. It may be premature to speak of an Arab movement, in the sense that the Arabs of the Ottoman Empire are conscious of aspirations towards national unity; but there can be little doubt that the defeat of the Turks in Mesopotamia and Palestine, coming on the top of the persecution which the Arabs have suffered at the hands of the Constantinople Government, will open up prospects to which the Hejaz revolt will seem to have given a practical application. Is the world-

war, which is already responsible for the stirring of so many dry bones, to achieve this yet greater wonder and to bring forth the Arab from the islands of his desert after centuries of seclusion to revive something of the glories associated with his name? That he has continued to inherit the qualities which enabled his forefathers to conquer the world and to found three empires is shown by his record when he is content to leave Arabia. His energy is abundant; his capacities, whether as trader, soldier or statesman, have aroused the jealousy of his Turkish ruler and caused him to be a marked man in an Empire where individuality outside the dominant clique is a crime. The secret of the failure of the Turks lies in the fact that in their own country they form a minority not only in point of numbers, but also in respect of all the many-sided activities that make up a modern State. In the military profession only does the Turk hold his own. The Arabs were possessed of an old civilization when the Turks were yet barbaric nomads; their literature and language form the basis of such intellectual wealth as the Turk can claim for his own; in their petty States in the recesses of the wilderness they have brought democracy to a pitch which will stand comparison with the great republics on either side of the Atlantic.

For the present, however, the Arabs of the Ottoman Empire remain, as they have been for centuries, divided into a number of distinct elements which show little inclination to come together to form a homogeneous whole. The standard of revolt has been raised first in the Hejaz, but Western Arabia unfortunately possesses no adequate source of wealth to enable it to carry the burden of a great Arab empire. The Hejaz, however, has special claims on the respect and loyalty of the rest of the Arab world, in view of the prominent part it plays in Islam, which the Young Turks have recently discovered to be "essentially Arabian," and for that reason unsuited for the rôle it has hitherto filled in the Ottoman Empire. When, therefore, the new State is freed from immediate anxiety regarding its own future, and sees, perhaps, in Syria or Palestine a permanent bulwark of defence established between it and the Turks, there will be time for it to feel the pulse of Arab unity. The liberation of Syria from the Turkish yoke is likely to give further impetus to the movement, as it has supplied the major part of its *intelligenza* in the past. But we may look to the action of the Turks themselves to provide the main incentive to a common effort on the part of the Arabs. The latter realize that the success of the Turanian movement, which has become the official policy of the Committee of Union and Progress, was only possible over the dead bodies of the chief Arabs and the leaders of Arab thought. The war strengthened the determination of the Turks, under German influence, to achieve a short cut to the Turkification of the Empire, and although they would have found it practically impossible to impose their will upon the Arab of the Desert, who would always withdraw to his fastnesses, they might, in time, have worked their will upon the Arab of the Borderland. Happily, the successful declaration of independence on the part of the Grand Shereef and the British invasion of Mesopotamia have prevented the policy from being carried out in other parts of the Arab world with the thoroughness which has been applied in Syria. The absence of economic resources, however, must always constitute a barrier to any rapid progress of the Arab movement. It should, therefore, be the aim of its leaders to see that political evolution does not outstrip economic developments. For this reason they will do well to associate themselves politically with those who are in a position to revive the long dormant wealth which once made their country a watchword of splendour among the nations.

PUBLIC WORKS IN EGYPT.

SIR MURDOCH MACDONALD'S REPORT.

(By OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, has just published his report on Public Works in Egypt during 1915-16. It is a most interesting document, and in many respects is a complement to his report for 1914-1915, wherein he discussed at considerable length and with great frankness the various projects which must be carried out in the near future if Egypt and the Sudan are to be assured all the water which they both require. Those projects, it may be remembered, were works for the further control of the annual flood and the provision of more summer water for Egypt; a weir on the Blue Nile for the irrigation of the Gezira Plain, which is to be cultivated with cotton and cereals; two large drainage projects in the Delta; the remodelling of the main canal system in Lower Egypt; and the conversion of the remaining basin lands of Upper Egypt to perennial irrigation. As Sir Murdoch points out, these are not really new undertakings, but they "form a logical extension of the ideas which have fructified so well in the past and from which, in their further development, there is no reason to fear any other result than is shown by the estimated figures." There can be no question of abandoning them owing to the war, or of relegating them to a distant date. The whole future of the two countries concerned depends on their execution, so that any undue procrastination would have very serious consequences.

The Need for More Summer Water.

As was explained last year, the works already completed have brought about so great a development that it is not possible to satisfy the demand for summer water. A practically rainless country, Egypt is entirely dependent on the Nile for her water supply. If the flood is good, she receives abundant water during the great part of the year, but in the summer during three months preceding the arrival of the flood the Nile is low and the supply has to be artificially augmented. The crops dependent on summer water are cotton and rice; maize, although in other respects a flood crop, also requires summer water for sowing. Prior to the construction of the Assuan Dam maize had to wait for water until such time as the flood had caused an excess over the supply available for the summer crops. Since the creation of the reservoir the efforts of the Irrigation authorities have been directed to providing water for the entire cotton area and for about 200,000 acres of rice, and to using a small portion of the additional supply to enable maize to be sown at an earlier date than would have been otherwise possible. But as the demand is always greater than the supply, these efforts are never completely successful. "The loss falls most heavily on rice, which has always to be restricted in area. Cotton does not get water with sufficient frequency, and maize is to its detriment often delayed in sowing."

The water stored in the reservoir adds during four months about a third to the volume passing down the river in a normal year, but it does not remove the liability to vary which that volume always shows. Experience has demonstrated that in bad years the supply is insufficient for cotton and a restricted area under rice, even though maize be left to wait entirely for the real flood; that in normal years, if cotton and 200,000 acres of rice were assured water, maize could not certainly be sown at the most desirable moment; and that only in years when the river is well above the normal can the three present areas of cultivation be assured the water required to give a full return of crop. But "summers of such plentiful natural supply as would warrant extension into new areas are few and far between." There is at present no means of providing the existing area with the summer water it requires, so that further extension of the cultivated area of Egypt will not be possible until such works as those projected on the White and Blue Niles are completed. These rivers can, as previously explained, meet the present and future requirements of Egypt, and at the same time the works constructed on them would constitute a control over the height and duration of the flood wave, and thus relieve Egypt from the great risk of inundation which she runs to-day. For these reasons, it is most desirable that these works should be proceeded with without delay.

Sir Murdoch, who in his opening paragraphs pointed out that the irrigation works already constructed had been most instrumental in conferring prosperity on Egypt, and that the Assuan Dam, which cost in all £5,000,000, produces with the water it stores crops worth annually between £5,000,000 and £10,000,000, gives an interesting example of what return an increase of summer water can bring. In 1915, as is well known, the cotton area was restricted. As a result, it was found possible to give water to 300,000 acres of rice land instead of the 200,000 acres of a normal year. The extra crop reaped was worth about £1,000,000. The point lies in the fact that these extra 100,000 acres were not set free for rice by the restriction in the cotton area; they are always available for rice, but cannot as a rule be cultivated, owing to the shortage in summer water. Thus it can be seen that if works providing summer water were carried out, a small portion of them would on this count alone produce an extra £1,000,000 per annum.

Drainage and Reclamation.

That the project for the drainage and reclamation of vast areas of waste land in the Northern Delta cannot fail to be remunerative has been proved by the State Domains Administration, which a few years ago decided to improve certain areas of waste land belonging to it. The capital expenditure per acre was not more than £20 and the maintenance cost was not increased by more than 8s. per annum; the result of this work is, however, that land formerly worth little or nothing now bears valuable crops, and an excellent return in rentals is obtained.

One of the great objections to the reclamation of vast areas has been the difficulty in finding cultivators willing to take up holdings in these new districts. It has frequently been stated that the Egyptian fellah is too conservative to leave his original surroundings and move to areas where the future not unnaturally may appear to him somewhat uncertain. In this connection Sir Murdoch advances the theory that "the condition of the soil is probably a more important factor than the character of the fellah, who may not care for a land of promise, but yet be quite ready to take over a property whose value has been proved"; and he thinks that it may be necessary "not only to construct Government canals and drains, which after all serve only large areas and do not include the multitudinous smaller channels required before cultivation can be produced, but also to provide these latter and carry out a thorough washing of the soil to clear it of salt before it is handed over." Obviously the fellah could not carry out this work himself, since he could not command the requisite capital. Seeing, however, that the State has already attained success in this direction, Sir Murdoch opines that it should effect this work, which would have "the further advantage of enabling the State to reap the benefit of its possession of the land in its waste but potentially valuable condition, which it could not do if the land were surrendered at a nominal price for others to reclaim."

He here outlines an experiment which might be tried, and which, if successful, "might have far-reaching effects on the general health and social habits of the Egyptian." He refers to the cramped condition in which the fellahin live. In the olden days, when inundations were not infrequent, they built their houses on sites above the flood-level. Albeit these dangers no longer exist to-day, at any rate on anything approaching the same scale, the fellahin still cling to the old system of these villages, which rise above the plain like small hills, and which, owing to their narrow, tortuous and unpaved streets, have a high death rate, due to the absence of modern ways for avoidance and eradication of sickness. In the Sudan, whenever land has been put under cultivation, premises have been built on a corner of each plot for the tenant, and Sir Murdoch, who records that "few things probably strike the stranger to Egypt more vividly than the absence of houses on the land itself in the fashion of Europe," thinks that if the same system were tried in Egypt it "might well repay its cost and would very likely assist in solving many of the medical problems to-day before the Government."

Irrigation Canal Improvements.

The remodelling of the existing canal system is a project which requires urgent attention. Especially does this apply to Lower Egypt, where, as mentioned in a recent note on the subject published in THE NEAR EAST, even at flood



**WHITE HORSE
WHISKY.**

HEART TONIC.

**DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.**

By Appointment to



KING GEORGE.



KING OF SPAIN.

time, when there is ample water in the river, serious shortage is experienced in the lower reaches owing to the area which they are now called upon to serve having been extended beyond the capacity of those canals. Enlargement is the only remedy, and this will have to be accompanied by better provision for the escape of surplus water. This latter "is amply provided for under the new irrigation projects." At the same time, more accurate knowledge of the requirements of particular crops at different seasons and in different districts is needed. The Government has just taken over a large pumping station near Cairo, where it is carrying out a series of observations with this object.

Greater control of the water supply on all the canals is necessary, and Sir Murdoch considers that "as part and parcel of a complete overhaul of canals should be the taking over and remodelling of the more important private canals constructed and maintained by private enterprise." As regards the first, this could be attained by remodelling the outlets to correspond to the actual areas served, by constructing parallel channels, thereby lessening the need for direct irrigation from main canals and by developing the system of flood distributaries at the apex of the Delta. The cost of this work, even for the existing cultivated areas, would be considerable, but he thinks that a public saving of money could be effected owing to the decrease in the necessity of lifting water, whilst there would be direct compensating advantages to cover interest on the capital involved. As regards the private canals, these have been dug by private individual proprietors, who combine together in this manner to obtain water, which for some reason or another was not immediately available for them under the State canal scheme. To-day many of these canals serve more proprietors than was originally intended, whilst difficulties in regard to maintenance have cropped up; as a result, proprietors near the heads are better served if the canal lower down is not cleaned. Undoubtedly if the Government took over these canals and maintained them, subject to the payment of a tax to cover the work of maintenance, they could be made to serve the areas more equitably.

Irrigation by Free Flow.

An important experiment in the method of distribution was carried out in 1915-1916. In ordinary years the country requires for irrigation and drainage purposes about 400,000 tons of coal. The war gave rise to fears that it might not be possible to secure this enormous quantity at the proper time, and it was suggested that in the first place a reserve of 40,000 tons should be secured to relieve the situation in the event of the importers being late with their deliveries, and that, in the second place, water should be given in the canals at a much higher level than is usual in the summer. Both suggestions were acted upon.

It is explained that the canals are kept at two distinct levels, according to the season of the year, viz.: the flood level, which is maintained after the advent of the flood and whilst it is still at its height; and the summer level, which is introduced when the flood is past and is maintained until the next one arrives. At the flood level, which is, of course, the higher, the water flows freely on to the fields through outlets which, having been made by the cultivators themselves, are for the most part too large for the area served. The wastage of water which ensues, owing to these excessive outlets, does not matter much when the flood is on, but it is a different matter when it is past, for that is the period when every drop of water has to be made to do its full duty. At the latter period, therefore, the levels in the canals are reduced to the point where the cultivators have to lift all the water they require and have to incur thereby an expenditure which effects an automatic economy in the quantity taken. Of course, there was a risk that if the levels were raised the cultivators might, some of them, obtain more than was their due, but as proper-sized pipes had been substituted for most of the old outlets it was considered worth while running that risk. The effect of this introduction of higher summer levels was, as a matter of fact, most happy, for the normal consumption of coal fell from 400,000 to 150,000 tons in the season. Although the high price of coal induced the fellahs to burn straw, cotton sticks, etc., and to fell considerable numbers of trees, Sir Murdoch is of the opinion that "these substitutes cannot have accounted for more than a small percentage of the total saving, the bulk of which must be set down to higher levels in the canals."

(To be continued.)

The *Hestia* (Athens) learns from a diplomatic source that Marshal von Mackensen has been ordered by the Kaiser, at Enver Pasha's request, to command the Turkish forces in Asia Minor. After passing through Sofia he inspected the troops on the Macedonian front, and is now journeying to Constantinople to take up his new command.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

April 19.

In a written reply to a question put by Mr. Hume-Williams, Mr. J. F. HOPE stated: No actual exchange of prisoners in Turkey has yet taken place. A proposal has recently been made to the Turkish Government for the exchange of 600 men on either side as a preliminary to a wider exchange subsequently. No reply has yet been received, but one is expected momentarily. I am glad to take the opportunity of stating that the United States Ambassador at Constantinople has obtained the consent of the Turkish Government to the inspection of certain of the prisoners' camps by representatives of the Embassy.

The Situation in Greece.

Mr. BONAR LAW informed Mr. Dillon that the situation in Greece was now under discussion by the Allied Governments, and added that any statement in regard to it at present would be premature.

Mr. DILLON: As there is great public anxiety on this question, and good ground for it, may we not have a full discussion of it and the policy which the Allied Governments are going to pursue?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I think it would be very desirable, if it were possible, to have a discussion on this subject, and I may say now that the Government have decided that it would be desirable to have a private session of this House. I hope to be able to state next week when the private session will take place.

Salonika Casualties.

April 23.

Mr. W. ROCH asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could, consistently with the public interest, give the number of casualties incurred up to date by the British forces at Salonika.

Mr. MACPHERSON: I am afraid it will not be in the public interest to give them.

Mr. ROCH asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could make any statement as to the present position of the British forces at Salonika.

Mr. MACPHERSON: I have nothing to add to what has appeared in the Press.

Concerning King Constantine.

Mr. RONALD M'NEILL asked whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had received information to the effect that the French military authorities at Salonika were in possession of proofs that bands of irregulars and *Komitajis* guilty of depredations on the Venizelists in Greece had been armed and organised from Athens; whether the assistant commissioner of police at Kipourgo was recently arrested by the French for communicating false statements concerning the French Army to the Athenian Press and was found in possession of written orders from the King's officials to the chiefs of irregular bands committing depredations in Thessaly, as well as of rifles and ammunition of the Greek Army pattern; and whether the Powers who guaranteed constitutional government in Greece had taken or would take any steps to prevent the possibility of such occurrences in the future. The hon. member said that the question did not appear on the paper in the form in which he handed it in, and he wished to know whether the rule which prohibited expressions reflecting on a friendly Sovereign could be held to apply to the King of the Hellenes, having regard to the fact that he was not a friendly Sovereign.

The SPEAKER: He is technically a friendly Sovereign.

Mr. R. M'NEILL: Are we to be bound by technicalities in face of the notorious facts?

The SPEAKER: There is no use in insulting neutrals.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to the question on the paper, said the answer to the first two parts of the question was in the affirmative. As regarded the last part, the French General Commanding-in-Chief in Macedonia was taking all necessary steps to deal with the situation.

Greece and the Allies.

April 25.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether German officers continued to frequent the Royal Palace at Athens and were received by General Dousmanis and by members of the General Staff; whether German agents continued active throughout Thessaly; whether irregular bands of Greeks in the neutral zone, organised and led by officers of the Greek Regular Army, had had numerous engagements with French troops; whether M. Lambros had been informed by the head of the Allied military control in Athens of the proved intrigues of Generals Dousmanis and Papoulos with the irregular bands acting against the Allied cause in Epirus, but replied that these officers were above suspicion in their duty to the King and Government; whether 2,500 Greek soldiers had been allowed, on the pretext of going on leave, to return in uniform to the mainland of Greece; whether many thousands of rifles were known to be still available for arming the troops of the Royal Army; and what steps were being taken to put an end to the *régime* of treachery and intrigue prevailing in Athens.

Lord R. CECIL said, in the view of his Majesty's Government, action in Greece must be chiefly, if not solely, determined by the war interests of the Allies as a whole, and could not, therefore, be adequately discussed in public. An opportunity for discussing the matter would arise in the Secret Session. He would only now say that he could not accept all the statements made in the question.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

King Constantine.

On Tuesday the *Pall Mall Gazette* published a vigorous little article entitled "The Traitor King." We quote the first portion:—

It was the Speaker's own sardonic gift which alluded to King Constantine yesterday as being "technically a friendly Sovereign." Events are repeating the lesson we have so long drawn from them in these columns that this technical friendship should be judged by a more searching standard, and that a Monarch who has made himself a mere hack of the German Government should be removed from his present seat of mischief. When great despotisms are toppling over or trembling in the balance, it is no time for allowing small ones to obstruct the path of good government and civilisation. The King of Greece is a petty, but a highly typical, representative of autocracy at its worst. He has played the traitor to his friends, and the knave to his own people.

There can be no doubt that public opinion in this country would welcome the disappearance of King Constantine almost as heartily as it would welcome that of the Kaiser or of "Tsar" Ferdinand. The *Manchester Guardian*, in an article headed *tout court* "Constantine," voices an anxiety as to the future that is widely shared.

The plain fact is that, as things go at present, we are in danger of finishing this war with King Constantine still seated in place and power at Athens—a thorough tyrant who will ruthlessly exterminate his Venizelist opponents as soon as he is released from his fears of the Allied forces, a Prussianised autocrat who will keep Greece in the political servitude to which he has reduced her, a friend of Germany who will work for her in peace as he has done in war throughout the Near East. These things are certainties if the Allies do not remove Constantine from the throne. It may be urged that when the final victory over Germany has been won the Allies will deal decisively with him. But will they? It seems to us a rash and dangerous assumption. Whatever difficulties have so far held back the hand of the Allies—and they have never been stated—will exist also when the war comes to an end. . . . Surely, if we cannot go so far as to take sides openly with our friends against our enemies, we might at least be impartial and remove this extraordinary prohibition.

'Unsatisfactory.'

How terribly unsatisfactory is the position in Greece is shown in an article published on the same date by the *Manchester Guardian*. From this we quote one paragraph:—

Every imaginable trick has been resorted to in order to elude the vigilance of the Allies' control. Thus, at the surrender of war material, rifles and cartridges were delivered packed in cases, each of which purported to contain a certain specified quantity. On several occasions cases were opened and found to contain only a fraction of the stated quantity. Leave was granted to men belonging to regiments that were about to be removed to the Peloponnese, desertions took place "en masse" on the journey south, so that the strength of the regiments when they reached their destination had greatly dwindled. The force of gendarmerie which was allowed to be maintained on the mainland was increased by the incorporation of soldiers. A great number of soldiers, discarding their uniforms, have formed bands in Thessaly and Epirus under the command of Greek officers, and now General Sarrail is busy hunting them down.

At Jassy.

On Tuesday *The Times* published an article, "The Troubles of Roumania," written by its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, and dated March 21. The writer mentions strange rumours regarding the reception in Budapest of the German and Bulgarian invaders:—

From German or professedly "neutral" sources we learn that the conquerors were received by the population with acclamations and showers of flowers which, in view of the season, must surely have been artificial; that German plays are performed in the theatre before delighted audiences, and that in other places of public resort German *farces de café-concert* have aroused such turbulent enthusiasm as to provoke the contempt and disgust of the German officers present. If there be any grain of truth in these tales we must remember that the Germanized Jewish element forms a not inconsiderable minority in the capital, and that the suburbs are largely inhabited by a Bulgarian population, which no doubt extended a welcome to its kith and kin.

Jassy, however, has so many troubles of its own that it has little time to think of those of Bucharest or Braila:—

The truth is that the town is overcrowded with refugees, its population being at least trebled, while the authorities, owing to indifference or compassion, have hitherto refrained from obstructing their arrival. The fugitives, who for the most part have no occupation, wander listlessly through the streets.

The result of this state of affairs has been the near approach of famine and pestilence. At the end of last November, during the first few days of the arrival of the Government and the diplomatic corps, the restaurants, though overcrowded, contrived in some measure to supply the wants of their too numerous customers, but meat soon became rare, while sweetmeats, which at first were occasionally obtainable, before long disappeared altogether as the supply of sugar gave out. Beer had vanished

completely within the first week of the arrival of the earlier refugees. By degrees the cafés ceased to supply the usual refreshments; some were closed; in others, which remained open, the guests might be seen sitting at empty tables—such is the force of habit—keeping themselves warm as best they could and enjoying a little mental pabulum. To-day it is still sometimes possible to obtain a cup of tea in these establishments, but as a rule without milk or sugar. Piteous indeed is the sight of the long *queues* of hungry men, women, and children waiting before the bakers' shops in the snow; sometimes there is a struggle, but in general the people display a wonderful patience and resignation. . . . Among the crowds making their way through the streets, now blocked with huge piles of frozen snow, the greater number of persons are not only underfed, but insufficiently clothed, and are compelled to take refuge at night in unwarmed houses while the thermometer is 20deg. below freezing point. The lack of fuel, like that of food, is due in the main to insufficiency of means of transport.

The spread of Epidemics is the most serious feature in the situation, says the writer. The hospitals are overcrowded, and many victims are claimed every day. The article concludes, however, on a note of hope:—

In a few weeks fighting will be resumed all along the front, and events on the Roumanian front may perhaps contribute in no small degree to the anticipated success of the general offensive of the Allies. Great as have been the misfortunes of Roumania, the heart of the nation is undismayed, and all men look confidently forward to the triumph of the cause of liberty and justice. At the same time, it would be affectation to disguise the concern with which news of recent events in Russia has been received here, for the fate of Roumania is bound up with that of Russia. For better, for worse, for weal or woe, the destinies of the smaller country are linked with those of her great neighbour.

Lessons of the Dardanelles.

Sir John Leyland, in an article in the April number of the *Nineteenth Century and After*, discusses the Report of the Dardanelles Commission, which he describes as "one of the most remarkable, not to say amazing, documents ever laid before Parliament." Sir John discusses at length all that has been said for and against those who were responsible for the conduct of the campaign, and all the reasons which were held at the time to justify it. He proceeds:—

We recognise the salutary truth that the organisation and systems of peace must inevitably often break down and be shaped anew in the stress of a national struggle. We have discovered with wonder, but without surprise, that inherited tradition and the bonds of that discipline which are part of the very being of the men of the sea impose even upon the most forceful of them a certain reticence of silence, which is among the most significant of the disclosures in the Report of the Commission. The purpose of driving a way through the passage of the Dardanelles and dictating terms at Constantinople, though it imposed upon us a singularly bitter experience, was unquestionably the fruit of a sound idea, and if a combined naval and military expedition had been organised at the beginning, and the action could have been rapid and continuous, the rich experience of history shows that there might have been notable success. . . .

The responsibility for the failure lies at home. Its root was in the vague and haphazard fashion in which the guidance of our naval and military policy was conducted at the time. There was excess of confidence, where confidence could not be justified. There was no disposition to ponder over every hazard that might be run. . . . Time was an essential consideration in the business in hand. But the War Council vacillated "in the imminent breach," and arrived at no clear-cut and definite decisions. Its only rational alternatives would have been either to renounce the expedition altogether or to push it forward with every proper and available naval and military force to the end desired. Delay increased immensely the difficulties of the task.

To Prevent Waste of Water.

A correspondent sends to *Palestine* some notes upon the benefits to be secured by the intelligent and liberal erection of dams in the Holy Land. He writes:—

The damming of the Jordan would be the key to immense prosperity. The fall from Tiberias to the Dead Sea is ten feet a mile, so a dam would be needed at every mile or two—say fifty dams in all. From each such lake water would be trained out with high-level canals contouring the foot-hills, and giving perennial irrigation to the immense hot-house of the Jordan valley, which would become the richest agricultural land in the world.

Not only are dams needed in the Jordan valley; every stream in the country needs damming. It is the saddest sight to see

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.

ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.

The SUMMER TERM will begin on APRIL 30.

Instruction is given in the principal languages of the East and of Africa, and on Oriental and African Religions and Customs.

For particulars, apply to E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

a fine shower of rain shooting down the deep stream beds straight into the sea. An inch fall of rain will all be run off in a single day, and do very little good to the land. I asked the Bedawy why no one ponded up the water in the deep-cut stream beds, which would be invaluable for their flocks. The only reply was, "Who has a head for that?" Owing to mismanagement, the face of the land is simply a net of draining ditches for the most rapid waste of water. Every one of these stream beds should be a chain of ponds and lakes, with the water trained out at high level from each lake as far as possible. The cost of damming such narrow beds, often only ten or twenty yards wide, and half as deep, would be a trifle, repaid in a single year's profit of crops.

The proposal certainly is a practical one, and it is to be hoped that when peace returns once more it may be given a trial.

Nejd and El Hasa.

The *Illustrated London News* recently published a short article, "Some Great Arab Rulers and the Entente," illustrated with pictures of Ibn Saud, the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and the Sheikh of Koweit, taken on the occasion of their visit to Busreh to meet Sir Percy Cox. Here is a passage from the article, describing a land of which the world still knows only very little:—

Ibn Saud rules over Nejd and El Hasa. The first-named is a province of Arabia, bounded on the north by the Nafud Desert, on the east by El Hasa, on the south by the Dahua Desert, and on the west by Asir and Hedjaz. It extends nearly 550 miles from north to south, 450 from east to west, and covers approximately 180,000 square miles. Practically all of it is upland, varying in altitude from 5,000 to 1,500 feet, the north and east containing many fertile oases, whilst the western and southern portion is mostly desert, with a little pasture land, capable of

supporting a nomad population only. The four great Bedoun tribes who form the principal population (the total population probably exceeds 1,000,000), are those of Shammar, Harb, Ataba, and Muter, of which the Harb are the most numerous; and the principal crops the land yields are dates, wheat, barley and garden produce. In 1871 Nejd became a nominal Dependency of the Turkish Empire, when Midhat Pasha established a small garrison in El Hasa; but Turkish rule was never taken seriously, and to-day the rule of Ibn Saud goes unchallenged by the Ottoman Government, not only in Nejd, but in the coast province of El Hasa, which, stretching along the coast of the Persian Gulf from Koweyt to the south point of Bahrein, a distance of 360 miles—well cultivated in a few places, but mostly barren, owing to lack of irrigation, and containing a remarkable citadel attributed to Carmathian Princes, with a share in the valuable pearl fishery at Bahrein—was, until recently, under some sort of control by the Turks. This, however, has vanished now, thanks to their crushing defeat in Mesopotamia, by our forces, and Nejd and El Hasa know one lord only—Ibn Saud, who is a firm friend of the Entente, and eager, above all things, to see the last of Turkish misrule in Arabia.

The Mesopotamia Commission met at the House of Lords on Tuesday and further considered their report.

The Budapest *Hirlap*, of April 11, announced the arrival of the first consignment of Roumanian corn in Vienna.

M. Tatanis, proprietor of the influential Venizelist organ *Ethnikos Kiryx* in New York, has offered to form Greek volunteer companies throughout the United States to fight under the American flag.

All the wheat in the occupied portions of Roumania has been confiscated by the Germans for the use of their army. Bread-tickets have been introduced for the Roumanians. The Germans have also seized and removed all the cattle.



Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.

— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.

CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and
makers of every description of Cotton
Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton
Carpets), and other Floor Coverings,
Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for
Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.

DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs,
Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I am glad to learn that the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture is losing no time in putting in operation the law which compels ginners to instal in their factories machines for killing the pink boll worm in the cottonseed. The Simons hot air machine has been approved for the purpose, and ginners were given until March 31 to place their order so that it may actually be at work on September 1, 1917. Ginners in Upper Egypt were informed that if their orders were not received by March 31 it would be assumed officially that either they did not intend to continue to work their factories or were prepared to take the responsibility of installing the machines themselves. Owing to the difficulty in securing the necessary number of machines in time the operation of the law in Lower Egypt has been suspended until the requirements of Upper Egypt have been met. Our Cairo Correspondent refers to the subject in his letter, which will be found on the next page. I agree with him that the work of fumigation of the gineries is too important to be delayed—there has been too much delay already—and that it is unfortunate that the whole of the country cannot be brought under the operation of the law for some months to come.

Merchants in India, particularly in Bombay, have not been slow to realise the importance to Indian trade of the capture of Baghdad, and that the term "Bombay-to-Baghdad" is not a vague, indefinite figure of speech as "Berlin-to-Baghdad" was. It is pointed out with perfect truth that in ordinary circumstances nearly all the orders for certain classes of goods will go to the Western capital of India, and piece goods is one of the lines indicated. An earnest appeal is being made to industrialists to speed up and prepare for the day of greater things which is believed to be imminent. German influence was long paramount in the city of the Caliphs, and whatever the future of it may be, we may take it for granted that the Huns will not have restored to them the "vested interest" as their hold on the trade of the region was once regarded.

Very little news comes through from any part of the Balkans, but I have just read an American consular report, written in Sofia before the United States declared war against the Huns, in which it was stated that banking is still excellent business in Sofia, as may be judged from the fact that in 1916, in the midst of war, dividends averaged 9 per cent. The Deutsche Bank is soon to open a branch in Sofia, while a German newspaper, for which a complete printing and publishing plant is *en route*, is to be published there. The Bulgars are no strangers to German and Austrian banking, of course, because the Banque de Crédit (German) and the Banque Balkanique (Austrian) have been in active and successful operation for several years. Other interesting facts mentioned are that the only overshoes to be found in the Sofia markets are Russian, that German and Austrian commercial travellers are still active, but that Bulgarians do not believe that, for some time after the war, German machinery makers will be able to supply more than their own needs.

As I have written, this note was submitted before America came into the war, and it is impossible to say what the future, immediate or distant, of Bulgaria will be; but it is interesting to observe that the writer has a profound belief in the prosperity of the country. This is what he writes:—"Sofia is destined, in all probability, to be an important capital. Its geographical position and its extensive railroad connections fit it to dominate the rule of the entire Balkan peninsula." So great is (or was) his faith, indeed, that he presses for the establishment of the "American-Bulgarian Bank, which has been talked of in business and financial circles for a year or more. Such a bank, capitalised at 20,000,000 francs, would help to gain for the United States a great part of the Bulgarian trade. One-half of the capital necessary is already within call in Sofia, and such an institution would undoubtedly do a safe and most profitable business from the start." But things have happened since that was written.

Crop reports from Egypt vary according to the commodity. That on the condition of cotton is not altogether satisfactory. Weather conditions in March retarded sowing, hampered germination of the early crop, and made a good deal of re-sowing necessary. In Behera and Gharbia only 50 per cent. of the area had been planted up to the end of the month, and in some localities pests have caused a deal of trouble. Wheat appears to promise well in Upper Egypt despite a shortage in chemical manures, but elsewhere rust has caused damage, and the trouble threatened to become acute. Barley is well reported on generally, and beans, although attacked by pests in some districts, promise a fair yield. Bersim was reported to be healthy and to be growing well.

The enemy counted his chickens before they were hatched in the matter of the oil supplies he was to secure from Roumania. The Austrian Government recently informed all municipal and commercial bodies that the people would have to rely on what could be secured from the Galician fields, and that for months to come the greatest economy in the use of petroleum and its by-products would have to be exercised. The population have been "rationed," the quantity allowed to each household being less than half a pint. Conditions do not appear to be much better in parts of Germany, and even in "free" Hamburg the original "ration" of a pint and three-quarters has been reduced by one-half. A considerable difference between anticipation and realisation!

A correspondent informs me that the plant for the wool-washing establishment which is to be operated in Algiers has not yet been provided, and that as the season will soon begin there is not much of a chance that any appreciable progress will be made this year. The site has finally been chosen near the Experimental Gardens, the former one near the Wad Har-rach, at Maison Carrée, having been abandoned owing to water considerations. In Algiers there is a plentiful supply of fine spring water.

I am informed that Mr. Edwin E. Humphries, chief accountant and secretary of the Union Bank of Manchester, has received an important appointment in

the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and is about to proceed to the East to take it up. Mr. Humphries was in the service of the Union Bank for more than twenty-six years, and became chief secretary and accountant last year.

The report of the year's work of the National Bank of Egypt and of the proceedings of the general meeting of the shareholders which has just been held in Cairo—both of which we publish to-day—will make good reading for those whose interests are linked up with Egyptian prosperity. In the twelve months ended on December 31, 1916, the gross profit of the bank, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, minor depreciation, and for rebate, amounted to £624,890, rather more than £217,000 above that of the previous year. A considerable proportion of the profit accrued from the management of the note issue; but there is abounding evidence of general prosperity and well-being.

Ordinary deposits increased in period under report from £6,224,777 to £8,654,860, and those held by the bank on behalf of the Government from £2,975,523 to £5,983,349. On the assets side the cash is £2,002,329, against £1,165,357 last year; Government securities and guaranteed securities at £5,697,429, against £2,190,756; and bills of exchange at £5,366,266, against £3,351,215. The increase in the gross profit was accompanied by an expansion of only £32,000 in the current expenses, which amounted to £189,547, giving a net profit of £435,343, which is £185,480 better than that in 1915. The sum of £80,000 is placed to special and £31,353 to statutory reserve, against nothing a year ago, while £59,742 is set aside for depreciation in the bank's investments and £55,366 for depreciation in securities deposited against the note issue, as compared with £27,863 and £94,350 respectively in 1915. The dividend is at the rate of 6 per cent., against 4 per cent. for the previous twelve months, and £22,179 is carried forward.

The brief account which a correspondent sends to THE NEAR EAST of the trade figures of Cyprus for last year makes me wish there was more information available in this country about that little British outpost in the Mediterranean. It will be observed that the trade of the island has expanded by nearly half a million sterling, and while the trade balance of £49,449 in 1915 has given place to a preponderance of £256,366 on imports in 1916, that fact does not imply a setback.

COMMENTATOR

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE**

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

SUDAN CROPS.**Dura Nearly Completed. Cotton Backward.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, March 25.

The hot weather has arrived with extreme suddenness, and the temperature has gone up 10 to 15 degs., both maximum and minimum. Owing to the unusually prolonged cool weather, the abrupt change is felt more oppressive than ordinarily.

The bulk of the dura crops has now been got in and put on the market, as is shown by the reduction of the amounts being cleared by the S.G. Railways. This is shown by the fact that, whereas they were previously clearing up to 6,000 tons a week, the amount is now reduced to 2,000 tons, and there is a corresponding falling off in the goods traffic, which, in view of the present difficulty in getting coal, is not without its advantage. The respite, however, will be short, as the gum crop will shortly be moved, though this in any case does not entail any serious pressure on the resources of the railway.

Owing to the prolonged cool weather, cotton has been backward, and some difficulty will be caused by all the crops ripening at the same moment, thus requiring an increased number of natives, so that the cotton may be plucked before it falls on the ground and becomes dirty. This labour is suitable for women and children. As the senna crop is being picked at the same time, the demand for labour considerably exceeds the supply. It is notable that many natives have taken advantage of the much enhanced price of senna to grow it on irrigated lands, whereas formerly it was picked in the desert from self-sown plants. Whether this industry is likely to be permanent is a question. It is unlikely that the price of senna will continue to hold as high after the war as it does now, although it will probably never return to the low rates holding previous to the war.

Drug Plants.

A certain amount of trade is being developed in datura and henbane for the manufacture of drugs. These are not grown especially, but are found in the desert in considerable quantities, and involve only the cost of collection and transport. As, however, the places where they are most particularly to be found are frequently some distance from the railway, the cost of collection is by no means negligible.

The season has been marked by a remarkable lack of sand-grouse. In previous years parties have been able to go out and get a very satisfactory bag in the early morning as the grouse take flight. This year, for some reason so far unknown, the grouse only appear in very small numbers. This is probably due to the fact that there is a considerable amount of water in the South, greater than usual for the time of year. But, as in any case the birds migrate northwards every season, the reason seems slightly inadequate. The duck, too, are extremely shy and difficult to get at.

WORLD'S WHEAT SUPPLY.

The Board of Agriculture has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute:—

The condition of wheat in France, Italy, Switzerland and Egypt is reported to be average, and in Great Britain and the United States rather under average, while that of rye in France, Italy, Switzerland and the United States is average. Barley in France, Italy, Switzerland and Egypt is in average condition; while oats are average in Italy and the United States, but under average in France and Ireland.

The probable yield of winter wheat in the United States has been estimated at 230,363,000 cwt., or 10.7 per cent. below the corresponding production last year.

The total production of wheat in Argentina, Australia and New Zealand in 1916-17 is now estimated at 121,991,000 cwt.

PINK SEED WORM.**The Gineries' Fumigation Law.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 3.

Difficulties having arisen in regard to obtaining all the requisite machines, it has not been found possible to enforce in its entirety the law passed last year ordering all gineries to instal apparatus for the fumigation of all cottonseed before September next. As only a certain number of these machines (Simon's Hot Air Machines) will be available by the date stipulated, it has been decided to suspend for this year the application of this order to Lower Egypt and to apply it solely to Upper Egypt.

While it is much to be regretted that circumstances have prevented the carrying out of the original scheme, nevertheless the decision to apply it to Upper Egypt is a very sound one, because, owing to the peculiar conditions in which the cotton crop is handled there, it will be possible to obtain definite results, which will go a long way to proving whether, on a large scale, the fumigation theory is the remedy for the pink-seed worm epidemic that it is claimed to be.

Upper Egypt, it may be explained, is entirely devoted to the cultivation of what is known as Ashmuni cotton, whilst Sakellarides and the other varieties are confined to Lower Egypt.

By a law passed some five years ago it is forbidden to transport cotton in seed from Upper to Lower Egypt, or vice versa, across a line fixed every year by the Government. This law was introduced to prevent the mixing of Ashmuni with other superior varieties, which was practised by certain ginners to the detriment of the reputation of Egyptian cotton, and which can only be carried out during the process of ginning.

As a result of this regulation the entire Ashmuni crop is always ginned south of the above-mentioned line. This year all the seed from the coming Ashmuni crop will be subjected to the fumigation process, and as all the sowing seed received for Upper Egypt is kept there from the time of ginning till after the sowing period has passed, it follows that no infection from Lower Egypt can take place.

In other words, Upper Egypt is a closed zone as far as the rest of the cotton area is concerned, and it will be possible to observe the results of this fumigation of the seed by hot air just as satisfactorily as if the scheme had been applied to the whole of Egypt.

Enemy Concerns in Egypt.

It is announced that Messrs. W. E. Morum and Frank Young have acquired the Egyptian business of Stein's Oriental Stores, and that the latter will henceforward be carried out under the style of "Morum's Oriental Stores." This Austro-German concern, which has been in the past one of the best-paying businesses in the country, has been in the market for some time, and the fact that it had not been taken over by any Britishers caused many to fear that British trade was not alive to its interests.

Many difficulties have, however, stood in the way of its sale to British purchasers, and the delay has not been entirely the fault of the latter, but rather due to factors over which neither they nor the local authorities had any control.

The successful sale of this concern is highly satisfactory from every point of view, and the responsible officials in the Ministry of Finance are to be congratulated on having overcome the obstacles that stood in the way, and brought off this "deal."

An Alexandria telegram dated April 19 stated that the cotton-seed market was firm, with April quoted at 140 piastres and May at 144 piastres.

TRADE NOTES.**Liquidations, etc.**

Mr. E. D. Joyce, Imperial Ottoman Bank, has been appointed Receiver of the business in Egypt of Schilling and Glessing, French Market, Alexandria, with instructions to liquidate the same.

The engineering firm of Albin and Otto Krumbholz, of Damanhür (Albin's Workshop), is liquidating its affairs. Receiver: Mr. J. L. Elder, Damanhür.

Openings.

The Ministry of Finance (Egypt) invites tenders for the supply of seventy-five type-writing machines (French keyboard). Date, May 3, 1917.

BANNED FIRMS.

The following are included in the changes in the Statutory list of persons and firms with whom trading is prohibited:—

ADDITIONS.

Bozorg (see Haji Mirza Bagher Tabrizi); Haji Mirza Bagher Tabrizi (or Teherani) (alias Meshidi Agha Bozorg Tabrizi), Teheran. (Telegraphic address: "Bozorg.")

Meshidi Agha Bozorg Tabrizi (see Haji Mirza Bagher Tabrizi).

REMOVAL.

Muhammed Mehdi Samsai, Isfahan, Persia.

OILFIELD OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 23 tons, against 25; Hurgada, 1,833 tons against 2,256.

Baku Russian.—Week ended April 14, 71,900 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended April 15, 61,533 poods (922 tons).

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended April 7, 335 tons; week ended April 14, 338 tons.

Cheleken.—Fortnight ended April 7, 412 tons.

European Oilfields.—Week ended April 15, 84,000 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended April 7, 241 tons; week ended April 14, 245 tons.

Maikop Pipeline Transport.—Week ended April 14, 115,701 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended April 14, 48,700 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended April 17, 10,481 tons.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended April 12, 112,339 poods; week ended April 19, 107,247 poods.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

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

	1916.	1917.
	Francs.	Francs.
April 20	130,000	180,000
April 21	370,000	160,000
April 22	300,000	220,000
April 23	260,000	180,000

It is notified that letters and newspapers are again being forwarded from the United Kingdom to Greece, but parcels can be accepted for transmission by post only to Salonika (including the immediate locality, Crete, and other islands not included in the blockaded area).

An official report of the joint meeting of members of the various sections of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce interested in the shipment of cotton goods states that, owing to shortage of timber, an Order will probably be issued very shortly prohibiting the use of cases for the packing of cotton piece goods and yarns. The deputation had placed before Sir Bampfylde Fuller a list of certain goods which, owing to their nature, could not be packed in bales, and the probability is that when the Order is made such goods will be excluded.

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.

CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."

Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

R. OTT AND CO.,

ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(AN ANGLA-SWISS FIRM.)

GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.**EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.**

Telegrams: "Ottimo."

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.**GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.**

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from
J. CORSETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

Uncertain Conditions in the Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, April 26.

Obstacles to progress in the market continue to be met with at every turn, but the prospects in certain directions during the past week have shown some improvement. Some buyers are beginning to realise that, quite apart from the level of values in the raw material, there is the probability of higher prices in manufactured goods because the cost of production and distribution tends to increase.

Merchants have been rather surprised at the decision of the Government to put up insurance rates from three to five guineas per cent., and our customers abroad will have to bear this charge.

Notices have been issued of an increase in the rates for bleaching of 15 per cent.

No further action has yet been taken by the Trades' Union officials with regard to the demand for an increase in wages of weaving operatives of 20 per cent., but it is said that the policy to be adopted will be decided at the end of next week.

A considerable inquiry has come through in cloth for shipment abroad. There have been plenty of offers about in a variety of cloths for Egypt, but there is a shortage of vessels and some merchants have shown caution in arranging contracts. Sales abroad are on a healthy scale and stocks require to be replenished.

An improvement has shown itself in the turnover for India. Grey shirtings have attracted increased attention for Calcutta and Madras. Some fair lines have also been put through in light fabrics.

The undercurrent of demand for China continues healthier and some very fair sales have been reported. Useful orders have also been booked for Singapore and Java. Although numerous manufacturers are still wretchedly situated the general outlook is improving. The chief difficulty at the moment is the lack of sufficient tonnage to meet the demand of customers abroad.

Rather more business has been done in home American yarns, especially in the better qualities, but easy sellers are not difficult to find.

The violent fluctuations in Egyptian cotton rates have rather disorganised trade in Bolton spinnings—and operations have been irregular.

There has been very little activity in export yarns.

TRADE BOOM IN CYPRUS.

Imports and Exports Nearly Half a Million up in 1916.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The value of imports into Cyprus for the year ended December 31, 1916, amounted to £976,958, as against £611,948 for the preceding year; exports £720,592, as against £661,397.

The Chief Secretary has notified the public that all who desire to proceed to Malta must apply for the necessary passports or *visés* on forms which are supplied by the District Commissioners; and these must be submitted in good time, so that the Government may consult the authorities in Malta.

The order under which all eggs are bought and sold by agents appointed by Provost-Marshal came into force on March 19. The eggs collected in the first five days in the Nicosia District amounted to 50,000, of which 10,000 only were bought, leaving 40,000 for despatch to Salonika. This number was exceeded in the second week. As Easter approaches there will be a larger local consumption, and the supply available will be less for a week or two.

The municipal elections have taken place throughout the island. The Mayors of Nicosia and Limassol, Mr. A. Liassides and M. Spyros Araousos, have been re-elected.

Mr. Albert G. Sandeman and Mr. Stanley Machin have been reappointed to represent the London Chamber of Commerce on the Council of Foreign Bondholders, in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders' Act 1868.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Aboukir Company.

The report of the Aboukir Company for 1916 states that there were no sales during the year. The rent roll shows a reduction in the area let of nineteen feddans and an increase in the rental of £E2,969, the average rent being £E4,660 per feddan. Owing to the failure of the water supply to Aboukir lands during the month of July the yield was the worst on record. On the other hand, the supply to the Bourlos estate was adequate and the yield equal to that of the previous year. The price obtained was £5 10s. 4d. per kantar, as against £4 9s. 6d. last year. After writing off a bad debt of £1,785 the accounts show a credit balance of £407, which, with the balance brought forward from the previous year of £181, makes a total to be carried forward of £588. Meeting, 134, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C., on 30th instant at noon.

Royal Exchange Assurance.

The report for the year ended December 31 states that in the life department 1,377 proposals were received for £963,444, of which 1,188 were completed, assuring £765,988 at single and full annual premiums of £37,686. Reassurances for £60,600 were effected at single and annual premiums amounting to £5,128. Total premium income (after deducting reassurance premiums) was £389,984, an increase of £10,010 over 1915. Interest earned was £170,482, being £4 11s. 7d. per cent. on the life funds. The total income from premiums and interest (less tax) amounted to £526,171. Claims paid and outstanding (excluding endowments matured) amounted to £225,824, against £224,949.

Losses paid in respect of 1916 and previous years amounted to £800,932, against £488,200. Expenses of management were £60,558. The marine fund amounts to £1,010,110; £130,000 has been transferred to profit and loss account, out of which £55,000 has been carried to the marine fund. In the general accident department, the net premiums amounted to £325,988, which, with interest, gave a total income of £331,373. Losses paid amounted to £119,175. Commission and expenses of management, after making full provision for outstanding items, were £131,665. The general accident fund, after transferring £52,864 to the profit and loss account, amounts to £231,521.

The governors and directors call attention to the fact that this is the first year in the history of the corporation in which the net premium income of any department has reached one million pounds, an amount which has been exceeded by both the fire and marine departments.

The court of directors having been paid a dividend of 5 per cent. on account of the next accruing dividend, recommend the annual general court to be held on May 2, to order the payment of a further dividend of 7 per cent. (less income-tax), against 6½ per cent., making 12 per cent. (less tax) for the year, against 11 per cent.

The Financial Adviser of the Egyptian Government reports that, despite the impossibility of importing flour, the country's resources will suffice until the spring of 1918. Cotton has doubled in value, and the addition to Egypt's capital resources since the war is estimated at £30,000,000. Public revenues have not, however, increased at the same rate, and after the war the basis of taxation may have to be enlarged.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoth, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

COMPANY MEETING.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of Egypt was held on April 7, at the Head Offices of the Bank in Cairo, Mr. F. T. Kowlatt (the Governor) presiding.

The directors' report was as follows:—

The Directors present to the shareholders the Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

The Gross Profit for the year, after providing for depreciation on the Bank's buildings and furniture, for rebate of discount and for bad and doubtful debts amounts to..... £ 624,890 2 9

After deducting from this sum:—
For Directors' Fees .. £ 6,700 0 0
For Current Expenses 189,547 9 5 196,247 9 5

There remains an amount of £ 428,642 13 4

The Directors propose to allocate:—

For depreciation of Securities and loss on conversion of Government Securities..... £ 59,742 15 2

For depreciation of Securities deposited in guarantee for the Note Issue £ 55,366 12 0 115,109 7 2

Leaving a net profit of £ 313,533 6 2

In conformity with Article 49 of the Bank's Statutes a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the Share Capital..... £ 120,000 0 0

And 10 per cent. of the net profit must be passed to the Statutory Reserve Fund..... £ 31,353 6 7 151,353 6 7

After these statutory deductions there remains £ 162,179 19 7

The Directors consider it prudent to allocate to Special Reserve (Fonds de Prevoyance) to meet contingencies a sum of £ 80,000 0 0

which leaves £ 82,179 19 3

From this amount the Directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 2½ per cent. on the Share Capital, which will absorb £ 60,000 0 0

and leave a balance to be carried forward of £ 22,179 19 7

Each share will thus be entitled to a dividend of 12½, equivalent to 6½ per cent. on the Share Capital.

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1916.

LIABILITIES.	£E. M.M.	Est. s. d.
Share Capital.		
300,000 fully paid		
Shares of £10 each	2,925,000 —	3,000,000 0 0
Statutory Reserve Fund	1,298,069 496	1,331,353 6 7
Special Reserve	78,000 —	80,000 0 0
Current, Deposits, and other Accounts.	8,438,489 057	8,654,860 11 5
Egyptian Government	5,833,765 790	5,983,349 10 7
Mixed Tribunals	1,519,411 947	1,558,371 4 7
Bankers' Account	462,202 228	474,053 11 4
Cheques & bills payable	143,543 922	147,224 10 9
Acceptances, as per contra	99,819 013	102,378 9 6
Rebate of Discount on Bills not yet due	33,596,040	34,457 9 6
Staff Provident Fund	42,473 583	43,562 13 0
Dividends unclaimed	14,631 338	15,006 10 0
Provision for payment of dividend at the rate of 6 per annum	175,500 —	180,000 0 0
Profit and Loss Account	21,625 480	22,179 19 7
Balance	21,086,127 894	21,626,797 16 10
ASSETS.	£E. M.M.	Est. s. d.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	5,554,993 546	5,697,429 5 7
Sundry Securities	272,900 206	279,897 12 11
Advances on Merchandise	1,867,845 882	1,917,790 13 0
Advances on Securities	1,294,458 829	1,327,650 1 7
Advances otherwise secured	653,820 020	670,584 12 9
Sundry other Advances	347,563 722	356,475 12 3
Sudan Government	448,624 374	460,127 11 3
Clients' Liability for Acceptances	99,819 013	102,378 9 6
Bills of Exchange	5,232,109 809	5,366,266 9 5
Local Bills Discounted	69,848 139	71,639 2 4
Cheques Receivable	120,012 463	123,089 13 11
Buildings, Furniture, etc.	250,620 574	257,046 14 10
Money at call and at short notice	1,389,375 —	1,425,000 0 0
Bankers' Accounts	1,042,355 966	1,069,093 6 0
Bank of England	487,500 —	500,000 0 0
Cash:—		
Notes, £E. 1,821,678 0		
Gold and Silver coin	1,952,270 361	2,002,328 11 6
	21,086,127 894	21,626,797 16 10

There is a contingent liability in respect of Bills rediscounted of £48,186 12s. 7d.

(Continued on page 595.)

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Public Works in Morocco.

The British Consul-General at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.), has forwarded to the Board of Trade an extract from the *Bulletin Officiel* of the French zone which contains a Presidential Decree, dated December 5, 1916, authorising the execution of certain works, at a cost of 81,000,000 frs. Of this amount 66,710,000 frs. are for the improvement and construction of roads, whilst other large sums are for the provision of telegraphs, irrigation works, experimental farms, buildings, etc., for the establishment of public services in the country. The total length of roads, exclusive of municipal roads, provided for by this and by a previous Decree is 1,190 miles, including the following main roads: (1) A coast road from Mogador, *vid* Saffi, Mazagan, Casablanca, Rabat, and Kenitra, to the frontier of the Spanish Zone near Alcazar, where junction will be made with the road to Larache and Tangier; (2) a road from this point to Fez direct; (3) a road from Rabat to Mequinez and Fez (*a*) direct, (*b*) *vid* Kenitra; (4) portions of the road from Fez to Oujda, *vid* Taza; (5) roads from Marrakesh to (*a*) Casablanca, (*b*) Mazagan, (*c*) Saffi, and (*d*) Mogador; and (6) a road from Casablanca to Tadia.

500 Miles of Roads Ready.

Of these roads over 500 miles have already been made, whilst work is being actively carried on in the more important sections of the others. Liberal provision has been made in the new Decree for the public health service (including hospitals and dispensaries where free treatment

and medicine are provided for the natives) and for schools; 1,108,400 frs. are provided for telephones, 2,293,000 frs. for telegraphs, and 3,070,000 frs. for the building of post offices. The municipalities of the various towns receive grants amounting altogether to 17,645,853 frs. for municipal public works, including local roads not comprised in the programme of main roads referred to above.

Farming in Palestine.

The High Commissioner in Egypt has, writes the Board of Trade *Journal*, forwarded to the Board a memorandum prepared by the Arab Bureau on the subject of agriculture and supplies in Palestine, from which the following particulars have been taken:—In the neighbourhood of Jerusalem a good deal of scientific dry farming is carried on, the ground being kept loose by continual tillage. The Arabs do not use harrows, but the Jewish colonists have introduced the harrow and American pulverisers with very beneficial results. The ploughs chiefly in use in Palestine are the primitive Arab plough, and the German ploughs used throughout the Jewish and German colonies. British ploughs are said to be too heavy and the shape not quite suitable. In the orangeries and other plantations American ploughs are used exclusively, and American zig-zag harrows are also employed.

Orange Culture.

In the Jaffa orange district the irrigation of the new groves is effected by means of pumps operated by oil engines, which were first introduced by the Jews. Most of these engines are of British make (3 to 8 h.p.), and it is estimated that there are about 300 of them in the orange groves. There is a great shortage of spare parts. The water is raised

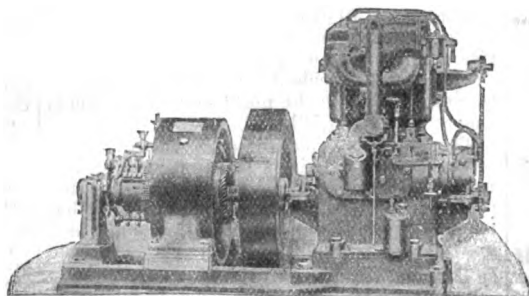
by small bore (4 in.) tubes sunk vertically into the sand strata to a depth of between forty to sixty metres, the water rising to a height of twelve metres in the pipes. The pumps raise from twenty-five to forty cubic metres per hour. A grove of twenty acres is the minimum economic size for a separate pumping plant. In 1915 the above-mentioned engines were transformed into charcoal gas engines, as no supplies of oil were available. Of the pumps employed from 80 to 90 per cent. are of local manufacture, mostly at two factories in Jaffa (one of which is German, and the other Jewish) where there are a number of good Jewish mechanics.

Agave Spirit.

Readers will recall that in these notes on March 30 we discussed the possibilities of a new fibre decorticating machine and its application to the agave plant (American aloe). The utility of the machine has been enhanced by the result of experiments which have been made recently with agave juice. It has been established that from the juice a spirit of 96 degs. strength can be obtained. Agave, therefore, comes into the field of potential important industries, and makers of decorticating machinery will do well to bear this fact in mind. Distilling plants are also suggested by the new development. Experiments in Mexico some years ago proved that 1,000 leaves produced nearly five gallons of absolute alcohol. These figures refer to the rainy season; for the dry season the production of alcohol per thousand leaves was about three gallons. The net result of these experiments was that the Government set up a factory capable of dealing with 175,000 leaves a day. After the juice has been extracted from the fibre the final refuse is dried and used as fuel. The filtered juice is sterilised after one-thousandth part of sulphuric acid has been added.

W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, OIL AND GAS ENGINES. ENGLAND.

Vertical Enclosed
Forced Lubrica-
tion.
Designed for
Paraffin, Petrol,
Alcohol, Town, or
Producer Gas, &c.



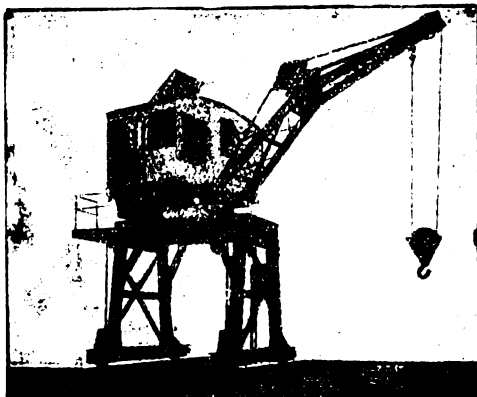
Suitable for
driving:—
Dynamoes, Pumps,
Fans, and
other forms of
Machinery.

Foreign Branches and
Agents:

INDIA.
GREAVES COTTON & CO.,
Bombay and Calcutta.

TURKEY.
EDWARDS & SONS,
Dilek Zade Han,
Stamboul, Constantinople.

EGYPT.
W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd.
Cairo.



10 Ton Electric Jib Crane.

CRANES

For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.

ALSO
HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS AND OTHER
RAILWAY PLANT

(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers).

SUCH AS

Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes, Capstans, Winches.

SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.

Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements.
Over 1,000 already installed.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT.), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.

Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "SLUICE, LONDON."

COMPANY MEETING.

(Continued from page 593.)

Under the heading "Bankers' Accounts" is included £504,560 16s. 1d. to credit with Banks in enemy countries.

Directors: V. HARARI. Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.
JOSEPH I. AGHION. ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	£E.	21,200,000
	£E.	21,200,000
Gold	£E. M.M.	5,930,710 445
*British Treasury Bills.....	£E.	4,669,289 555
		10,600,000
Securities—		
Egyptian Treasury Bills ..	2,876,250	—
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,759 555	
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	7,167,990 445	
		10,600,000
		21,200,000

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

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	L.E.	M.M.	£st.	s.	d.
Directors' Remuneration ..	6,532	500	6,700	—	—
* Current Expenses ..	184,808	782	189,547	9	5
Depreciation and loss on conversion of Government Securities ..	58,249	189	59,742	15	2
Depreciation of Securities deposited as guarantee for the Note Issue ..	53,982	435	55,366	12	—
Transferred to Statutory Reserve Fund ..	30,569	496	31,353	6	7
Transferred to Special Reserve ..	78,000	—	80,000	—	—
Provision for payment of Dividend at the rate of 6% p.a.	175,500	—	180,000	—	—
Amount carried forward to Profit and Loss Account ..	21,625	480	22,179	19	7
	609,267	882	621,890	2	9
Cr.	L.E.	M.M.	£st.	s.	d.
Gross Profit for the year ending 31st December, 1916, after providing for depreciation of Buildings and Furniture, for rebate of discount, and for bad and doubtful debts..	609,267	882	621,890	2	9
	609,267	882	621,890	2	9

* The increase of £32,000 in the current expenses as compared with last year is made up as follows:—
£18,000 expenses on Bank Note Issue due to increased circulation.
£8,500 extra taxation, etc., at London Agency.
£5,500 bonus to staff.

Report of the Auditors.

We have examined the books of the National Bank of Egypt and in our opinion the above balance-sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by the books. We have also verified the Cash, Notes, and Securities at the Head Office and the Cairo and Alexandria Branches, and have found the same correct. The London returns have been audited and certified by Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co., Chartered Accountants.

Cairo, March 10, 1917.
F. H. RUSSELL.
J. GIBSON HARRIS.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—We have the pleasure of laying before you the Balance Sheet and profit and loss account for the year 1916.

After providing for general expenses and depreciation on securities the net profits amount to £313,533 6s. 2d., against £120,000 for the previous year.

If you approve of our recommendations this sum will be disposed of in the following manner:—To statutory reserve, £31,353 6s. 7d.; to extraordinary reserve, £80,000; for a 6 per cent. dividend to the shareholders, £180,000, leaving a carry forward to next year of £22,179 19s. 7d.

The high prices realised for produce, especially cotton, have led to a large increase in the moneys lodged with the Bank and to a considerably extended circulation of our Bank Notes. With the present high rates of interest ruling in London and elsewhere we have been able to make profitable use of the funds at our disposal.

Turning to current expenses, you will notice they are £32,000 higher than those of the previous year, but, as you will observe from a foot-note to the profit and loss account, £18,000 of this is accounted for by extra

expenses of the Note Issue, £8,000 is due to taxation in London, and a little over £5,000 was a bonus to the staff of one month's salary owing to the high cost of living, a bonus which we have no doubt will meet with your entire approval, especially as the staff have worked extremely well.

The next point to which we would draw your attention in the profit and loss account is £115,000 for depreciation of securities and difference on conversion of Government Securities. This brings the value of our securities down to a quotation not exceeding that on December 31 last. The £115,000 includes £40,000, the difference on conversion above referred to, on 3 per cent. British Exchequer Bonds, which we sold and reinvested in 5 per cent. and 6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, yielding a better return. The rest of the depreciation is almost entirely represented by a further drop in the value of our pre-War holdings in Government Guaranteed Securities, the repayment of which at par is either by yearly drawings or at a certain date.

With reference to our proposal to put £80,000 to the special reserve, we are not in any way pessimistic, but so long as the War continues, and bearing in mind our balances with banks in enemy countries, one cannot be wrong in action on conservative lines.

Bank Note Issue.

The Bank Note Issue on December 31, 1916, amounted to £E21,200,000, against £E11,550,000 on December 31, 1915.

The securities held in guarantee of the Note Issue on December 31, 1915, amounted to £E1,500,000 of Government Securities, on which the Bank receives the whole of the interest, and £E2,900,000 in round figures of Egyptian Government Treasury Bills. We informed you in our report last year that these Bills were discounted at 1 per cent. per annum in return for the privilege of "cours forcé."

As the Note Issue further developed we deposited British Treasury Bills in guarantee of further issues, and it was agreed, at the request and under the guarantee of the Egyptian Government, that the proportion of gold which under the statutes should represent half the Issue could be diminished against the deposit of British Treasury Bills.

The Bank's participation is arranged on the following lines. On the first £E3,000,000 of Issue the Bank takes all the interest on £E1,500,000 of securities as in normal times, and on the extension of the Issue beyond £E3,000,000 and up to £E13,000,000 the Bank's participation which varies according to the London money market, comes ordinarily to a little over 1 per cent. per annum on the amount of securities representing half the issue. On the Issue exceeding £E13,000,000 the Bank takes ½ per cent. per annum calculated on the amount of such excess Issue.

The present arrangements with the Egyptian Government as to our Note Issue are of a temporary nature, due to abnormal circumstances, and as these circumstances may change are subject to rearrangement.

The maximum issue of £E22,700,000 was reached on December 2, 1916. This compares with a maximum issue for the previous cotton season of £E12,650,000 on January 29, 1916. The following table shows the amounts of the various denominations:—

	December 2, 1916.	January 29, 1916.
Notes of P.T. 50	£E. 2,117,045	£E. 1,498,337
" " £E. 1	3,918,830	2,023,973
" " 5	4,737,885	2,326,740
" " 10	5,056,840	2,759,670
" " 50	2,974,200	1,416,570
" " 100	4,395,200	2,624,800
	£E. 22,700,000	£E. 12,650,000

The minimum issue touched in 1916 was £E10,350,000 on July 12.

Balance Sheet.

We alluded above to the increased amount of money lodged with the Bank owing to the present economic conditions. You will notice that the deposits, including those of the Government, are approximately £5,500,000 more than on December 31, 1915.

On the other side of the balance-sheet there

is a marked increase of £3,500,000 in Government securities, of £2,000,000 in Bills of exchange, being cotton export bills, and of £1,800,000 in cash, money at call, and with bankers.

Of the total of £5,600,000 Government securities, over £5,000,000 are British Treasury Bills, British Exchequer Bonds, and War Expenditure Certificates.

Of the £279,000 in Sundry Securities, over £200,000 represent our holding in the Agricultural Bank of Egypt. The 50,000 ordinary shares still remain in our books at £3½, whereas the market price is now over £5.

Although the advances on merchandise, £1,900,000 on December 31, 1916, are a little less than at the same date in the previous year, they touched a maximum at one time of £3,331,000, which was considerably in excess of the maximum in 1915.

The Bills of Exchange in portfolio on December 31, 1916, amounted to £5,366,000. We responded readily and with pleasure to the extra demands made upon us owing to the high prices of cotton, which involved a turnover of much larger amounts than usual. We have every reason to be pleased with the relations existing between the big export houses and the Bank, and we have no doubt that they bear the same friendly sentiments towards ourselves.

Our other advances in Egypt have somewhat decreased since the previous year, and call for no special remark beyond the fact that the general inclination is rather to pay off than to borrow, and this for the same reason that I have alluded to before—viz., the increased value of produce.

General Remarks.

In our report last year we remarked that the balance of trade in favour of Egypt for the year ending August 31, 1915, was £E7,000,000, and for the year ending August 31, 1916, we see that it is £E2,300,000; but from the end of August, 1916, to the end of February, 1917, the balance in favour of Egypt is no less a sum than £E12,500,000.

The annual values of Imports and Exports are as under, commencing from August 31, 1913, for the sake of comparing a year before the war with subsequent years:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£E.	£E.
1st September, 1913, to 31st August, 1914.....	28,325,000	32,446,000
1st September, 1914, to 31st August, 1915.....	15,327,000	22,642,000
1st September, 1915, to 31st August, 1916.....	27,545,000	29,882,000
1st September, 1916, to 28th February, 1917.....	15,872,000	28,106,000

It is not surprising, therefore, to find that agriculturists are paying off arrears of debts to a very large extent, and this policy of discharging debts is wisely urged upon the people.

There is a distinct revival in the land market and good land can be sold at satisfactory prices. A firm tone prevails on the local Stock Exchanges.

The high cost of living however comes hardly on the wage-earning and salaried classes, but consideration on the part of employers and Government control of the prices of necessities have not allowed this question to become generally critical.

We ventured last year to express our expectations of a good cotton crop and high prices, but we did not anticipate a price of about forty dollars the cantar, at which figure a great deal of the crop has been sold. On the other hand, the unfavourable climatic conditions in June last and the boll-worm largely damaged the crop. The yield will probably be about C6,000,000, whereas more like C7,500,000 were hoped for. The high Nile has promised us shortly a copious cereal harvest, and it looks as if for next season's cotton crop very high prices would again be secured.

The Egyptian Government have made and are already putting into force more complete measures to deal with the boll-worm pest, by destroying cotton sticks and effected bolls left on the fields, by wire netting stores to prevent the flight of the moth from unginned cotton and seed, and finally by disinfecting the seed itself. To see that all the regulations are strictly carried out is no easy task, but it is hoped that the pest will be mastered.

Our business in the Sudan continues to develop satisfactorily.

The following table shows the Imports and Exports for the last four years:—

	Imports into Sudan.	Exports from Sudan.
	£F.	£F.
1913	2,109,000	1,185,000
1914	1,891,000	1,020,000
1915	1,704,000	1,577,000
1916	2,661,000	2,288,000

You will see that the Imports and Exports have reached record figures, due to certain increases both in quantity and value. As is to be expected, the Imports surpass the Exports, for capital is still being drawn from abroad.

The marked increase in Exports is in millet, sesame, and gum. These articles figure for £E350,000, £E173,000 and £E586,000 respectively, while the cotton exported was less, although of greater value—viz., £E269,000, against £E236,000 the previous year. Another important item of export is cattle for £E104,000.

Cotton fabrics represent £E655,000 of the Imports, sugar £E330,000, coal £E291,000, coffee £E115,000, machinery and ironware £E104,000, all showing an increase both in quantity and value.

Not only have we to be truly thankful in Egypt that we have been spared the horrors of war within our borders, but that moreover we have enjoyed, as I have attempted to show, great prosperity. This is, I think, a fit opportunity to put on record our grateful appreciation of the work of both the Civil and Military Governments, nor must we forget the brave men who have fought and protected us.

Both in London, in Egypt, and the Sudan, the men of our staff have responded with enthusiasm to the call. Seventy-eight have joined the Allied Armies, and we have to recall the following names on our Roll of Honour:—E. G. Chapman, H. L. Dallemagne, D. G. Garwood, G. Luri, C. Mancini.

To their bereaved families we beg to express our sincere sympathy.

Forty vacancies have been filled by women clerks, who, in Egypt and elsewhere, were prompt in coming to help us.

The members of our staff have again had a heavy year, with little or no holidays, and we cannot better conclude these few remarks than by expressing to the Sub-Governors, Managers, and Staff our sincere appreciation of their services.

I wish to take this opportunity of mentioning to you a small matter that concerns the London Directors. It is, I believe, becoming the practice in London now for banks to pay the income-tax on their Directors' remuneration. I think, therefore, that you will agree with me that we can follow the same system.

The Directors who retire this year and offer themselves for re-election are:—The Hon. Algernon Mills and Mr. Léon Suarez.

By the death of Baron Jacques de Menasce, which occurred last year, we have lost a good friend and a man who for many years rendered signal services to the business community and the country. He was a member of our Board from the commencement of the Bank up to a few months before his death.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916.	1917.
Weekly Situation.	Week ended April 13.	Week ended April 12.
Cattle markets	677	976
General markets	364	398
Cattle markets closed	53	23
Receipts (£)	1,041	1,374
Total from commencement of year (£)	20,011	23,716

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

	1916.	1917.
Receipts for ten days ended March 20.	£F.	£F.
March 11–March 20	4,985	5,645
April 1–March 20	182,359	208,980

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 18th to the 31st May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,

GEO. H. SOUL, Secretary,
27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4, 24th April, 1917.

ON 'CHANGE.

By OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.

Throgmorton Street, E.C., Thursday.

There has been a continuation of inquiries for Egyptian securities this week, but business has not been very active owing to lack of sellers. The demand for Government stocks has also continued, but business has been practically out of the question for the same reason. The 3½ per Cents. are a point higher at 50 nominal.

National Bank of Egypt shares are firmer at 13 7-16, at which price some business has been done. Agriculturals are harder at 5½ round which price a few hundred shares have changed hands. There has also been an improvement in the 4 per Cent. Preferences of this bank, which have advanced ¼, to 7½, some business being done at the higher level.

Anglo-Egyptian Banks made a smart jump to 12 on the good business this bank is doing and the declaration of the usual interim dividend, but free of income-tax this year instead of less tax. Some 200 Land Banks have also been done at 5.

Aboutkirs have been a dull market on the report (published in THE NEAR EAST to-day), but the forthcoming meeting will no doubt encourage a more favourable view, as the immediate prospects have considerably improved. Behera shares have been done at 7½. There is some inquiry for Delta Lands, and the price is a trifle firmer at 9s 3d. New Egyptians are in strong demand at about 9s 6d., but there are few shares offering.

Alexandria Waters continue to be sought after at 12, and both Egyptian Markets and Salts and Sodas are harder at about 27s. and 21s. respectively. City of Alexandria are two points higher at 77.

There has been continued demand for Khedivial Mails, with a steady business, and the price is 2s. higher at 32s.

In Greek securities, the market remains strong, with a rise of one point in 1881, 1884, 1890, and 1893. Some business was done in 1890 at 53, and in Rentes round 44½. Current Bonds have jumped another two points to 90, at which price a fair quantity changed hands.

Oil Shares.

There has not been much doing in Oil shares, and the tendency has been towards uncertainty. North Caucasians rose to 29s. yesterday, but Ural Caspians are easier at 1 23-32. Anglo-Egyptians range from 10s. 9d. to 11s. 9d., and Anglo-Persian Prefrs. from 21s. 9d. to 22s. 9d. Roumanian Consolidateds have been quoted from 9s. 9d. to 10s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

On the Paris Bourse closing prices on Wednesday included:—Egyptian Unified 93 (unchanged), Credit Foncier Egyptian 649 (against 651), Ottoman Bank 421 (against 420.50), Suez Canal shares 4,300 (against 4,325). Serbian (1895) were not quoted, but on the previous day marked 55.50. Turkish Unified has been quoted at 62.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The coupon number 8 of the ordinary shares of the Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Company is payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., 27, Clements Lane, London, E.C., at piastres 14 per share, less income-tax.

The final drawing of ninety-three debenture bonds of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., 5 per cent. issue of £300,000 (1881), to be paid at par on May 15, took place at the offices of the Company, Suffolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, London, on April 19. The bonds were 78 of £100 each, eleven of £500 and four of £1,000.

A meeting of the 4½ per cent. debenture-holders of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., will be held at 8, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., on May 1, when a resolution to appoint Lord Milner to be a trustee in the place of the late Lord Cromer will be submitted.

Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company. Dividend, 4d. per share for 1916.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank have declared an interim dividend of 5s. a share free of income-tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half year ended February 28, payable on June 1.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price April 20.	Present Price.
LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.			
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	77
Egyptian 4% United Debt	98	83½	85½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	69½	70
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	48	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	44	44½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5% Fnag., Ln., 1893	54	50	51
Do. 4% Rents, Loan, 1902	77	72	72
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71½	71½
Do. 5% Current	—	88	90
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75½	75½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc. £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	77	77½
Do. 3½% Fg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	69
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	41	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	12
Bank of Athens	22	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½	13½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pl. Varrants to Bearer	8½	5½	5½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9½	9½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% Do. Do. 3% Bonds	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Abotkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	2½	2½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	24	7½	7½
Behera Co.	4½	4	4
Do. Pref.	2½	2½	2½
Daira Sanien	9½	9½	9½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. Do. and Foreign Trust	5½	—	—
Gharbi Land Co.	1½	9½	9½
New Egyptian Co.	9½	—	—
Sidi Salem Co.	1½	1½	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	—
Unified Egyptian Lands	1½	—	—
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1½	6	27½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	7½	20½	21
Khedivial Mail Ord.	8½	50	52
Do. do. Prefrs.	3½	3½	3½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON APRIL 7.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	13½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
Do. Pref.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	62 ex.
Do. Privilegiato	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadi	Frs.	76
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	L.E.	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bond. d'Warehouses	L.E.	83½
Unifiée	L.E.	71
Privilegiato	£	4½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	—
Do. Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	2½
Nungovich Hotels	£	5½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	28
Do. Ord.	£	—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	65
Alex. and Ramieh Railway	£	4
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	103
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	160
Do. Jouissance	Frs.	—
Egyptian Markets	Frs.	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
Do. Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	194
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	—
Credit Foncier Egyptian	Frs.	64
Do. 1896 Oblig.	Frs.	370
Do. 1903	Frs.	267
Do. 1911	Frs.	259
United Lands	F.T.	—
Cotton Ginnings	£	—
Port Said Salt	£	29½
New Egyptian Co.	£	710½
Levant S.S. Co.	£	29½
Do. 1st and 2nd	£	155½
Delta Lands	£	—

14 DAY USE
RETURN TO DESK FROM WHICH BORROWED
**PERIODICAL
LOAN DEPT.**

This book is due on the last date stamped below,
or on the date to which renewed. Renewals only:
Tel. No. 642-3405
Renewals may be made 4 days prior to date due.
Renewed books are subject to immediate recall.

DEC 21 1971 93

RETURNED TO

Jan 21 1972

JAN 16 1972

LOAN AHC

LD21A-40m-8,'71
(P6572s10)476-A-82

General Library
University of California
Berkeley

[illegible]

Near

N 5
v. 12

351751

Neave

D 375
7
N 5
v. 12

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

